

Report of Medical Officers training

(8th August, 2025, Lecture Theater, Pathology Block, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi)

Programme:

1. Introduction: Dr. Shintoo Doorma
2. National Programme for Prevention & Control of Deafness in India: Dr. Arun Kumar Agarwal
3. Orientation – Dr. Suneela Garg
4. Introduction to Ayushman Bharat: Dr. Suneela Garg
5. Anatomy and physiology of the Hearing: Dr. Ravi Meher
6. Examination & Diseases of the Outer Ear & Middle Ear: Dr. Ravi Meher
7. Prevention of Hearing Loss & Deafness: Dr. Swati Tondon
8. Assessing Hearing & prescription of Hearing Aids: Dr. Swati Tondon
9. Definition of Role & Monitoring: Dr. Nidhi Bhatnagar
10. Responsibilities under RBSK & RKSK: Dr. Nidhi Bhatnagar

1. Introduction: Dr. Shintoo Doorma, State Programme Officer, Delhi

The Medical Officer Training Programme was designed to build the capacities of medical officers in the field of ear and hearing health, with an emphasis on both clinical and public health perspectives. The programme sought to provide in-depth knowledge of anatomy, disease diagnosis, preventive strategies, hearing aid management, and integration of ear health into national health initiatives. The opening session, led by Dr. Shintoo Doorma, set the tone for a multi-faceted learning experience, stressing the role of medical officers as both clinical practitioners and community health advocates.

He also explained about the budget of Delhi State and districts. He mentioned about the activities organized till date by the all districts of Delhi. He told to plan 2 activities monthly in their district.

2. NPPCD Program: Dr. Arun Kumar Agarwal

He presented an overview of NPPCD, its operational framework, hearing aid eligibility criteria, and distribution centres. stressed preventive strategies, identified challenges, and advocated for increased budget allocation to scale up services across regions.

Dr. Agarwal note told that the NPPCD Programme (Sharvan Shakti Abhiyan), focusing on the distribution of hearing aids through 67 centers. He talked about Hearing Health Concerns and lists common causes of increased cases of hearing loss and suggests prevention measures, including avoiding high volume and prolonged headphone use (80-90dB). The note concludes with a reference

to opening centers in Delhi and Dr. Agarwal's request for budget allocation for the hearing aid program, intending to approach the Ministry of Health.

3. Training Sessions Orientation : – Dr. Suneela Garg

Dr. Suneela Garg introduced the participants to the overall objectives of the training, highlighting the global and national burden of hearing loss and the critical role of early detection, treatment, and rehabilitation. Emphasized the integration of ear and hearing health into primary healthcare services. Dr. Suneela Garg questioned and explained about

- What is the Need for Prevention of Hearing loss & Deafness?
- What difference can we make...?

She detailed about manpower training objectives and Early detection, Diagnosis & Treatment at various levels of Health Care systems.

She talked about importance of the capacity building at the cascade level to provide better and organized service to the community. She mentioned about the assistive device training for ANM's, WHO TAP held in MAMC via online and physical mode.

4. Introduction to Ayushman Bharat: – Dr. Suneela Garg

She also explained the objectives, structure, and benefits of the Ayushman Bharat scheme, with a focus on the role of Health and Wellness Centres in delivering ear and hearing care services.

She talked the importance of embedding ear and hearing health services within national and state-level health initiatives to maximize reach and sustainability which included:

- Ayushman Bharat: Leveraging Health and Wellness Centres for integrated screening, treatment, and referral services.
- RBSK & RKSK: Incorporating ear and hearing care into adolescent and child health programmes.
- Public Health Focus: Addressing the '4 delays' in healthcare access and linking ear health initiatives with cervical and oral cancer awareness programmes.
- She informed about 12 task force programmes instead of 2 including Ear and Hearing Care **(ENT) is being added under these RBSK and RKSK programmes.**

5. Anatomy and Physiology of Hearing – Dr. Ravi Meher

He explained the structural and functional aspects of the ear, including outer, middle, and inner ear anatomy, as well as neural pathways of hearing. Provided foundational knowledge for understanding auditory disorders. Discussions about otosclerosis, routine ear examinations in district hospitals, monitoring ear and hearing-related issues, and ear physiology (anatomy).

6. Examination & Diseases of the Outer Ear & Middle Ear: Dr. Ravi Meher

He covered techniques for otoscopic examination, common presentations such as otitis externa, otitis media, tympanic membrane perforations, and wax impaction. Discussed red flag symptoms requiring urgent referral.

7. Prevention of Hearing Loss & Deafness: Dr. Swati Tondon

She outlined preventive measures including safe listening practices, immunization against infections that can cause hearing loss, early management of ear infections, and public health education campaigns.

8. Assessing Hearing & Prescription of Hearing Aids: Dr. Swati Tondon

She explained detailed methods of hearing assessment, including tuning fork tests, pure tone audiometry, and impedance audiometry. Explained criteria for prescribing hearing aids and the process of fitting and patient counselling.

- **Hearing Aids and Related Services:** Notes on the assessment of hearing, prescription of hearing aids, and problems encountered during their use.
- **Management and Maintenance of Hearing Aids:** This section likely discusses the care and upkeep of hearing assistance devices.
- **Surgical Interventions:** Mentions Cochlear Implants and their relation to auditory nerve and speech development.
- **Neonatal Screening:** Refers to hearing screening for newborns, including methods like Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) and Brainstem Evoked Response Audiometry (BERA).
- **Assistive Devices:** Notes the types of assistive devices compatible with hearing aids and cochlear implants for children.
- **Rehabilitation Devices:** Discusses devices used for rehabilitation in hearing aid and cochlear implant users.
- **Speech Training:** Highlights the need for speech training for cochlear implant users.

9. Definition of Role & Monitoring & Responsibilities under RBSK & RKSK: Dr. Nidhi Bhatnagar

She defined the specific responsibilities of medical officers in monitoring hearing health at the community level. Discussed data reporting, follow-up systems, and evaluation of Programme outcomes.

She gave reference to the Ayushman Bharat scheme and Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs), specifically mentioning cervical and oral cancer, and addressing "4 delays" in healthcare access.

Her talk included a note about "How to pour ear drops" and "what to do before pouring ear drops."

She explained how HWCs can make patients more comfortable by their services and referrals to districts hospitals without delays.

10. Responsibilities under RBSK & RKSK: Dr. Nidhi Bhatnagar

She described integration of ear health services into the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) for children and Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) for adolescents. Emphasized school-based screening and awareness.

Key Technical and Public Health Topics Covered

The training provided both theoretical and practical insights into critical aspects of ear and hearing health, including eligibility criteria, preventive strategies, diagnosis, rehabilitation, and integration into existing public health frameworks.

Conclusion

The Medical Officer Training Programme was highly effective in improving the clinical skills and public health understanding of participants regarding ear and hearing care. Through comprehensive lectures, interactive discussions, and practical guidance, the programme strengthened the ability of medical officers to diagnose, treat, and prevent hearing loss while actively contributing to national health programmes. The integration of ear health into broader public health initiatives is expected to improve access to care, enhance prevention, and ultimately reduce the burden of hearing impairment in the community.





