The Abstract: Uptake of KMC in Bangladesh

The uptake of KMC in the facilities in Bangladesh is still in its early phase given that the policy was adopted in 2013 and guideline was developed in 2015. Although Bangladesh's experience in implementing KMC in private facilities dates back in late nineties, that experience did not impact much in advocating and motivating government until the comprehensive advocacy began in 2011 by the initiation of SNL Program of Save the Children in Bangladesh.

After successful and continuous advocacy for more than two years, MOHFW endorsed KMC for national scale-up in July 2013. The National Technical Working Committee on Newborn Health led the process of developing KMC guidelines and protocols in 2013. WHO provided financial support for establishing first national-level training center on KMC in Dhaka Shishu Hospital in 2013. Later, UNICEF supported BSMMU to establish a KMC center. Trainers pool was concurrently formed with the support of SNL Program of Save the Children and initiated KMC intervention in 2015 at a learning lab district to showcase the successes amid of challenges of implementation. Later SNL and MaMoni HSS program of Save the Children and UNICEF supported Government for national scale up.

Despite structural barriers as such lack of Physicians willingness to provide KMC, staff motivation, barriers in regular logistics supply, unwillingness of parents to continue hospital stay, the KMC intervention at 97 sub-districts and tertiary level hospitals (as of September,2018) in Bangladesh provided a model intervention and shows potential for national scale-up.

Primary Author: Dr Ziaul Ahsan, e-mail: ziaul.ahsan@savethechildren.org