

## Medical Officers' Certificate Programme (MOCP)

### Competency Based Curriculum Of Public Health, Maharashtra

S M Saunik\*, M A Phadke\*\*, R Nair\*\*\*, A V Patil\*\*\*\*, P G Menon\*\*\*\*\*, P R Jakkal\*\*\*\*\*

\* Principal Secretary, Public Health, Govt. of Mah., Mumbai, \*\*Sr. Adv. NHM, Mumbai, \*\*\*Nutrition Specialist UNICEF, Mumbai, \*\*\*\*Jt. DHS, Pune, \*\*\*\*\*Associate Professor GIBN Mah. Uni. of Health Sciences (MUHS), Pune campus, \*\*\*\*\*Consultant, Former Jt. DHS, Mumbai, India

**Abstract:** Background: We herewith describe a novel methodology of teaching Medical Officers working at the Primary Health Centers under the Public Health Dept. of Maharashtra State. This course intends to develop competencies to manage adult and pediatric patients with common emergencies at primary health centre. There has been an immense shortage of Pediatricians & Physicians for the last 5 years due to 50-60% vacancies. Besides this, many of the patients in rural areas need to be addressed by a Pediatrician or Physician. With this in mind a short term certificate programme for the Medical Officers was designed. Method: Medical Officers working at Primary Health Centers were deputed like resident doctor for 6 months in the Pediatric/ Medicine Dept. of a Medical College. The methodology used was videoconferencing lectures, motivational lectures by renowned Pediatricians and Physicians, Professors, Padma Awardees from Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune and Aurangabad. The sessions were interactive with active involvement of the Doctors. They also attended all postgraduate programmes of the Department of the Medical College. They attended night duties, speciality clinics like resident doctors. An examination was taken at the end of 6 months after they had learnt state-of-the-art techniques in the subject. 169 students were taught from 2011 in 4 batches till date. The passing percentage varied from 88 to 96%. Result: At the end of the training, the students had acquired sound knowledge of theory and practicals in Medicine/ Pediatrics, had acquired necessary hands on skills, learnt state-of-the-art methodology and had established linkages with teachers in Medical Colleges. Conclusion: MOCP is thus a unique course successfully working only in the State of Maharashtra in India. [Phadke M NJIRM 2015; 6(6):63-65]

**Key Words:** Medical Officers, Competecec, Public Health

**Author for correspondence:** Dr. Phadke M.A., Sr. Adv. NRHM, UNICEF, Ex-Vice Chancellor, MUHS.

E- mail: drmapaa@yahoo.com

**Introduction:** In the State of Maharashtra, a number of postgraduate degree and diploma programmes are run in the Medical Colleges through the University. They are M.D. in Pediatrics, DCH for child health, MD in Medicine to become Physicians. However, the number of seats is limited and there is a dearth of Pediatricians and Physicians. In the Public Health Department of Govt. of Maharashtra, there has been significant shortage of Physicians and Pediatricians. The State needs 521 specialists out of which only 176 posts are filled and 345 are vacant, specially in rural areas. Doctors need to know the 'State-of-the-art technology' as we wish to bring down the under 5 mortality and infant mortality. The gap of Pediatricians needs to be filled<sup>1,2</sup>.

**Setting:** Public Health Dept. & UNICEF

**Objective:** To build the capacity of present medical officers and skill enhancement course, so that after training they can give better health care delivery in rural areas.

**Design:** M.B.B.S. doctors working in the Public Health Dept. at various primary health centers in the State of

Maharashtra are selected for the 'Medical Officers' certificate course (MOCP). This is a short term training course with a duration of 6 months. Selection is based on the following criteria –

1. Doctors should be working in rural areas.
2. They must have at least 1 year experience in Govt. service selected through MPSC/ State Selection board.
3. There should not be any enquiry on the doctors.
4. Their names should be recommended by the Deputy Directors of the circle in charge. These doctors are then placed in one of the 10 Medical Colleges of the State. They are Govt., Corporation, ESIC or private medical colleges namely the Grant Medical College, G.S. Medical College, TNMC, LTMM Medical Colleges in Mumbai, EST-PGMSR Mumbai, B.J. Medical College, Pune, GMC Nagpur, GMC Aurangabad, VMMC Solapur, MGM Sevagram Wardha. The Medical Officers were given training in the Departments of Pediatrics or Medicine as per their interest and need of the State. Maximum 5 students were permitted in each department at one session.

