



## Fellowship in Reproductive and Maternal Health (FIRMH 2017-18)



### **Background**

In any community, mothers and children are the majority group. In developing countries, they comprise approximately 71.14 per cent of the population. In India, women of child bearing age (15 to 44 years) constitute 22.2 per cent of the total population. Reproductive age group not only constitutes a large group, but also vulnerable or special risk group.

Globally, there were an estimated 2.89 million maternal deaths in 2013, equivalent to about 800 women dying each day. Amongst these, almost 99% maternal deaths occur in developing countries. The maternal mortality ratio in developing countries in 2013 was 230 per 100,000 live births versus 16 per 100,000 live births in developed countries. There are large disparities between countries, with few countries having extremely high maternal mortality ratios of around 1000 per 100,000 live births. There is large disparity within countries, between women with high and low income and between women living in rural and urban areas.

### **Reproductive and Maternal Health in India**

About one-third of the girls are married by the age of 15 and two-third by 18 resulting in teenage pregnancy which is risky. Every year in India, roughly 30 million women become pregnant out of which 27 million are live births. Every year over 57,000 maternal deaths occur in the India and million more suffer pregnancy related complications.

India has the dubious distinction of having unacceptably high maternal mortality and in some states like Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan it is much higher. Rural areas experience higher maternal mortality in comparison to urban areas.

## Indian Association of Preventive and Social medicine (IAPSM)

It is a National professional organization of specialists in Community Medicine/Preventive & Social Medicine/Public Health. It is dedicated to the promotion of public health by bringing its members' expertise to the development of public health policies, an advocate for education, research, and health programs. It has 4200+ members across India.

## Care-India

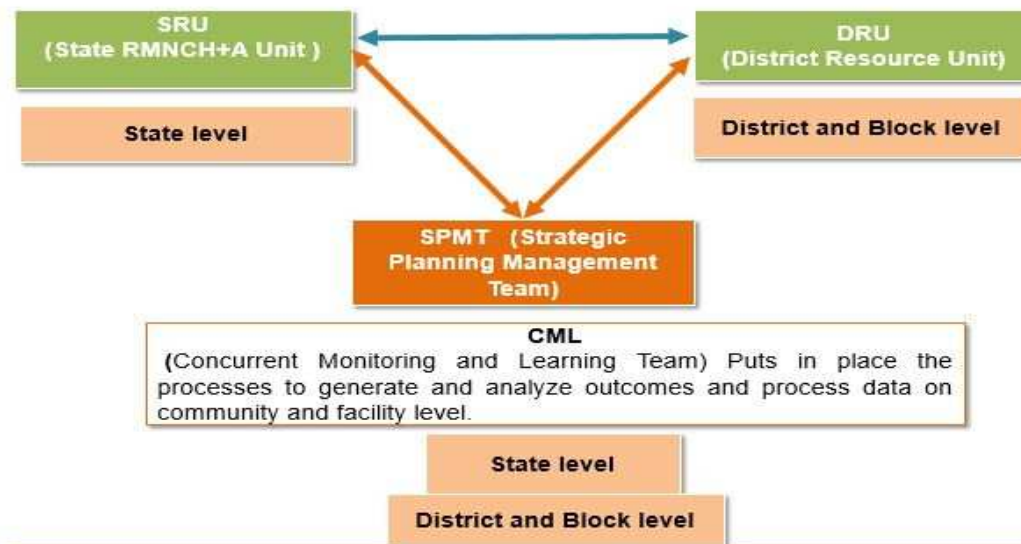
Care India is a part of the CARE International Confederation which is working in more than 90 countries around the world. Care India has been working in India for over 65 years, focusing on alleviating poverty and social injustice through well planned and comprehensive programs in health, education, livelihoods and disaster preparedness and response.

In healthcare, it works in close collaboration with State and Central Government and other partner organizations to secure accessible and quality maternal and child healthcare among marginalized communities. It works towards identifying the root causes of healthcare challenges, provide innovative solutions, and help implement secure and quality healthcare services in India.

