

AOGIN INDIA 2016: 7th National Conference of Asia Oceanic Research Organisation on Genital Infections and Neoplasia, India, 14th-16th October, Hotel Patliputra Ashok, Patna

Pre Conference Workshops: Friday, 14th October 2016

Community Screening Workshops

Introduction:



A community screening workshop was organized at the AOGIN INDIA 2016 conference as part of the series of pre-conference workshops held on 14th October 2016 at the Hotel Patliputra Ashok, Patna. The objective of the workshop was to assist in building capacity of community health workers (CHWs) in educating women and community members on relevant aspects of cervical cancer and breast cancer prevention. The workshop also aimed to facilitate improvement in communication skills of CHWs for promoting

uptake of cervical and breast cancer screening services in the community and establishing linkage between the community and available screening services.

The inaugural address of the workshop was delivered by Dr J K Singh, organizing chairman of AOGIN INDIA 2016 followed by welcome address by Dr Richa Chauhan, organizing secretary of the conference. Dr Shalini Rajaram, President of AOGIN INDIA addressed the participants with an overview and objectives of the workshop.



Dr. J K Singh delivering inaugural address



Dr. Richa Chauhan delivering welcome address



Dr. Shalini Rajaram explaining objectives & overview

The workshop comprised of three sections – i) Theoretical sessions that were taken in local language (Hindi) so that CHWs could comprehend the contents better, ii) Video demonstrations on methods of cervical sample collection, Cervical screening and breast examination, iii) Group activities to give opportunity to CHWs to learn by interacting with each other and also relate themselves with their roles and responsibilities at the community level.

The participants for the workshop were ASHAs and ANMs belonging to the Government Health system from various districts of Bihar. The total number of participants was 145. The total duration of the workshop was three and half hours. The facilitators of the workshop were:

- Dr Srabani Mittal, Kolkata
- Dr Latha Balasubramani, Coimbatore
- Dr Bindiya Gupta, Delhi
- Dr Nisha Singh, Lucknow
- Dr Richa Chauhan, Patna
- Dr Anupama, Patna

Workshop proceedings

A) Theoretical sessions:

There were six theoretical sessions, each of 15 minutes duration. All the sessions were interactive in nature and with a scope for doubt clearance at the end of each topic. The topics covered were

- Cervical cancer – burden, risk factors and symptoms
- Overview of female lower genital tract with special reference to cervix
- Cervical cancer prevention through screening
- Breast cancer – risk factors and prevention
- Raising community awareness for cervical and breast cancer prevention
- Role of counseling



Theoretical sessions in progress

B) Video demonstrations:

There were four video demonstrations on the following topics:

- Cervical sample collection technique for PAP smear
- Cervical sample collection technique for HPV test
- Screening by Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA)
- Method Clinical Breast Examination (CBE)

The duration of each video was approximately to 5-7 minutes.

C) Group activity:

The topic for the group activity was: ‘Developing community awareness plans for cervical and breast cancer prevention’.

For conducting the group activity, all participants were invited to volunteer themselves for taking part in the activity and the interested participants were split into 5 groups with each group comprising of 10-12 members. The groups were numbered from 1 to 5 and each group was requested to identify their group leader. For each group one facilitator was assigned who explained the sub-topic to her individual group. Chart papers and markers pens were provided to each group on which they were asked to list the salient points of their group discussion on the given topic. All through the group discussion, the respective facilitators ensured that the focus of the topic maintained relevancy. Time allotted was 10 minutes after which the identified group leaders were required to summarize their discussion and present the views of the group to the audience. After presentation of each group, the topic was opened to the house and were encouraged to give their feedback. Observations of each group are given below:

Topic for Group 1: How would you spread the word about cervical & breast cancer prevention in the community?

Group observations:

- Communicate about the disease and importance of prevention while making home visits
- Conduct group meetings
- Involve PRI members, SHG members
- Use the opportunity while attending various health camps, VHSN days, VHNDs etc
- Talk about it in MCH clinics
- Meeting with local RMPs
- Organize ‘nukkad natak’, ‘prabhat rally’, school camps
- Put up posters/banners & distribute leaflets/ other available communication materials

Topic for Group 2: What are the specific messages that you would give to women on cervical & breast cancer?

Group observations:

- Explain about the location of cervix in woman’s body and the area where the cancer develops
- Inform about the common cervical screening tests done – VIA/PAP and HPV test
- Explain why all women in the age group 30-60 should undergo the screening tests
- Inform about the nearby health centers/hospitals in the locality where screening facilities are available
- Inform about BSE and explain how to do the examination and the appropriate time to do it
- Inform about the warning symptoms of breast cancer like – hard lump/nipple discharge/difference in breast sizes etc

Topic for Group 3: How would you prepare for organizing screening in your locality?

Group observations:

- Utilize public platforms like VHSNDs and inform women about the government facilities where the screening tests are offered free of cost

- Inform about the availability of government vehicles for to and fro travel to the clinics (if necessary)
- Reassure that women need not be scared about the screening tests as they are not painful and very quickly done
- Inform that negative screening tests offers protection from cervical cancer for at least next 5 years
- Reassure that if any woman who tests positive on any of the screening tests, referral arrangements for further investigations and/or treatment would be done
- Provide support to women and tell her that they need not be scared as CHWs of their locality are always with them for any kind of assistance
- Inform that all information related to your screening & treatment (if any) would be kept confidential

Topic for Group 4: How would you develop community support for generating awareness about cervical & breast cancer?

Group observations:

- Visit places where prominent people of the community gather (e.g meeting place of village heads) and talk to them to develop community support
- Involve important stakeholders like village headman, ward member, government health officials and together organize meetings to seek their opinion and consent for conducting awareness activities in the particular locality
- Discuss with the ASHA, ICDS workers of the locality and decide on a date when all would be available for awareness meetings
- Hold awareness meetings along with other programs like village health and nutrition days, mothers' meetings, HSC meetings

Topic for Group 5: What are the challenges that you think may arise in bringing women to the clinics for screening?

Group observations:

- Lack of awareness about importance of screening
- Transport problem to attend the screening clinics
- Difficulty in finding time from routine household work
- Financial problems
- Myths & misconceptions
- Lack of cooperation from family members
- Worries about privacy and confidentiality
- Male dominated society where even decision about women's health is being taken by men of the family
- Fear that the screening tests may be painful
- Women give importance to health issues of all family members, children but seldom take care of their own health and own well-being

Presentations of each group were followed by interactive discussions with all other workshop participants. The facilitators satisfactorily answered the queries of the participants and summarized the discussion at the end of the session. Certificates of appreciation were given to the 3 best performing groups. Before concluding the session, the facilitators thanked the

group members and the all other participants for their active participation and contribution.



Facilitators explaining the group topics



Groups working on their respective assigned topics



Group leaders presenting group observations



Certificate distribution to the best performing groups