

Lessons learned on the integration of the Safe Delivery App into health education systems

Maternity Foundation hosted its first **Global Knowledge Share Event** with partners on 24th November 2022. The event was an opportunity for participants to learn from our partners from Cambodia, Ghana, Ethiopia, and India on various modalities of integrating the Safe Delivery App into the national the education systems.

Integration of digital tools into national health education systems is an important step in ensuring sustainable uptake and usage of a digital tool. Representatives from the Indian Nursing Council, the Ministry of Health Ethiopia, the Ministry of Health Cambodia, and the Ghana Registered Midwives Association shared their best practices on integration of the Safe Delivery App into national health education systems in their respective countries.

More than 100 people attended the event, representing national midwifery associations, nursing councils, ministries, UN agencies, NGOs, foundations, etc.

BACKGROUND

It is estimated that the world is currently facing a shortage of 900,000 midwives, which represents a third of the required global midwifery workforce, while the COVID-19 crisis has only exacerbated this problem. Importantly, research has shown that inadequate education and lack of clinical training significantly imperil the professional identity, competence, and confidence of midwives and care providers. Quality midwifery education and continued professional development for practicing midwives are key elements to equip midwives with competencies to provide high quality care.

HOW DIGITAL TOOLS CAN SUPPORT NATIONAL EDUCATION AGENDA FOR A COMPETENT AND CONFIDENT HEALTH CARE WORKER CADRE

Innovative digital tools and online learning resources have been paving ways for providing midwifery education and training in a new way. COVID-19 demonstrated that digital solutions play a pivotal role in providing access to protocols, guidelines, and opportunities for training and learning. Digital tools can support competency-based training,

can be applied as self-directed learning tools, are an integral part of blended learning approaches, and can be used to support a students, teachers and a healthcare workers at facilities.

The Safe Delivery App enables healthcare workers to refresh or gain critical knowledge on global guidance around basic emergency obstetric and newborn care (BEmONC) and other essential maternal and newborn service provision topics. The App also includes a self-directed learning platform (“MyLearning”) that allows users to quiz themselves on clinical knowledge, pass to new levels, and eventually take a case-based certification exam within the App. Peer-reviewed research combined with monitoring and evaluation activities from implementation in more than twenty countries has repeatedly proven the relevance of the App for improving knowledge on key clinical topics.

For the Safe Delivery App, integration into national systems is a crucial enabler of sustained usage and for operating on a national scale. Integration can take various forms ranging from informal integration in continued professional development initiatives to formal integration into pre-service midwifery and nursing education. In recent

years, significant advancements have been made by partners with support from Maternity Foundation to integrate the Safe Delivery

App into national health education systems. A few examples were presented at the event, including:

Multi-layered light integration by the Ghana Registered Midwives Association (GRMA), Ghana

Presented by Fredrica Hanson, Ghana Registered Midwives Association

With more than 22 years of experience in the field, Fredrica Hanson has previously worked as the Country Midwifery Advisor for UNFPA Ghana, as a clinical midwifery practitioner, and as the ICM Executive Midwifery Leader (EML). Her achievements include retooling of skills laboratories for midwifery educational institutions across the country; initiation of e-learning for midwifery education and facilitating the establishment of the first Bachelors of Science in Midwifery in Ghana at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

Accreditation of CPD (Continued Professional Development) points by the Cambodian Council for Midwives, Cambodia

Presented by Prof. Assistant Pech Sothy, Ministry of Health Cambodia

Prof. Assistant Pech Sothy, Former Deputy Director of the NMCHC and chief of the training unit of NMCHC in Cambodia with more than 25 years of experience in obstetrics and gynecology, maternal and child health.

Integration into B.Sc Nursing degree by Indian Nursing Council, India

Presented by Dr. T. Dileep Kumar, President, Indian Nursing Council

Dr. T. Dileep Kumar is the President of Indian Nursing Council & former Advisor for the Government of India. Dr. T. Dileep Kumar has over 43 years of experience and is the first Indian nursing professional inducted as a Global Advisory Committee Member of the WHO. As President of the Indian Nursing Council, he has initiated many institutional reforms and flagship initiatives, including the establishment of the state-of-the-art National Referral Simulation Centre in India. He has also led India's membership of the International Council of Nurses and the revival of National Awards by the Hon'ble President of India to the Nursing cadre.

He states: "We expect more and more healthcare workers will start to use the Safe Delivery App throughout India, and that it will be a vital tool for increasing their skills and knowledge".

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE SHARE EVENT

Digital tools can successfully support curricula and professional development programmes:

Digital solutions, like Safe Delivery App, can support professional midwifery education programmes and national Continued Professional Development (CPD) efforts in midwifery. The App offers opportunities for blended learning methods and self-directed learning. The App can

enhance midwifery students' learning experiences and can offer educators new and engaging ways of delivering lectures or assigning credit points.

Example: As the App was already endorsed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in India, the Indian Nursing Council (INC) decided to integrate the App into specific units. Students are required to work through the App content in their 6th and 7th semester. 10 marks are assigned for the Safe Delivery Champion certificate for the internal assessment, and the Safe Delivery certificate completion has been added to the course logbook. In addition, faculty members at some colleges have already started using the Safe Delivery App to support their teaching.

Example: In 2021, the INC established that a Safe Delivery App champion certificate (15 hours) was equivalent to 3 Continued Nursing Education (CNE) credits. While in 2022, the Cambodian Ministry of Health and Cambodian Midwives Council (CMC) enabled a quick accreditation process of the App's content. The App was approved by Cambodian Midwives Council for continued professional development and accredited 20 CPD points.



In country partnerships are a key to success:

Partners are crucial for dissemination and integration. Maternity Foundation works with partners to explore and identify avenues for integration. This requires flexibility to adapt to technical solutions according to the identified needs and allows for repeated cycles of adjustments.

Example: In Ghana, the Ghana Registered Midwifery Association and other partners supported the wide dissemination of the App through national events, regional dissemination and sharing through local communication groups. Additionally, they captured feedback for further tech developments and improvements of the App.



Thinking digital tools into national strategies and programmes:

Digital tools present numerous opportunities within education and health. It is important that support and endorsement of digital tools is evident at all levels, and that it is underpinned by a strategic vision.

Example: This has been the case in Ethiopia, where the Digital Health Transformation endorses digital solutions to provide capacity building for health workers.