

Report on Activities undertaken during World Antibiotic Awareness Week (13-19 November 2017) and afterwards

The World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) for 2017 was held from 13th November until 19th November, with theme as 'Seek advice from a qualified healthcare professional before taking antibiotics'. National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) organized and coordinated various activities during this week to raise awareness and improve understanding on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) amongst general public, school students, professionals (healthcare, animal/food sector, pharmaceutical industry, researchers) as well as other stakeholders.

Just prior to the onset of the World Antibiotic Awareness Week, a joint symposium was organized by NCDC and Indian Medical Association (IMA), with support from WHO Country Office for India, at the IMA Headquarters Delhi. Conducted on 11th November 2017, the symposium brought together IMA office bearers and aimed at raising awareness, standardizing messages on AMR and drafting an IMA roadmap to contain AMR in India. The event also served as a platform to officially unveil and launch the new information, education and communication (IEC) products, designed to spread AMR awareness during the WAAW 2017. The esteemed panel comprised of representatives from NCDC, IMA and WHO.



Unveiling of IEC products, IMA House, 11th November 2017



Unveiling of AMR Plaque at IMA House, 11th November 2017

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ACTIVITIES DURING WORLD ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS WEEK (13th – 19th November 2017)

1. 13th November 2017

A. (Madhya Pradesh Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance)

NCDC officially kicked off the WAAW 2017 by supporting the Madhya Pradesh Workshop on AMR at Bhopal on 13th November 2017. The theme for the workshop was '**Combating AMR in Madhya Pradesh - Towards an Agenda for Action**'. The workshop was organized by the Directorate of Health Services, Madhya Pradesh with support from NCDC, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW, Government of India), WHO Country Office for India and Neeti Foundation. The esteemed panel comprised of Dr Manohar Agnani (Joint Secretary, Policy, Government of India, MoHFW), Ms. Gauri Singh (Principal Secretary, Health), Dr K L Sahu (Director Health Services, Madhya Pradesh), Dr Sunil Gupta (Head, Microbiology Department & Additional Director, NCDC), and Dr Anuj Sharma (WHO Country Office for India). The workshop brought together stakeholders from human health (public and private), animal/food sector, Food and Drugs Administration, Pollution Control Board, environment, research, and state health administration, on one forum, with an aim to spread awareness on AMR and emphasize upon the importance of a cross sectoral approach towards containing AMR. All speakers addressed the gathering during the inaugural session.

The workshop also served as a platform to engage the stakeholders and participants in brain storming sessions for initiating development of a State Action Plan on AMR (in alignment with the Nation Action Plan on AMR containment and with due cognizance to state needs and priorities). To facilitate the development of the State Action Plan on AMR, participants were divided in six groups, based on their areas of expertise and to reflect key strategic priorities for a collaborative containment of AMR. The six groups were- Group 1: Awareness and understanding - communications and trainings; Group 2: Knowledge and evidence - AMR surveillance and laboratories; Group 3: Infection prevention and control - human health, animals/food and community/environment; Group 4: Optimise use of antimicrobials - regulations/access & surveillance of antibiotic use, antimicrobial stewardship in humans and antimicrobial stewardship in animals/food; Group 5: Research & development, innovations and financing; and Group 6: Collaborations and convergence. Group members engaged in active discussions to formulate key focus areas, objectives and broad activities (in context to Madhya Pradesh), for each of the six strategic priorities described in the National Action Plan on AMR. Final group work was presented by the group representative (rapporteur). The outputs served as preliminary framework and require further refinement, prior to actual development of strategic action plans on AMR containment.

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B. An interactive TV show “Doctors Online” hosted by Channel “Delhi Doordarshan” on 13th November 2017 invited experts from NCDC for the show on raising awareness among general public about Antibiotic resistance and to contain resistance. It was held from 6:30 pm-7:00 pm and Dr AC Dhariwal (Director, NCDC) and Dr Lata Kapoor (Joint Director, NCDC) participated in this programme. A number of questions related to the irrational use of antibiotics and the spread of antibiotic resistance were asked by general public. Dr AC Dhariwal and Dr Lata Kapoor while answering the queries emphasized on the importance of using antibiotics wisely for control of AMR and importance of hand hygiene in prevention of transmission of infection. They also shared various initiatives by the Indian Government, including strengthening of regulatory framework through the Red Line campaign.

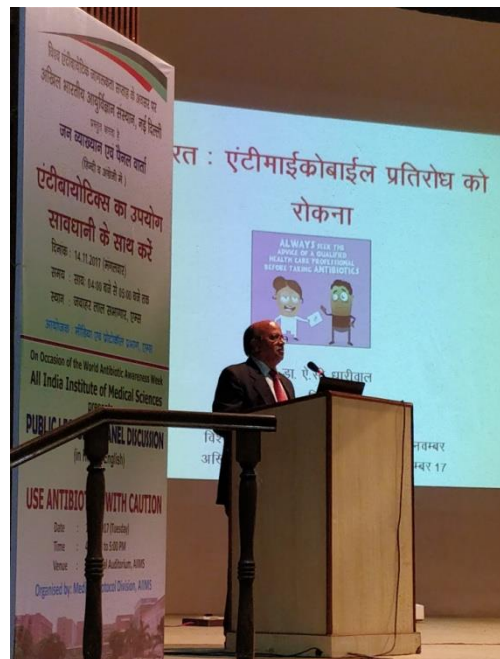
2. 14th November 2017 (Public Lecture and Panel Discussion on AMR)

