

## Training Workshop for District Health Administrators in Ariyalur in Organised Cancer Screening

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025, sixteen officials of Ariyalur district health administration, encompassing the primary, secondary and tertiary health services, gathered together for the training workshop on “organised cancer screening” at the Government Ariyalur Medical College (GMCH-ALR). The interactive workshop was designed to enhance the implementation and management of cancer screening programme particularly at the district level, based on the principles and best practices of “organised cancer screening” imparted to the 15 participants of the two-week training of TN health administrators in Japan in June 2023<sup>1</sup>.

Dr. Krishnaraj (JD/NCD, DPH), Dr. Vidhya (DD/NCD, DPH and DHO-in-charge HUD Thoothukudi) and Dr. Pravin (State DPO/NCD, DPH), who all participated in the above-mentioned training in Japan, co-facilitated this one-day training workshop along with Ms Naomi Imani (Deputy Chief Adviser) and Dr. Dhamodharan (Project Officer) of the JICA Team. The participants included the top health officials in the district i.e. Dr. Manivannan (DHO), Dr. Marimuthu (JDHS) and Dr. Muthukrishnan (Dean GMCH-ALR).

### TNNCD (Oncology) Project in Ariyalur district

The pilot interventions in the district aim to improve the organisation of the population-based cancer screening, implemented under the Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam.

Focusing on cervical and breast cancer screening, the project is devising and piloting new tools and systems to streamline the management of the cancer screening programme.

1. To equip district-level health administrators with basic knowledge on the concept and components of organised cancer screening relevant to their mandate
2. To establish a training module to be utilised for similar capacity building in other districts
3. By designing and facilitating the training, the participants of the Health Administrators Training in Japan (June 2023) firms up their learning and its application to the settings of Tamil Nadu

### *Objectives of the District Health Administrators' Training Workshop*

After a quick overview of the past and present efforts of the TN government on cancer prevention and control, the participants were taken through a presentation on the concept and components of

<sup>1</sup> “Strengthening of Health Administration for Organised Cancer Screening Programmes”

### Training Workshop Programme

Time	Topics
9.00 – 9:15	Registration and Pre-test
9:15 – 9:45	Opening, Group photo Introductory session
9:45– 9:55	Cancer burden and control in Tamil Nadu
9:55 – 10:45	Unpacking cancer screening and organised cancer screening programme
10:45-11:00	Tea break
11:00-12:45	Quality Assurance of organised cancer screening at the district level (1) – Why and how
12:45 – 1:30	Lunch break
1:30 – 3:00	Quality Assurance of organised cancer screening at the district level (2) – Key Performance Indicators for cancer screening processes
3:00– 4:30	Efforts for a better organised cancer screening programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two studies in Tamil Nadu: where are the gaps?</li> <li>Cancer screening programme of the city of Hachioji, Japan</li> <li>Improving organisation of cervical and breast cancer screening programme in Ariyalur district under TNNCD (Oncology) Project</li> </ul>
4:30– 4:45	Post test & feedback
4:45	Closing

“organised cancer screening” by Dr. Vidhya. The knowledge shared was cemented through a friendly quiz competition in three groups that followed.

The participants were then introduced to a set of key performance indicators (KPIs) of cancer screening, which is commonly used to monitor and assess the quality of cancer screening programmes worldwide. In the group exercise, the participants tried hands on computing the KPIs using a dataset provided and discussed possible factors and interventions to be made when each of the KPI appears to be too high or too low.

The final session was designed to deepen the understanding on organised cancer screening especially in its application in real settings. As a well-managed case, the principles and mechanisms developed by a city of Hachioji in Japan were presented by Ms Naomi and Dr. Vidhya. Dr. Vidhya also highlighted some of the challenges TN has been facing in managing its cancer screening programme as identified through field studies. Dr. Gayathiri, DPO/NCD of DHO, then presented the pilot interventions being tried out in the district under the TNNCD, which generated a long discussion with each participant bringing in unique perspectives of their positions at the state and district levels.

Analysis of the pre- and post-tests revealed a good increase in the knowledge/understanding about organised cancer screening. Feedback from the participants indicate that they found the contents relevant to their work, appreciated the KPIs for the quality assurance of a screening programme and enjoyed the interactive training style, which provided an opportunity to work with colleagues from different Directorates.

