



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

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

Press Release

Official launch of IndiCleft tool

14th February 2019, New Delhi

A national web-based portal on cleft education and researchers platform was launched at Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi by Secretary DHR and DG ICMR Prof. Balram Bhargava.

The Indicleft tool is the first of its kind in the world that provides facility to the researcher's data and findings to upload cleft anomaly from any site. The Tool envisages on all aspects of cleft anomaly from the time of conception, birth and till adulthood. The research tool was developed under aegis of a Task Force multi-speciality project funded by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in Collaboration with Centre for Dental Education and Research, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. The project is the brain child of Prof. O. P.Kharbanda and was conceived in 2007 and the pre-pilot phase started in 2010.

The project is on multicentre mode. The overall goal of the project is to establish strategies for prevention and treatment of this deformity. As a part of the study, a comprehensive "IndiCleft tool" has been developed in collaboration with National Informatics Centre (NIC), which has been employed across different participating centres in the country. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for recording extra and intra oral photographs, radiographs, dental study model and investigations on hearing and speech defect have been developed in the IndiCleft tool.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Balram Bhargava, Director General, ICMR congratulated the whole IndiCleft team for the contribution and formulation of the robust version of the IndiCleft tool. He mentioned the importance of developing a methodology in small and pilot phase of project before the formation of the Taskforce group for quality data collection, empowering the patients and stakeholders and how IndiCleft can serve as example for such future endeavours in the country.

Advantages of the tool like GIS data recording where the data from all over the country can be co-related with the demographic details of the area for the

determination of risk factors, features of patient follow-up, real time data analysis. Overemphasis of the quality of the data collection under a promising project like IndiCleft was also highlighted.

Dr. Ajay Khera, Deputy Commissioner, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Neeta Verma, DG, National Informatics Centre, ICMR expert committee group, principal investigators of the project from all over the country, specialists from Orthodontics, Plastic Surgery, ENT and Speech therapy departments from various medical and dental colleges of the country associated with Cleft care.

With regards,

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