

Minutes of First Meeting of the National Steering Committee on Infant and Young Child Feeding held on 24th September, 2015

The first meeting of the National Steering Committee on Infant and Young Child Feeding was held under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, MWCD, on 24th September, 2015 at 3:30 PM at Conference Hall, 112-C Wing Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 1. The list of participants is annexed.

2. At the outset, Secretary, WCD, Chairman of the Committee, welcomed all the members present in the meeting.

3. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Joint Secretary (Nutrition), in his keynote address highlighted the importance of Infant and Young Child Nutrition and the need for Nation-wide implementation of the National Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding and IMS Act. He also highlighted the ToRs of the Committee.

4. Dr. J.H. Panwal, Joint Technical Adviser and Member Secretary of the Committee shared the status of implementation of IMS Act in the country.

5. Secretary, WCD, desired that dissemination of IYCF messages be done by launching a sustained awareness campaign. The IYCF messages can also be taken up during the joint Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee meetings. He further highlighted the issue of designating an IYCF Counsellor in every hospital. He also informed the members about the Ministry's proposal regarding the maternity leave to be increased to 8 months. Secretary (WCD) also suggested various strategies for effective dissemination and nation-wide reach of IYCF messages through inter-ministerial convergence. The platforms of Ministry of Panchayati Raj (Child Friendly Panchayats) and National Health Mission may be utilized to mobilize community and inclusion of module in trainings organized by the Ministry of Rural Development.

6. Ms. Nutan Guha Biswas, Additional Secretary, MWCD, opined that Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Women & Child Development should work together to create awareness about IMS Act and its enforcement. She further stressed upon the need to adopt a multi-pronged approach using ICDS as well as National Health Mission platform to improve IYCF practices. She also suggested inclusion of IYCF practices in the school curriculum of Secondary classes.
7. Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare said that there is need to develop a strategy for implementation of the IMS Act and promotion of IYCF related activities for improvement in the rates of Infant and Young Child Feeding practices which could be the main key to make a dent on malnutrition. He further informed that training modules are being worked out and both the Ministries may work jointly in this regard. He further shared that Human Milk Bank guidelines are being prepared by the Ministry. He also stressed for propagation of IYCF messages through radio and television, etc.
8. Dr. Prema Ramachandran, Director, Nutrition Foundation of India, New Delhi, mentioned that one of the most important tools for communicating correct IYCF messages is the Mother Child Protection Card. The outreach of the same needs to be increased.
9. Dr. Umesh Kapil, AIIMS, stressed upon the need for dissemination of information about the IMS Act and IYCF practices among the medical fraternity as well as the community. He also mentioned that adequate provision of maternity leave for the working mothers in the country and supportive environment at public places and work areas need to be created.
10. Dr. Arun Gupta, BPNI, highlighted the need to disseminate the National Guidelines on IYCF across the country. He opined that a nodal person in the State empowered to take action under the IMS Act may be appointed. He further mentioned that the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative is one of the key strategies to improve the IYCF practices in the country. He also suggested creating a National Resource Group and shared the interventions undertaken in Brazil to improve the rates of breastfeeding in the country.
11. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Joint Secretary (Nutrition), MWCD, stressed the need to improve IYCF practices in the country, for which he suggested:
- Extensive IEC Campaign to disseminate the message.
 - Conditional maternity benefit may be universalized to follow IYCF practices.
 - The mothers may be given a small booklet after delivery
 - A 15-minute advocacy and training film be shown to mothers before

discharge from the hospital.

- YCF counsellor in each hospital to counsel mothers before discharge.
- Finalization and implementation of operational guidelines on YCF.

12. Ms. Sarada Muralidharan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchyati Raj, informed that training manuals are being developed under which a module on YCF may be included.

13. After detailed deliberations, the Committee took the following decisions:

Extensive IEC Campaign to disseminate the message.

Universalization of conditional maternity benefit.

Development of advocacy booklets for mothers after delivery.

Development and screening of YCF training film at maternity wards of the hospitals.

Identification/ notification of YCF Counsellor in hospitals for counselling.

Inclusion of YCF module under training programmes of Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development.

Finalization and implementation of operational guidelines on YCF.

Inclusion of YCF practices in the school curriculum of Secondary classes.

States/UTs would be advised to make provisions for creation of facilities for supporting breastfeeding at public places.

Appointment of nodal officer in the States empowered to take action under the IMS Act.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all the members by the Chairman.

Annexure

List of participants

1. Shri V. Somasundaran

Secretary

Ministry of Women and Child Development

New Delhi

1. Ms. Nutan Guha Biswan

Additional Secretary

Ministry of Women and Child Development

New Delhi

1. Dr. Rajesh Kumar

Joint Secretary (Nutrition)

Ministry of Women and Child Development

New Delhi

1. Dr. Rakesh Kumar

Joint Secretary (RCH)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

New Delhi

1. Ms. Sarada Muralidharan

Joint Secretary

Ministry of Panchayati Raj

New Delhi

1. Shri Arun Kumar Misra

Special Secretary (ICDS)

Department of Women and Child Development

Lucknow, UP

1. Shri. J. N. Kansotia

Secretary

Department of Women and Child Development

Government of MP

Bhopal

1. Dr. Pradeep Saxena

Additional DDG

Directorate General of Health Services

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

1. Dr. Prema Ramachandran

Director, Nutrition Foundation of India

New Delhi

1. Shri Raj kumar Tyagi

Deputy Director

Department of Consumer Affairs

1. Ms. Jyoti Pahwa

Under Secretary

Department of School Education & Literacy

Ministry of Human Resource Development

New Delhi

1. Ms. L. Renthlei

Assistant Director

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

1. Ms. Sukhmani Singh

Technical Officer

FSSAI

1. Shri P Kartikeyan

Assistant Director

FSSAI

1. Dr. Dinesh Paul

Director

NIPCCD

1. Dr. Umesh Kapil

Professor

Human Nutrition Unit

AIIMS

1. Dr. A. S. Vasudev

National Joint Secretary

Indian Academy of Pediatrics

New Delhi

1. Dr. Arun Gupta

Central Coordinator

Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India

1. Dr. J. H. Panwal

Joint Technical Adviser,

FNB, MWCD, New Delhi

1. Dr. S. Premi Devi

Deputy Technical Adviser

FNB, MWCD, New Delhi

1. Ms. Anita Makhijani

Deputy Technical Adviser

FNB, MWCD, New Delhi

1. Shri R. P. Yadav

Assistant Technical Adviser

FNB, MWCD, New Delhi

1. Ms. Shalini Gupta

Assistant Technical Adviser

FNB, MWCD, New Delhi