A JOINT VISIT BY
USAID INDIA, JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY & YRG CARE

7/8/2022

TO
ART CENTRE
Department of Medicine
SMT. KASHIBAI NAVALE MEDICAL COLLEGE AND GENERAL HOSPITAL

A Brief Report by
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The Context

The programme 'ACCELERATE' is a 5-year project funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) India with the purpose of assisting the National AIDS Program of Government of India in achieving HIV epidemic control. Being one of the implementing partner, YR Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education (YRG Care) has been providing technical support to ART Centres across Pune and Thane districts in Maharashtra.

Among others, ART Centre in Smt. Kashibai Navale Medical College and General Hospital is being run from last year April 2021 to which project ACCELERATE is also providing technical support. In this context, a joint monitoring visit by representatives of USAID India, John Hopkins University School of Medicine and YRG Care was held on 08 July 2022 at ART centre in Smt. Kashibai Navale Medical College and General Hospital.

The 10-member visiting delegation included three representatives from USAID India, two from John Hopkins University as well as five from YRG Care. The details of the team members in the visiting team is presented in the adjoining table.

List of Members in Visiting Team

S.N	Name	Organization	Designation
1.	Ms. Dipika Joshi	USAID India	Division Chief (HIV)
2.	Ms. Veena Srivastav	USAID India	
3.	Ms. Sukhvinder Kaur	USAID India	Project Management Specialist
4.	Dr. Manish Bamrotiya	John Hopkins University	Technical Director
5.	Mr. Aditya Singh	John Hopkins University	Executive Director
6.	Mr. C.K. Vasudevan	YRG Care	State Manager- Maharashtra
7.	Dr. Ashwini Yetalkar	YRG Care	Programme Officer
8.	Mr. Ravindra Pawar	YRG Care	Technical Coordinator
9.	Mr. Balaji Ubarhande	YRG Care	M & E Officer
10.	Ms. Latika Karve	YRG Care	Technical Coordinator

The objectives

The visit was part of the regular project activities of ACCELERATE and hence, the team had scheduled visits to many other ART centres across the district. Despite this, the visit to this ART centre was quite an important for the team as ART centre in this hospital holds a unique feature of being implemented in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. Henceforth, the team not only tried to assess the operation of the ART centre but also bagged the opportunity to learn the experiences of running ART centre in PPP model for possible replications in other locations.

The Visit

The visit was started by warm welcoming of the visiting team by ART Centre staff. After a brief introduction session, Mr. Sandeep Dhawale, Counsellor of the ART Centre gave orientation on ART Centre to the visitors. He also showed the structure of the ART centre, shared about flow of patients and how the patients are catered with services.

An orientation about ARTC being given by Mr. Sadeep Dhawale during Joint Visit of USAID India, John Hopkins University and YRG Care on 8 July 2022.

Key Notes
The visit was also succeeded by discussions on important aspects such as Mis and LFU patient, Unsuppressed VL patients, Opted and died patients also held among the visitors and ARTC staff members. Some important discussions includes--

- ART Centre was appreciated for not having a single case of LFU (Lost of Follow up) patient;
- Emphasizing on daily MIS patient calling, Individual Counselling for poor adherence, diet and nutrition counselling, spouse testing counselling etc. are some of the strategy shared to the visiting team that the ARTC has adopted to operate the ARTC effectively;
- The major accomplishment of the ARTC as minimizing the number of patients who are remained unsuppressed for viral load from 16 patients to 5 patients; among them majority were transferred from other ARTC;
- Demonstration of data in Data Manager's room for making it clearly visible to visiting team;
- Pharmacist shared about the frequent network and portal issues in SOCH Platform that is creating hurdle in recording the dispensing of medicine directly in SOCH platform, which is making it necessary for her to update the details in register too;
- Though the death rate of newly registered ART patients is low, such an unfortunate death of patients who came to ARTC in serious stage is a regret despite ART being started as soon as they came in contact with ARTC;
- The ARTC to give more focus on newly registered ART patients for their overall improvement as recommended by the visiting team;
- The large space of ARTC was also appreciated by visiting team as it is enough space for patients to sit comfortable while visiting ARTC.

In a nutshell, the outcome of the joint visit to ART Centre in Smt. Kashibai Navale Medical College and General Hospital was a success. The visiting team appreciated the ARTC team for their efforts in creating a patient-friendly atmosphere for catering services of the ART centre through adopting effective strategies as well as working methods.