

Dr Angela Basnet, vice-CEO of Scheer Memorial Hospital

Ever since the establishment of Scheer Memorial Adventist Hospital, this institution has been at the forefront of addressing women's health issues and problems. Scheer Memorial Adventist Hospital (SMAH) has been serving the community for the past 64 years. The hospital has grown over the last many years with the upgrade in the number of doctors as well as services provided. Obstetrics & Gynecology (OBGYN) is one of the busiest departments in the hospital with the Safe Motherhood program of the government. Many ladies come for antenatal check-ups, deliveries, and postpartum care. The total number of patients seen in OPD in the hospital ranges from 1,500 to 2,000 while the total deliveries per month range from 180 - 200 including normal deliveries and cesarean sections. The Safe Motherhood program of the Government of Nepal (GON) does bring in more patients to the department but also with each patient, it results in a certain amount of loss for the institution since the government reimbursement pay is inadequate compared to the actual total expense and not enough for the hospitals to be able to sustain operations.

The hospital wants to continue supporting the Safe Motherhood Program as it encourages institutional deliveries directly helping in the reduction of the Maternal Mortality Rates and Neonatal Mortality rates in the country as well as providing financial assistance for the mothers.

The Comprehensive Women's Health Initiative aimed to support the Safe Motherhood program of the government, recognizing and treating Pelvic Organ Prolapse and Cervical Cancer in the community, providing technical assistance for POP surgeries at SMAH, and training and creating awareness of women's holistic health issues from March 2024 to March 2025.

Summary of the 3th year from March 2024 to March 2025

The Comprehensive Women's Health Initiative program conducted by Scheer Memorial Adventist Hospital in partnership with Women for Women Foundation supported 325 ladies with deliveries at SMAH with 250 normal deliveries and 75 cesarean sections supporting the Safe Motherhood Program to contribute to reduce the maternal and neonatal mortality rate in the country.

A workshop was done on Gender-Based Violence to bring about awareness among women as well as healthcare workers with a total of 55 participants on knowledge of Gender-Based Violence. Dr Roshani Amatya took the lead in conducting the training for the staff of SMAH on Gender-Based violence for early recognition, timely intervention, and various options available in the district to address this sensitive issue for the safety of the vulnerable population.

Health clinics on cervical cancer screening and pelvic organ prolapse were conducted in 3 different municipalities which included Golanjar, Melamchi, and Sunkoshi with screening on 1214 ladies where the ladies had various degrees of pelvic organ prolapse and 20 were referred for surgery. VIA screening for cervical cancer was done in 753 ladies where 52 were found to be VIA positive and underwent thermocoagulation.

The total number of ladies who underwent surgery for pelvic organ prolapse at SMAH was 50 during this period along with one special case of bladder stone making it a total of 51. As part of the training program, 2 gynecology doctors from Janakpur Medical College and Paroprakar Maternity Hospital, Thapathali were trained on the surgical methods of repairing pelvic organ prolapse by a team from the Netherlands.

Strengthening the community and empowering the local healthcare workers has been another key activity of this program where 48 auxiliary nurse midwives from various municipalities received theoretical classes on cervical cancer and pelvic organ prolapse as well as hands-on training in the health camps on the same topic to help them build their capacity to be able to carry out these screenings independently by themselves in their localities.