



## **INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH**

Department of Health Research – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
Government of India

**Media report (19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 Press Conference)**  
**(ICMR IN NEWS)**

**(Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi)**  
Information Interface Officer

**Mobile tech changing the face of maternal health in Gujarat**

February 19, 2019/The Hindu Business Line

**80% maternal, infant deaths preventable: ICMR-WHO study**

February 20, 2019/Drug Today

**Mobile app helps improve services of frontline village health workers**

February 24, 2019/The Week

**Mobile app helps ASHA workers provide better maternal and child care services**

February 24, 2019/Ahmedabad Mirror

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### **Mobile tech changing the face of maternal health in Gujarat**

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Before they were handed mobile phones, Accredited Social Health Activists, popularly known as ‘ASHAs’ in Gujarat, used to visit homes of pregnant women and mothers of newly-born. During these visits, they would inquire about the health of the mother and the child, but would not always delve deeper. This has changed with technology. Now, ASHAs digitally track pregnant women and infants’ health and schedule home visits, which enables decision support through a digital checklist that help analyse health complications and notify stock levels of drugs, vaccines and other consumables.

According to data released by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, a scientific study related to the mobile app ImTeCHO — now being used almost across the State — has shown substantial improvement in health of women and children. The app also helps primary health care centre (PHC) staff and doctors monitor data that ASHA feeds, track high-risk cases, register births and deaths, calculate and pay incentives to ASHAs online, and broadcast training content to ASHAs for enabling learning on the job.

### **80% maternal, infant deaths preventable: ICMR-WHO study**

February 20, 2019/Drug Today

*NEW DELHI: 80% of maternal and infant deaths in India can be prevented by improving coverage and quality of evidence based health services to be provided by health workers, says a new study by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and World Health Organization Implementation Research Project in New Delhi.*

The randomized study stressed that a new mobile phone application called ImTeCHO as job-aid for frontline health workers can help improve coverage of health services and health outcomes. Conducted by voluntary organization SEWA Rural-Gujarat, the study, however, found that good training, supportive supervision and ongoing resolution of technology problems are critical operational requirements for the success of such technology intensive interventions. “This is the first randomized study globally which proves the effectiveness of a mobile phone application for frontline health workers in government-run system throughout the continuum of care in difficult to reach tribal areas,” noted Dr. Pankaj Shah, principal investigator of the study. Dr. Gaurav Dahiya, MD- National Health Mission, Gujarat, noted, “The health department has scaled up the project in the entire state. We aim to taper off use of paper registers by using digital interventions. It is a right step towards gender equality and Digital India”. He claimed that 5.8 crore citizens, 4.9 lakh pregnant women and 6.4 lakh infants under the age of 1 year, were enrolled by ANMs in the TeCHO+ app in Gujarat until February 2019.

## [Mobile app helps improve services of frontline village health workers](#)

February 24, 2019/The Week



New Delhi, Feb 24 (PTI) A mobile phone application for community health workers has helped improved their performance in Gujarat, with a government study finding that 80 per cent of maternal and infant deaths can be prevented by improving coverage and quality of evidence-based health services provided by health workers. A randomized study conducted in Gujarat between 2013 and 2018 found that a new mobile phone application called ImTeCHO (Innovative Mobile-phone Technology for Community Health Operators) as job-aid for frontline village health workers called ASHAs can help improve coverage of health services and health outcomes. Developed in 2013, the mobile application is aimed at improving performance of ASHAs through better supervision and support for reducing maternal and infant mortality. ImTeCHO helps them deliver maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) care services and record data under better supervision. The application provides accredited social health activists (ASHAs) with their daily schedules along with reminders of steps to carry out during their visits. The collected data and services offered are tracked. The study was done by voluntary organization SEWA Rural in active partnership with Gujarat government and IT partner-(Argusoft India Ltd), **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, World Health Organization (WHO) and MacArthur Foundation provided technical inputs and funding for the study. Dr Pankaj Shah, principal investigator of the study, said the study used the best possible and robust randomized design to examine effect of the mobile app. "This is first randomized study globally which proved the effectiveness of a mobile phone application for frontline health workers in government-run system throughout continuum of care in difficult to reach tribal areas," he said.

## [Mobile app helps ASHA workers provide better maternal and child care services](#)

February 24, 2019/Ahmedabad Mirror

New Delhi: A mobile phone application for community health workers has helped improved their performance in Gujarat, with a government study finding that 80 per cent of maternal and infant deaths can be prevented by improving coverage and quality of evidence-based health services provided by health workers. A randomized study conducted in Gujarat between 2013 and 2018 found that a new mobile phone application called ImTeCHO (Innovative Mobile-phone Technology for Community Health Operators) as job-aid for frontline village health workers called ASHAs can help improve coverage of health services and health outcomes. Developed in 2013, the mobile application is aimed at improving performance of ASHAs through better supervision and support for reducing maternal and infant mortality.

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The study noted that good training, supportive supervision and ongoing resolution of technology problems are critical operational requirements for successful of such technology intensive interventions, Dr Shah said.

Dr Gaurav Dahiya, MD, National Health Mission, Gujarat noted, "The health department has scaled up the project in entire state. We aim to taper off use of paper registers by using digital interventions. The use of smart phones by female ASHAs and ANMs has greatly improved their self-confidence and knowledge.

### **Mobile app helps improve services of frontline village health workers**

February 24, 2019/Business Standard

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"It is a right step towards gender equality and Digital India," he said.

So far, 5.8 crore citizens, 4.9 lakh pregnant women and 6.4 lakh infants under the age of one year are enrolled by ANMs in the TeCHO+ app in Gujarat until February 2019.

The prime minister had launched state wide-scale up of the project as improved "TeCHO+" on October 8, 2017. The prime minister had noted that "TeCHO mobile application will become support to all health workers to do their health-related activities".

## आईसीएमआर की स्वास्थ्य सेवा सुधार पर बैठक

25 फरवरी, 2019 / अमर उजाला



नई दिल्ली। आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद ने आईसीएमआर-डब्ल्यूएचओ (विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन) की कार्यान्वयन अनुसंधान परियोजना आशाकर्मियों द्वारा मातृत्व नवजात स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के कवरेज में सुधार के लिए एम स्वास्थ्य हस्तक्षेप इमटेकों के परिणामों को प्रसारित करने के लिए एक बैठक का आयोजन किया। इस अवसर पर गैर सरकारी संगठन सेवा ग्रामीण की परियोजना को संचालित करने वाले पदाधिकारी तथा विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन, स्वास्थ्य एवं अनुसंधान संगठन मंत्रालय के पदाधिकारी उपस्थित थे। जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के पूर्व सचिव डॉ एम. के. भान ने बैठक की अध्यक्षता की और महत्वपूर्ण अनुसंधान परिणामों के आदान-प्रदान के लिए एक मंच निर्माण की वकालत की, ताकि ऐसी परियोजनाओं को अन्य राज्यों में बढ़ाया जा सके।

With regards,

Syed Adil Shamim Andrabi  
Information Interface Officer/PRO  
Indian Council of Medical Research-  
Department of Health Research  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
proicmr@gmail.com, syed.adil@icmr.gov.in  
Ext. 286, Phone. 26589130

