

Conference Report (Colombo)

DISSEMINATION OF IJGO SUPPLEMENT ON PREVENTION OF UNSAFE ABORTION

Dissemination meeting on 'Supplement on Prevention of Unsafe Abortion of International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics'. The dissemination of IJGO supplement on prevention of unsafe abortion was held on 19 December 2010, at auditorium of BIRDEM, Shahbag, Dhaka between 12:00 and 14:30 hours. IJGO supplement and plan of action of prevention of unsafe abortion were distributed to all participants. Total number of participants were 67. The session was chaired by Prof AKM Anowar-ul-Azim, Chairperson-PAC Sub Committee-OGSB and Prof Kohinoor Begum, President-OGSB.

Professor AKM Anowar-ul-Azim presented on FIGO initiative of prevention of unsafe abortion. Plan of action and progress report on prevention of unsafe abortion were presented by Dr Ferdousi Begum. Prof Kohinoor Begum disseminated IJGO supplement in her speech. She has shown different papers on the initiative published in the journal supplement, asked the participants to go through it thoroughly and implement the recommendations in every available opportunity in planning and policy making, service delivery, clinical services, including prevention of treatment unsafe abortion and awareness raising.

Prof Sameena Chowdhury, publication secretary OGSB, had her presentation on 'use of misoprostol of PAC' including its rationale and protocol of using misoprostol in incomplete and missed abortion.

These presentations were followed by the short deliberation of contribution to these action plan by Dr Mahbubur Rahman, Director-MCH and CCSDP, DGFP. Dr Tapash Ranjan Das, PM, RH, DGHS presented on contribution of MCH program of DGFP.

The other short presentations were as follows: Contribution of Hospital Services -DGHS by Dr Yasmin Rahman, DPM (MCH), DGHS; Contribution of School Health by Dr Abdul Khaleque Chakder, Assistant Director -School Health, DGHS; Contribution of RH program DGHS by Dr Azizul Alim, DPM RH, DGHS; FPAB Collaboration with FIGO initiative by Dr Sufi Zamal, Deputy Director (Medical) -FPAB; MSCS Collaboration with FIGO initiative by Dr Reena Yasmin, Director Services, Marie Stopes; Postpartum IUCD by representative of Dr Abu Jamil Faisel, Country Representative, Engender Health and Commitment from Population Council by Population Council, BD.

After thorough discussion of all participants, the decisions taken unanimously in the meeting are as follows: (1) Misoprostol should be introduced in PAC services (including incomplete and missed abortion) as early as possible; (2) OGSB will develop a protocol on use of misoprostol in PAC and send this to DGHS and DGFP; (3) All related departmental/personnel of government should enhance their effort on prevention of unsafe abortion including enhancement of their contribution to implement the plan of action on prevention of unsafe abortion.

The meeting ended by comments from the Director MCH and CCSDP, DGFP; and Director MCH, DGHS. The chairpersons thanked all concerned for making the program successful and fruitful.

MEETING ON MENSTRUAL REGULATION WITH MEDICATION (MRM)

A program on MRM was organized by OGSB and Concept Foundation. It was held in Santoor Restaurant, Dhanmondi, Dhaka on 4 November 2011, between 12:30 and 16:30 hours. The session was chaired by Prof AKM Anowar-ul-Azim, Chairperson-PAC Sub Committee-OGSB and Prof Kohinoor Begum, President-OGSB. Thirty-seven participants, including persons from OGSB, DGHS, DGFP, ICDDR, NGOs (EH, MSCS, BAPSA, RHSTEP, BWHC) and Development partners (WHO, UNFPA), attended the meeting. Booklet on misoprostol, IEC material on MRM, papers on MR program and findings of MRM study in Bangladesh were distributed among the participants.

Welcome address was delivered by Prof Nasima Begum, Secretary General-OGSB. Objectives of the meeting were presented by Dr Ferdousi Begum, Focal Point of FIGO initiative on prevention of unsafe abortion. The participants self-introduced themselves. Dr Altaf Hossain, Director-BAPSA delivered a speech on MR services in Bangladesh. Helena von Hertzen, Concept Foundation, Geneva Switzerland elaborated on 'drugs used for menstrual regulation with medication (MRM)' with their pros and cons. The Dr Thuy, Concept Foundation, Vietnam presented a paper on 'counseling MRM' using different IEC materials. The most important paper was 'finding of research on MRM in Bangladesh' which was presented by Anadil Alam, ICDDR with Laura Reichenbach/Hillary Bracken, Guinity Health International. In which she described that in 92% cases who were provided with Mife-Miso for MRM up to 6 to 9 weeks of amenorrhea (received elaborate counseling on what to expect, side effects and remedies, danger signs referral centers) and followed up at after 14 days, had successful menstrual regulation; 8% needed surgical evacuation. There were emergencies in 1% cases.

The presentations were followed by interactive discussions. The opinion expressed unanimously that though MRM seems to be successful in Bangladeshi context, considering it as a sensitive issue sociopolitically and need for the backup services, more evidences and advocacy are needed before MRM practice is allowed for general use. Meeting ended by thanks from the chair.