

Best Practices for Capacity Building of Health Workers for Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Introduction in India During Covid 19 Pandemic

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BACKGROUND

- Covid 19 pandemic has posed several challenges for introduction of new vaccines in Universal Immunization Program of India.
- One such challenge is capacity building of the frontline workers (FLW) for successful introduction of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV).
- Whilst the preferred training method has been online training, few States of India looked beyond this method considering technical and geographical barriers related to online training.
- The present review examines the training methods that they adopted which resulted in successful introduction of PCV in the states.

METHODOLOGY

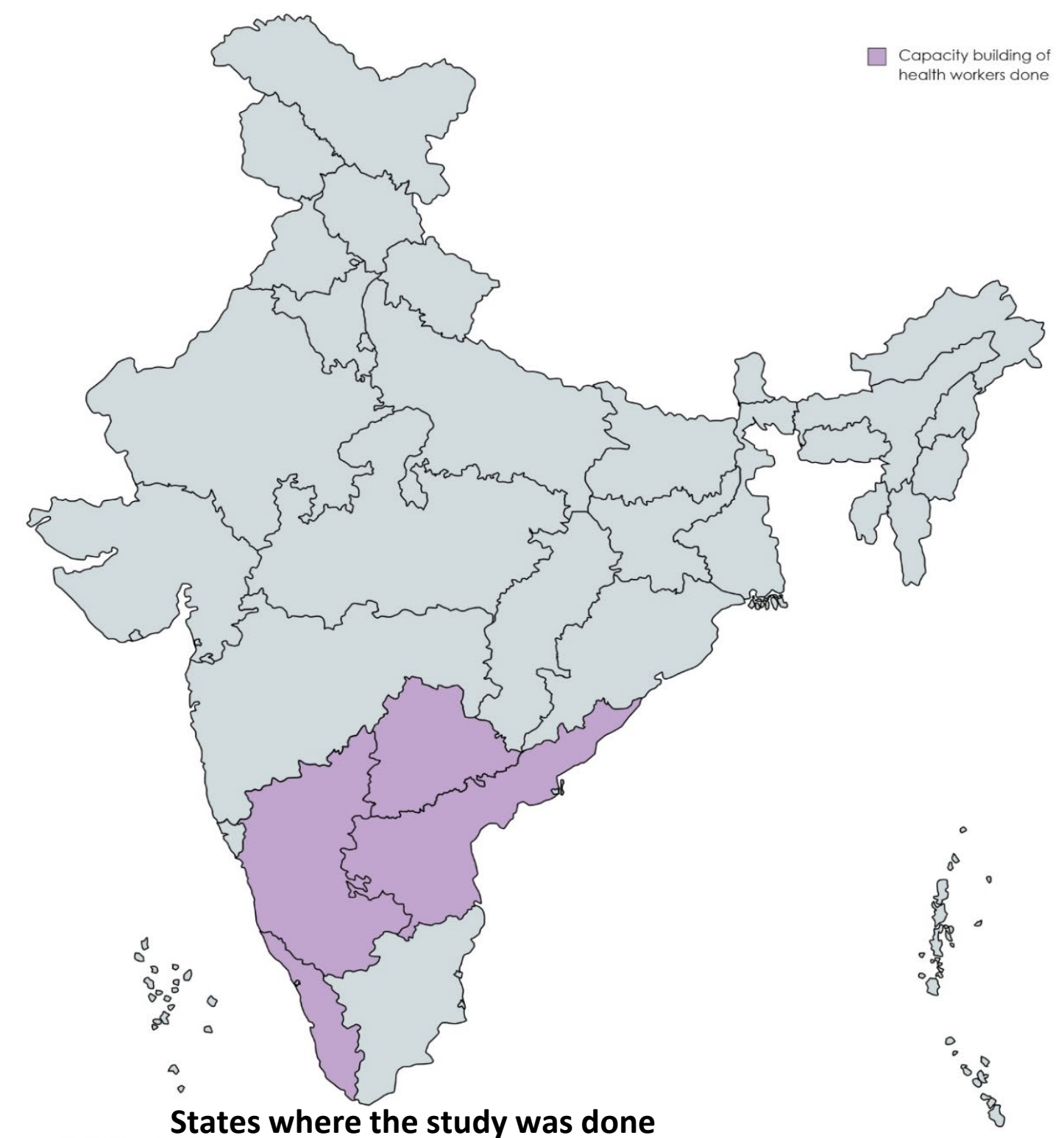
The authors examined measures taken to build the capacity of health workers in a few Indian states to effectively introduce PCV during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study includes a review of published literature and an analysis of the capacity-building initiatives implemented in these States along with the findings of the field visits during routine monitoring of the PCV program.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) booklet in regional languages

AIM

To capture the good practices adopted in few states in India during the PCV introduction.



Animated videos based on the FAQs in regional languages

RESULTS

These states had adopted a “hybrid model of training” which focused on a cascade approach of physical training taking Covid 19 measures into consideration and online training, to reinforce the learning. Training was further supplemented by availability of learning resources like Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Leaflets in regional languages, so as to target every frontline workers (FLW) from different communities. Further, a set of five animated (state specific) mobile device compatible videos covering various aspects of PCV were available, which served as ready reckoner for the FLWss.

CONCLUSION

As per the findings, the hybrid training was a successful model to build the capacity of the FLWs during the COVID 19 pandemic. Availability of training material in multiple languages and audio-visual aids further augment the knowledge and promotes peer-to-peer learning.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Innovative interventions focusing on regional languages and state specific training materials with need based actions lead to successful introduction of new vaccines.