



More I-TECH India PL News

Journal Club and e-Learning (October 2018): I-TECH India PL started the Journal Club, where weekly meticulous discussions are held on recent global developments and advances in the HIV program. This knowledge-sharing mechanism is used as an education tool, helping to build awareness and understanding of the key program, clinical and technical interventions in the field of HIV that are being adopted by various countries. The Journal Club is organized through e-communication infrastructure using standardized protocols for discussion. This is an add-on to an existing information sharing activity, wherein I-TECH dispersed weekly e-articles and e-journals to all 17 Centers of Excellence/Pediatric Centers of Excellence, the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), national experts, implementing partners, and stakeholders in the country.

Differentiated Service Delivery Models in India: I-TECH India PL worked extensively in Maharashtra and in North East India to strengthen and expand the Differentiated Service Delivery Models (DSDM) in all four states. This has been supported by the State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) and with this increased state ownership, the models have been expanded extensively. The multi-month dispensation (MMD) model started at 14 sites in Maharashtra, catering to more than 4,000 positive clients, and at six sites in the North Eastern states, reaching more than 1,800 positive clients. Another model, Co-located ART OST Center, has also been initiated at nine sites in the North Eastern Region, linking to more than 70 clients getting ART treatment.

Key Populations Workshop for ART Counselors in Maharashtra (September 2018): I-TECH India PL, in coordination with Maharashtra SACS and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), conducted a three-day workshop for 163 anti-retroviral therapy (ART) counselors. The workshop objective was to equip ART center counselors with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to provide services to key population (KP) clients. Trainers from CDC, I-TECH India, SACS, and Alliance India discussed in detail KP vulnerability, stigma and discrimination, targeted interventions, ART preparedness counseling, ART adherence and calculation, etc. Center-wide action plans were devised to ensure ART services are sensitive to the needs of KP clients.

Using Technology for Program Monitoring and Strengthening (September 2018): I-TECH India has supported the Government of India in creating the ART Adherence Calculation Application. In September 2018, the pilot of this application was done at all sites in one state and was very successful. The next plan by the Government is to launch this application nationally. ART counselors will use this application to correctly calculate the ART adherence among positive clients. Simultaneously, I-TECH India created another app, Creatinine Clearance Calculator, which will help medical doctors at the ART centers to adjust dosing or modification of

antiretroviral (ARV) drugs in clients with kidney disease in a timely way. The plan is to pilot this calculator before a national rollout.

Training ART Center Staff in Mizoram (September 2018): I-TECH India facilitated and supported a two-day orientation program, held in Aizwal, Mizoram, for the ART center staff including medical officers, data managers, counselors, and pharmacists. The medical officers were trained on the National Aids Control Organization (NACO) ART treatment guidelines and Differentiated Service Delivery Models. Data managers, counselors, and pharmacists were oriented on data cleaning, monthly progress report (MPR) indicators, validation of MPR with Master Line-List (MLL) of ART centers, and usage of the I-TECH India-developed ART Adherence Calculator Application.

Data Quality Improvement at National level (July 2018): I-TECH India prepared site- and state-wide scorecards for the ART centers using key performance indicators for the program such as ART initiation, linkage, retention, loss to follow-up, etc., from year 2017 to 2018. This effort to review the performance of all 35 states and 540 ART centers in India are shared as feedback and quality improvement mechanisms for program strengthening. I-TECH India has also designed two tools, the Quarterly Feedback Tool (QFT) and MPR (Monthly Progress Report) validation tool, to monitor the program progress in all states and at all sites in the country. While QFT is used to improve program performance at state level by sharing feedback on key indicators, the MPR tool is designed to improve quality in monthly reporting mechanisms at all levels—site, state, and national.

Data Quality Improvement in Maharashtra (July 2018): The I-TECH India team conducted a giant data-cleaning drive that resulted in an update of 64,721 fields using physical records of three cluster ART Centers of Maharashtra, leading to enhanced reliability of data systems at the local level.

Medical Officers Training on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Center in Imphal, Manipur (May 2018): I-TECH India supported a four-day HIV care training program in Imphal, Manipur on 16-19 April 2018. Twenty-three medical officers attended the training that covered ART treatment and adherence, pediatric ART, HIV-Tuberculosis (TB) co-infection, recording and reporting procedures, as well as updates related to viral load testing and monitoring. Facilitators were from NACO, I-TECH, SHARE India, State Centers of ART Excellence, and Pediatric Centers of Excellence.