



August 22, 2009

Press Release

Equitable Healthcare through Alternate Human Resources

Chennai: IKP Centre for Technologies in Public Health (ICTPH) concluded a two day workshop in Taj Coromandel, Chennai on "*Alternate Human Resources for Health in India: Innovative Models for Improving Primary Care*". ICTPH is a not-for-profit research organization focusing on innovating and piloting equitable health systems for rural populations through an integrated approach evaluating appropriate primary-care financing and human resource solutions.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Nachiket Mor, President, ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth and Chairman, ICTPH. Addressing the inaugural session Dr. Zeena Johar, President, ICTPH said, "With 75% of Indian medical practitioners positioned at urban location and 72% of the Indian population residing in rural locations highlights the overarching need for human resource innovation for delivering health. ICTPH is positioned to create models for delivering health care through alternative advanced practice healthcare providers at primary-care. These deliberations will help us evaluate the existing models and strategize the way forward for ICTPH"

Padmashree Dr. H. Sudarshan expressed the public provisioning of private health care providers as the way forward for scaling effective healthcare services for the masses. Dr. Adinath Sarmah, Principal of Medical Services, Jorhat, Assam articulated the success of the three year diploma program in Medicine and Rural Healthcare in supplementing rural healthcare needs by exclusively training rural resident, towards provisioning rural health demands. CMC Vellore anchors numerous nurse development curriculum innovations catering to both base hospital requirements as well as peripheral services as briefed by Prof. R. Jayakaran, Deputy Dean, College of Nursing, CMC, Vellore. Ms. Jasu Patidar, Registrar, Gujarat Nursing Council showcased the newly formed program on Nurse Practitioners in Midwifery in the state of Gujarat. Prof. Dileep Mavlankar, IIM, Ahmedabad highlighted the required amendments in government policies to support and scale up relevant human resource innovations. The changes are required at service provider level, management level as well as at the policy level. The health policy makers should keep in mind the existing gaps as well as future needs of health care in India especially focusing on the needs of rural, remote and urban poor.

The School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania, USA (UPenn) holds a year-long partnership with ICTPH towards exploring alternate human resources for delivering healthcare in developing remote rural populations. Prof. Eileen M. Sullivan-Marx, Associate Dean for Practice and Community Affairs at UPenn said "to improve public and maternal health, nurses must have the opportunity to practice to their full capacity and advance their skills through expanded education and training as nurse



practitioners who work with community health workers and the full health care team.”

We concluded the workshop with a consensus statement as follows:

Consensus Statement – The time is now for India to fully develop opportunities for nurses, doctors to advance their abilities to provide care in rural settings. This can be attained by additional training and career opportunities for promotions for nurses and doctors who are supported by technicians and managers. This encompasses the need for the formulation of an alternative health workforce for rural and underserved urban India.

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