## Reproductive and Maternal Health in Bihar

Bihar is one of India's largest and poorest states with over 100 million people. The state has one of the country's highest rate of maternal mortality along with persistent malnutrition, anemia and high fertility rates. Underlying factors that contribute to these negative health outcomes primarily include extreme poverty, gender imbalance and social inequality

For improving the maternal and child health, CARE India with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), launched the Integrated Family Health Initiative (IFHI) project in 2011 in 8 districts of Bihar. The program was later scaled up to all the 38



districts of Bihar as Technical Support Unit (TSU) in 2014. The TSU provides catalytic to transform capabilities and behaviors, and build ownership to unlock the potential of both public and private sector providers to effectively improve quality and coverage of maternal and child health, family planning, and nutrition interventions. Its goal is to increase the coverage and quality of life-saving interventions and improve the health, survival and nutrition of women, newborns and children during the first 1,000 days - from conception to the child's second birthday.

## **Fellowship in Reproductive and Maternal Health**

IAPSM and Care-India have come together and partnered for initiating Fellowship Programs in Reproductive and Maternal Health with the goal of capacity building of a candidate by appointing him/her in Technical Support Unit (TSU), Bihar.

### **Goal:**

The Fellowship Program is initiated with the aim to enhance and build skills and understanding of the candidate in Epidemiology of Reproductive and Maternal Health and its related services.

### **Activities under FIRMH:**

Fellowship program is designed in such a way that the candidate has to be actively involved in the project and its related activities. Some of the key activities for the fellow is to:

1. Work closely with the field and technical teams of Bihar Technical Support Unit and identify and assess issues, gaps and challenges in reproductive and maternal health
2. Suggest healthcare strategies for reducing maternal mortality and fertility rates in Bihar
3. Suggest effective ways to monitor and support frontline workers at facility and community levels to improve the reproductive and maternal health services
4. Suggest strategies to improve reproductive and maternal health indicators such as institutional delivery and Maternal Mortality Ratio.
5. Suggest solutions to take care of system level bottlenecks which are affecting the effective implementation of maternal health and FP programme.
6. Carry out one project related to the maternal or reproductive health
7. Write up at least one research article or case study related to maternal and reproductive health service in rural area of Bihar.



## **During fellowship period, the candidate gets following benefits:**

1. Study the epidemiological situation of reproductive and maternal health in Bihar, and steps taken by government to improve it
2. Study the technical and operational interventions and strategies being employed by TSU
3. Understand critical barriers in providing health services at a community level
4. Learn training, monitoring and supportive supervision skills

## **Who are we looking for?**

We are looking for Doctors who are passionate to improve the status of Reproductive Health and Maternal health in India. He/she should have the ability to live and work in rural areas, and should willing to step out of their comfort zones.

**Duration:** 12 months

**No of seats:** One

## **Who can apply?**

Candidate having **one** of the following qualifications:

1. MD (PSM/SPM)/MD(CM)
2. DPH/MPH after MBBS with one year of post PG experience
3. MD (Ob &Gy)
4. DGO with one year of post PG experience
5. MBBS with minimum 3 years of experience in relevant field

## **Location of the Fellowship:**

The Fellows will be primarily placed in rural areas of Bihar under Bihar Technical Support Unit of CARE India.

## **Stipend:**

Selected candidate will receive fix stipend of Rs. 75,000/- to 80,000 per month. This is not a salary but a stipend. Field travel and stay support will be provided by BTSP.

## **How and Where to Apply?**

Interested candidate to mail their updated CV directly to "[hrb@careindia.org](mailto:hrb@careindia.org)" and copy to [academia.iapsm@gmail.com](mailto:academia.iapsm@gmail.com) with the subject line **Fellowship application from Indian Association of Preventive and Social medicine (IAPSM)**.