A public lecture and panel discussion on AMR with the theme ‘**Use Antibiotics with Caution**’ was organized at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi on 14th November 2017. The panelists included Dr Randeep Guleria (Director AIIMS), Dr AC Dhariwal (Director, NCDC), Dr Rita Sood (Medicine Department, AIIMS), Dr Arti Kapil (Microbiology Department, AIIMS), Dr Rajesh Malhotra (Orthopaedics Department, AIIMS and Chief, AIIMS Trauma Centre), Dr Rakesh Lodha (Pediatric Department, AIIMS), Dr Anoop Daga (Department of Hospital Administration, AIIMS), and Dr Karan Madan (Pulmonology Department, AIIMS). The audience comprised of general public and nursing staff. All speakers addressed the gathering during the inaugural session.

Keynote address was given by Dr Randeep Guleria, as he emphasized on the importance of *Swachh Bharat* to achieve a *Swasth Bharat*. Dr Guleria stressed on the urgent need to save the efficacy of the existing antibiotics with emphasis on infection prevention & control measures as the most cost-effective interventions to control the AMR problem. Dr AC Dhariwal shared various initiatives by the Indian Government, including strengthening of regulatory framework through the Red Line campaign, with the audience. Need for public health measures like hand washing to control AMR transmission, as well as importance of public awareness, were also emphasized.

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Awareness was raised through various informative products (posters, standees and plaques) bearing specific messages like 'how misusing and overusing antibiotics puts us all at risk' and 'everyone has a role to play'. Technical and logistical support was provided by WHO, FAO and USAID for the event. NCDC also shared pamphlets with key messages with the attendees. The public lecture generated keen interest amongst the attendees as was evident by interactive rounds of question-answer sessions between the general public and panelists.



3. 16th November and 17th November 2017 (School Activity)

The faculty from the National Centre for Disease Control visited various schools of Delhi to increase awareness of AMR among the students and conducted an interactive session and a quiz on antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance for students of classes 6 to 10. Approximately 1700 children from three schools namely Gujarati Samaj Senior Secondary school, Rajpur Road, Civil Lines (Dr Ankur Garg, Dr Suneet Kaur and Dr Arti Bahl visited on 16.11.2017), Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalaya (Dr Ankur Garg and Dr Arti Bahl visited on 17.11.2017) and Bengali Senior secondary School, Civil Lines (Dr Tanzin Dikid, Dr Shallu Kathuria, Dr Suneet Kaur and Dr Arti Bahl visited on 17.11.2017)

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participated in the event. Awareness on the rational use of antibiotics was raised through various informative products (posters and standees) bearing specific messages like 'how misusing and overusing antibiotics puts us all at risk' and 'everyone has a role to play'. During the activity, prizes such as special mugs bearing the theme "Think Twice Seek Advice" and the T-Shirts from FAO enticed with AMR awareness message "Use antibiotics wisely" have been distributed among the students giving correct answers as a token of appreciation. The students clearly understood the importance of personal hygiene and hand washing. The school awareness activities are continuing in other schools of Delhi.



Gujarati Samaj Senior Secondary school



Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalaya



Bengali Senior secondary School, Civil Lines



4. 18th November 2017 (CME Program) at LHMC

A CME program was jointly organized by NCDC, Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC) and CDC India, at LHMC on 18th November 2017. Theme for the CME was 'Rational Use of Antimicrobials in Clinical Care Settings' and the objectives were to generate awareness on AMR, understand the importance of the Hospital Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (AMSP) as well as discuss rational use of antimicrobials for AMR containment, among medical students. The esteemed panel comprised of Dr Kayla Lasserson (Director, CDC India), Dr NS Dharmshaktu (Special Advisor, MoHFW), Dr

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Rajiv Garg (Director, LHMC), Dr AC Dhariwal (Director, NCDC), Dr Sunil Gupta (Head, Microbiology Department & Additional Director, NCDC) and Dr Ravinder Kaur (Professor & Head, Microbiology Department, LHMC). All speakers addressed the gathering during the inaugural session.

Chief Guest, Dr NS Dharmshaktu, appreciated Indian Government's efforts in addressing AMR at a national level and highlighted the critical role of all sectors in combating the problem. Dr AC Dhariwal acknowledged Dr Dharmshaktu's leadership in driving national health agendas as well as support extended by CDC India under Dr Kayla Lasserson's direction. The critical role of regulatory agencies in drafting and implementing policies, as well as importance of operational research & campaigns (such as red line initiatives) for AMR containment, were highlighted by Dr Dhariwal. Dr Kayla Lasserson was pleased at CDC partnership with NCDC for consolidation of efforts on AMR containment.