Doctors worked like resident doctors, were given day and night duty, attended all post graduate programmes, OPD, IPD, specialty clinics like the immunization clinic, well baby clinic, nutrition clinic, nephrology, cardiology, neurology, endocrinology. HIV/AIDS, NICU, PICU, MICU, ICU as the case may be. All the duty medical officers doctors were supervised by Chief Residents, Asstt. Professors, Associate Professors and Professor HOD of the Dept. They were given hands on training like putting IV lines, intra cath, resuscitation, intubation, ECG taking, pleural, peritoneal tap, lumbar puncture photo therapy, warmer and ventilator use in some situations. They were trained and were also asked to perform independently. A detailed syllabus was prepared and each student doctor was given a log book filled by her/him and signed by HOD at the end of the tenure before examination. Students were specially trained in IMNCI (Integrated management of neonatal & childhood illnesses), facility based IMNCI, SAM (Severe acute malnutrition), WHO growth charts, RBSK (Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram) and other relevant national programs. One unique feature of the training was videoconferencing lectures delivered every week by eminent Pediatricians and Physicians i.e. Professors, Clinicians, Padma awardees on the subjects of relevance, motivation etc. These were 'on line' with lectures from Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune and Aurangabad with video links to all places. Lectures were interactive with power point presentations and CDs were provided. The students thus got exposed to the latest in theory and practicals of Medicine and Pediatrics. At the end of 6 months, theory and practical examination was conducted and candidates who passed the examination were given 'MOCP certificates' to be used under the Public Health Department. Videoconferencing lectures were common with another batch of students who were simultaneously learning CCCN (Certificate Course in Clinical Nutrition), a course which is mainly on line with 2 weeks practical at Aundh Hospital and MUHS regional center in PUNE.

#### Results:

**Table 1: Total number of Medical Officers enrolled and trained for MOCP.**

Batch No. & Year of Training	No. of Medical Officers Trained		
	Medicine	Pediatrics	Total
1 (2011-12)	10	09	19
2 (2012-13)	22	31	53

3 (2013-14)	19	28	47
4 (2014-15)	21	29	50
TOTAL	72	97	169

**Table 2: Results of the students**

Batch No.	No. appeared for Examination	No. Passed	Percentage
Batch 1	22	19	90.48%
Batch 2	57	53	94.64%
Batch 3	53	47	88.68%
Batch 4	50	48	96.00%
Mean passing percentage:			92.78%

Financial implications per course has varied from Rs.22 to 30 lakhs.

**Discussion:** This is thus a unique course that has tried to bridge the gap between a General Practitioner and Specialist. When we have tremendous shortage of Pediatricians and Physicians in the Public Health Dept. especially in rural areas, this course has been found to be extremely useful. It is very cost effective. Doctors have developed immense skills in handling emergencies right from snake bite, chest pain, neurological problems to birth asphyxia<sup>1,2,3</sup>. They have learnt the state-of-the-art techniques and have been updated with latest knowledge as they learnt in tertiary medical colleges. This opportunity cannot be given in District or sub-District hospitals. Thus, they were in a position to practice all the skills when they went back to their primary health centers. They also established good linkages with the Medical Colleges and the teachers therein. Motivation and confidence building was observed in the doctors.

**Conclusion:** This unique experiment Govt. has tried to provide specialised care in rural areas. The experiment could be replicated in other States as well.

Feedback from students was very positive. They described this posting as rejuvenation in their medical knowledge. This also helped them to gain confidence in patient care and skill building.

#### References:

1. Evaluation of Medical Students in the training of Paediatric Life Support – A Spanish Perspective : Patricia Aparicio et. Al. Journal of Emergency Primary Health Care Volume 1, issue 3, article 12. Website: <http://ro.ecu.edu.au/jephpc/vol1/iss3/12>.

2. Effectiveness of a training program to increase the capacity of health care providers to provide HIV/AIDS care and treatment in Swaziland HN Kamiru etc. al. *AIDS Care* 2009. November 21(11): 1463-1470.
3. Short term training of Medical Officers in Mental Health. Satyavati Devi. *Indian Journal of Psychiatry*, 1993, 35(2), 107-110.

Conflict of interest: None
Funding: None
Cite this Article as: Saunik S, Phadke M, Nair R, Patil A, Menon P, Jakkal P. Medical Officers' Certificate Programme (MOCP). <i>Natl J Integr Res Med</i> 2015; 6(6):63-65