

National Convention of BPNI

9 - 10, December 2005, New Delhi

National Convention of BPNI was held at India Habitat Center, New Delhi on 9th and 10th Dec 2005. This convention had participants representing all parts of India. There were BPNI members, members from NGO's, Government departments, and other institutions. There were health professionals and participants from other walks of life also.

The first day of the convention started with the Opening Session and the renowned pediatrician Dr Shanti

Ghosh inaugurated it and Dr Prema Ramachandran, Director, Nutrition Foundation of India gave inaugural address. It was followed by **Sharing of district level action on IYCF** with presentations from

BPNI district coordinators from different parts of India.

The second session was on **HIV and Infant Feeding** with Prof AP Dubey from MAMC, Delhi as Chairperson and Dr Indra Prakash, Jt Director (Training), NACO, Ms Vidya Ganesh, UNICEF, Prof MMA Faridi, UCMS, Delhi and Dr Rajesh Gopal, SACS, Gujarat. Then there were presentations from different Stakeholders about addressing Infant Feeding in the context of HIV. It was followed by Group Work on Strengthening of infant feeding: policy and programme facilitated by Dr MMA Faridi (Group a) and Dr JP Dadhich (Group b).

The second day of the convention was devoted to **Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergency Situations**. Dr KK Agarwal, VC, IP University chaired this session and

Inaugural address was given by Mr Vinod Menon, Member, National Disaster Management Authority. Dr Shashi Prabha Gupta, Tech Advisor, DWCD, GOI chaired the next session on "Sharing technical information and field data", and Dr Sangeeta Saxena, ACCH, MOHFW gave introduction to the problem. Then Dr Anchita Patil, WHO (India) presented the WHO Guidelines on Infant Feeding in Emergencies. This was followed by reports from the states of Mumbai, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Jammu and Kashmir where surveys were done on Status of Infant feeding in Emergencies recently faced by these states.

Next was a panel discussion on "Mainstreaming with current disaster preparedness" moderated by Mr NM Prusty, from SPHERE and with participation by Dr Deepika Nayar, CARE India, Dr Sangeeta Yadav, IAP, Brig (Dr) BK Khanna, NDMA, and Dr J Ganthimathi, Indian Red Cross Society.

Dr Shanti Ghosh chaired the Closing Ceremony and Final Recommendations were presented by Dr JP Dadhich (for HIV and Infant Feeding) and Dr Arun Gupta (for Infant Feeding in Emergency Situations) to all delegates and changes made according to the comments from the delegates. And finally convention came to an end after distribution of World Breastfeeding Week Awards.

These presentations were highly informative and praised by all the delegates. It led to useful discussions resulting in formulation of recommendations on both the themes.

These recommendations will be presented to both center and state governments at all levels, and continuously monitored so that it results in fruitful actions at local, district and state level.



Strengthening of Infant Feeding in context with HIV

RECOMMENDATIONS

Advocacy

- The group calls for a greater cooperation of health and child care sectors at state level.
- There should be a National policy about HIV and Infant feeding.
- The existing national guidelines on feeding of babies born to HIV positive mothers are adequate acceptable and may be implemented.
- Research component and socioeconomic problems on the issue pertinent to our country should be given due Consideration.
- Appropriate Infant feeding component should be incorporated in the training modules of the PPTCT Counselors.
- State AIDS control societies should organize a forum of all the stakeholders including NGOs, Professional organizations, Govt. agencies at the state level for networking.
- Simple guidelines in local language at state level should be prepared.
- Sensitization of all the persons working around the counselors in the health care set up should be ensured.
- Infant feeding indicators of all mothers and HIV+ve mothers should be included in the existing monitoring framework.

Training

- Training of all frontline health care workers and stakeholders and teachers (10th – 12th) to be incorporated on the issue of infant feeding and HIV.
- Identify a standard/core curriculum for imparting training on infant feeding counselling, NIPCCD should take lead in this involving other related institutions.
- Universalisation of training in HIV Infant feeding – all HWs, Doctors, Nursing personnel, Frontline workers.
- In-service training of existing counselors in HIV Infant feeding should be strengthened addressing AFASS, and provided with decision-making algorithm to facilitate.

Communication

- Intensifying communication efforts to universalize exclusive breastfeeding in all populations using services of all frontline workers in the ICDS, NRHM, and RCH II.
- To continue existing policy of communication on the issue of HIV transmission.

Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergency Situations

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Infant feeding should be considered as a 'mainstream' component in disaster management policy framework of GOI.
- National Nutrition Policy – under revision should in detail address community preparedness for protecting and promoting optimal feeding during disaster and normal situation.
- Consider breastfeeding to be human right, IMS Act should be implemented by State and District level authorities in letter and spirit in normal and emergency situations.
- The group recommend to constitute a Task Force on IF/ E, consisting all stakeholders without any conflict of interest.
- Taskforce should develop the operational checklists, guidelines, training guidelines, monitoring guidelines on infant feeding and emergencies based on community participation, assessment. Operational Research.
- Members of task force – convener BPNI
 - Government – WCD, NDMA
 - Professional bodies
 - UN agencies
 - NGOs / SPHERE / Red Cross
 - States of TN, Rajasthan, Bihar, Gujarat, Uttaranchal, Maharashtra, Orissa, NE States, UP
- Resources for the task force
 - UN agencies
 - International NGOs – Save the children, CARE
 - Rotary

WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK 2006

THEME of this year's World Breastfeeding Week is

The IMS Act - Making it Known to People

We will be shortly sending you a folder containing information about this year's theme. Our aim should be to inform as many people as possible about IMS Act. Everyone should know 'What is Banned' under this Act and how to proceed with violation.

For any further information, contact:

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