Activities for the second half of the CME comprised of scientific sessions and a panel discussion. The scientific sessions commenced with a presentation by Dr Sunil Gupta describing India's response towards AMR containment. Dr Gupta acknowledged the political commitment of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Dr JP Nadda (Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare), and highlighted various awareness activities organized by NCDC during WAAW 2017. Various other presentations were also very educative as they described principles of rational prescription of antibiotics, important role of Hospital Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (AMSP) as well as trends on antibiotic resistance in bacteria. A brainstorming round of quiz, was organised and winners were presented with special mugs bearing the theme "*Think Twice Seek Advice*" for disseminating information on AMR.

The scientific sessions were followed by a panel discussion on "Current issues related to AMSP in Public Healthcare Settings" that was moderated by Dr Lata Kapoor (Microbiologist & Joint Director, NCDC). A healthy discussion was followed by various recommendations put forth by the panel, including regular training of nursing staff and resident doctors on Infection Control Practices, as well as need for updated hospital antibiograms to monitor hospital acquired infections.

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5. 18th November 2017 (Fortis Hospital)

A presentation by NCDC was also scheduled at Fortis Memorial and Research Institute, Gurgaon to share information with healthcare professionals, on various national initiatives on AMR containment.

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Initiative from Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy

Jyoti Joshi, Head - South Asia & GARP Asia Coordinator have shared a small animated video **#Superbug Story** to create awareness about the topic in the community during World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW), 2017. CDDEP has taken this initiative, the video was available at (<https://youtu.be/HYmRdrfC5nQ> and <http://bit.ly/2zqHH3q>) and had been posted on all social media platforms (Website, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram). The video explains antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in a simple and interesting manner and was developed by the Nepal GARP working group following a school competition for the best story about AMR during WAAW 2016. It was open for screening in hospitals, schools etc. and even on social media to create awareness at large level about the challenges of AMR.

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School activity was continued after the World antibiotic awareness week (WAAW) and a total of 8 schools in Delhi are covered till now

1. **Shaheed Bhai Bal Mukund Govt. Sarvodaya Vidyalaya**, Shankaracharya Marg (Visited on 22.11.2017). Dr Arti Bahl, Joint Director addressed the school children (approx. 350 children) of 6th -11th standard about the antimicrobial resistance and its containment. Dr Shallu Kathuria, Consultant Microbiologist (AMR) anchored the quiz and prizes were distributed among the children which made the session more interactive and later hand hygiene steps were demonstrated and children followed the steps and they were told about the importance of hand hygiene.
2. **Kendriya Vidyalaya, Janakpuri** was visited by Dr. Arti Bahl, Joint Director who addressed the school children and a quiz was anchored by Dr Meera Dhuria, Deputy Director.
3. **Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, Lodhi Road**, was visited twice, by Dr Arti Bahl, Joint Director and Dr Ankur Garg, Assistant Director once for higher class quiz activity and addressing AMR and second time (20.12.2017) for hand hygiene session for nursery kids.
4. **Delhi Public School, Rohini was visited by** Dr Sunil Gupta, Addl. Director & Head Microbiology along with Dr. Arti Bahl, Joint Director, Dr Ankur Garg, Assistant Director and Dr Purva Sarkate, Assistant Director visited DPS, Rohini on 8.12.2017. The team addressed approximately 400 students of class VIII and IX as well as teachers from the school. Dr Sunil Gupta gave an introductory speech on common infectious diseases, antibiotics and the rising problem of antibiotic resistance. Quiz was conducted by Dr. Arti Bahl and Dr. Ankur Garg. Various questions pertaining to common bacterial infections, antibiotics, measures to prevent anti-bacterial resistance, practices to be followed in case of infectious diseases were asked. There was active participation from the students. Prizes in the form of cups, pens, T-shirts were distributed to the students. Dr Purva Sarkate demonstrated the steps of hand- washing and the students were asked to follow the steps. At the end, Dr Sunil Gupta summarized the session and gave important "Take home messages". The students were given time to ask queries and their questions were answered. The session ended by a vote of Thanks from School Principal.
5. **Apeejay School, Pitampura** was visited by Dr. Sunil Gupta Addl. Director & Head Microbiology, Dr. Ankur Garg Assistant Director, Dr. Purva Sarkate Assistant Director and Dr Shallu Kathuria Consultant Microbiologist (AMR) on 27.12.17. Dr. Sunil Gupta addressed approx. 300 children and faculty members, about the common infections, antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance and how they can help in controlling the resistance at their level. He also emphasized on the healthy diet and personal hygiene. Then a quiz was anchored by Dr. Ankur Garg and Dr Shallu Kathuria, students participated actively and asked several questions after the quiz. Prizes in the form of cups, pens, T-shirts were distributed to the students. Dr Purva Sarkate demonstrated the steps of hand- washing and the students were asked to follow the steps. At the end, Dr Sunil Gupta summarized the session and gave important "Take home messages". The session ended by a vote of Thanks from Vice-Principal.

Few of the photographs of school activity

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Kendriya Vidyalaya, Janakpuri



Delhi Public School, Rohini

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Initiatives taken by Schools during the WAAW week
Guru Angad Public School, Ashok Vihar Phase-I, New Delhi

