

INTERPRACTICE 21ST CENTURY PROJECT



REPORT ON TRAINING FOR INTERPRACTICE- 21ST E-LEARNING MODULE (PRETERM INFANT FEEDING AND GROWTH MONITORING) AT TWO SITES, ETHIOPIA

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Background

An adequate well-balanced diet with a proper growth monitoring is the bedrock of child survival, health and development. Well-nourished children with a regular assessment are more likely to be healthy, productive, and ready to learn. Undernutrition, by the same logic, is devastating. It blunts the intellect, saps productivity, and perpetuates poverty. Several evidences support the need for an optimal care during the postnatal period for the growth of the preterm infants which contributes a lot for their survival. Among the optimal care the proper anthropometric measurement and assessing infant feeding are the major contributors for child survival.

Ethiopia has seen a steady reduction in stunting from 58 per cent in 2000 to 38 per cent in 2016, in the percentage of underweight children from 41 per cent to 24 per cent during the same period, and in wasting from 12 per cent to 10 per cent. These trends indicate an improvement in chronic malnutrition over the past 15 years. Yet 28 per cent of child deaths in Ethiopia are associated with under-nutrition. In addition, a high prevalence of various forms of malnutrition among vulnerable groups has serious implications for social development and economic growth.

In order to achieve a better child survival through an appropriate assessment of feeding and anthropometry there is a great need for a continuous capacity building of service providers involved in the care of newborn and pre-term infants. Since reaching health service providers with traditional forms of capacity building might take more time and the need to leave their workplaces, innovative online trainings are very helpful in saving time and reaching a larger segment of the health workforce. In line with this an online training course on INTERGROWTH-21st: Assessing newborn size by Anthropometry, and INTERPRACTICE 21st: Assessing preterm infant feeding and growth monitoring was organized for service providers, trainers and program managers at Mekele and Hawassa universities with support from the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER).

Objectives of the training

- To provide health services providers involved in the management of newborns and pre-term infants to get the necessary knowledge and skills on assessing newborn growth by anthropometry, and preterm infant Feeding and growth Monitoring;
- To orient participants of the online training on the overall activities of the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) and create future links.

Summary of Activities

Pre-training activities

In order to ensure the implementation of planned online training preparations were done that include the following major activities.

- Submission of proposal to GFMER and securing funding for the activity
- Identification of training sites and initial discussion with the institutions on selection of trainees, availability of internet connection, and training dates.
- Preparing certificates for the online trainings

Training Activity

Prior to the start of the online training an orientation on GFMER and its activities were provided for the participants of the training with opportunities to raise clarification issues. Following the initial orientation participants were supported to register the online course and start the training in both the universities. In both universities the Information Communication Technology (ICT) labs were used to do the online training.

A total of 40 participants (14 from Mekele University on May 21, 2019, and 26 from Hawassa university on May 24, 2019) attended the whole day online training. In both sites a one-hour lunch break was provided before they complete the last module of the online training. Among the 40 participants 11 were female which accounts for 27.5%. Participants were service providers from delivery units, Newborn Intensive Care Units (NICU), instructors of nursing and midwife schools, and program managers working in maternal and newborn care projects.

At the end of the training all participants were given the certificate of attendance and most were able to get their online electronic certificates by achieving the 80% mark for each of the final quizzes.

Reflections

The following bulleted points were some of the reflections from participants of the training and University leadership.

- The training was a great opportunity to update our knowledge in the specific areas and helpful to improve the quality of service in preterm infant care.
- As instructors of students in nursing and midwifery, it gave us a great opportunity to use the materials for our students, including the knowledge checks.
- The online course gave us the opportunity to know the existence of other courses in maternal and child health which can be easily taken in the future.
- Both universities acknowledged the support given from GFMER to their staff and would like to continue similar partnership in improving their teaching practice and quality of services in their hospitals.

Training in Pictures

Pictures from the online training - Mekele



Pictures from the online training - Hawassa



