

Internship at Ipas Development Foundation

By

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ABOUT ORGANIZATION

IPAS started work in India in 2000 in response to the significant number of unsafe abortions and the resulting deaths and injuries. With the objective of making abortions more than just a clinical procedure and to ensure that women in India would be able to access safe and legal abortion procedures, they brought the concept of comprehensive abortion care (CAC) to India. Concentrated efforts to transform abortion services to women-centred service have since gained impetus and have been successful in many parts of the country. It's good to know that CAC is now being adopted by the Government of India under the National Health Mission.

Since abortion in India is guided by law (the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act), they have been working for more than a decade within the legal purview to create a pool of qualified abortion providers who offer high quality services through the use of safe technologies. Their CAC certification training annually creates 600 legal abortion providers, effectively making services available to women who had previously no access to these services. Most of the providers trained by us go on to work in rural areas, thereby reaching vulnerable populations.

From pilot projects in three districts they now have a program that spans 12 states. In addition to training, over the last decade, our work has expanded to include post-training support to ensure services; promotion of safe technologies; communication strategies designed to reach women, including young women, with the right information; and transforming our on-ground expertise into technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Along the way, they have formed and fostered effective partnerships, most importantly with the government at state and national levels, that have also helped to expand the CAC program and bring attention to unsafe abortion as a public health concern. While their initial focus was on ensuring women's access to safe abortion, we have since started work on expanding contraceptive choices. They do this through a comprehensive contraceptive care (CCC) program that we initiated in collaboration with the Government of India and the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.

Since 2008 Ipas India has been established as a not-for-profit company registered under section 25 of The Companies Act 1956 as Ipas Development Foundation. We continue to be the local partner organization in India for Ipas.

IDF believe that:

- Every woman should be able to make safe reproductive health choices, including safe abortion care.
- No woman should have to risk her life, her health, her fertility, her well-being or the well-being of her family because she lacks reproductive health care.
- Women everywhere must have the opportunity to determine their futures, care for their families and manage their fertility.

Projects

1) Complete Abortion Care

Ipas introduced the concept of Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) in India in the year 2000. Based on successful pilot interventions in three states, concentrated efforts to transform abortion services from purely clinical procedures to a comprehensive women-centred service have gained impetus. One of the major successes of these efforts has been in moving the terminology from MTP to CAC, thus recognizing the centrality of the woman. A very important component of this approach is the development of a trained workforce - both for further training of eligible doctors and for delivering high-quality CAC services in the most rural settings.

Ipas Development Foundation's (IDF) woman-centred CAC approach takes into account the various factors that influence a woman's individual health needs - both physical and mental - as well as her personal circumstances and her ability to access services.

2) Complete Contraception Care

Ipas Development Foundation (IDF) collaborates with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to improve the availability of comprehensive contraceptive care (CCC) in Assam, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. They work through the public health system in these four states to increase the number of skilled providers trained to offer contraceptive care services (including intrauterine contraceptive devices) and improve access to high-quality, woman-centred services.

The Board

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