

Road to stronger public- private engagement in RMNCH: From national advocacy to state enterprise

After a high level national consultation on private sector engagement in RMNCH early 2017, JSI under VRIDDHI project has facilitated state level consultations to advance the agenda on increasing private sector engagement in RMNCH schemes. Some common emerging challenges within private sector across states are: 1) limited information on government schemes on public private partnership (PPP), 2) lack of standard treatment practices and non-compliance to recommended practices in maternal and child health care, 3) mistrust arising from earlier engagement with public sector or through shared experiences and 4) lack of financial planning for sustainable operations while integrating scope for public sector engagement. In each of the six states- Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Uttarakhand, the consultative decision on engaging private sector in RMNCH schemes is to have joint FOGSI, IAP/NNF and JSI trainings to overcome above listed challenges and ascertain the effectiveness of these trainings through follow-up supportive supervision in select private health care institutions in each of these states. To take it forward, advocacy & capacity building activities at State level, Vriddhi project hired six PPP MNCH Consultants from Professional associations. Now, these six Consultants will coordinate with both State Government as well as members of FOGSI & IAP. A compendium of relevant government guidelines has been developed for sharing with private providers through the planned trainings.



On July 13th, 2017, JSI organized an orientation for Master trainers identified from the existing professional networks of FOGSI and IAP/NNF. The orientation facilitated by Dr. Sudhir Maknikar was aimed at an information exchange among the Master trainers to streamline state level trainings and arrive at standard responses to some expected questions from private practitioners related to the government guidelines. Under the aegis of Dr. Sanjay Kapoor (Managing Director, JSI), Dr. Gambhir (President NNF) and Dr. Suchitra Pandit (Ex President, FOGSI) the technical and logistics concerns in undertaking these trainings were discussed and several issues resolved.

The Master trainers also include resource persons, one in each state, who will move the PPP agenda forward through state level trainings, liaising with the leadership of professional bodies to raise issues from the private sector providers and motivate the local network members to raise their issues through the web portal- RMNCH Practitioners Forum and establish it as a reference point for FAQs and informed dialogue on challenges faced by private practitioners in engaging in public sector health schemes. Vriddhi project through these Master Trainers is planning to orient Aprx 400 members of IAP & FOGSI in six states. First such training is planned in Dehradun, Uttarakhand on 30th July, 2017 and will cover over 40 members of FOGSI, IAP/NNF in the state.