

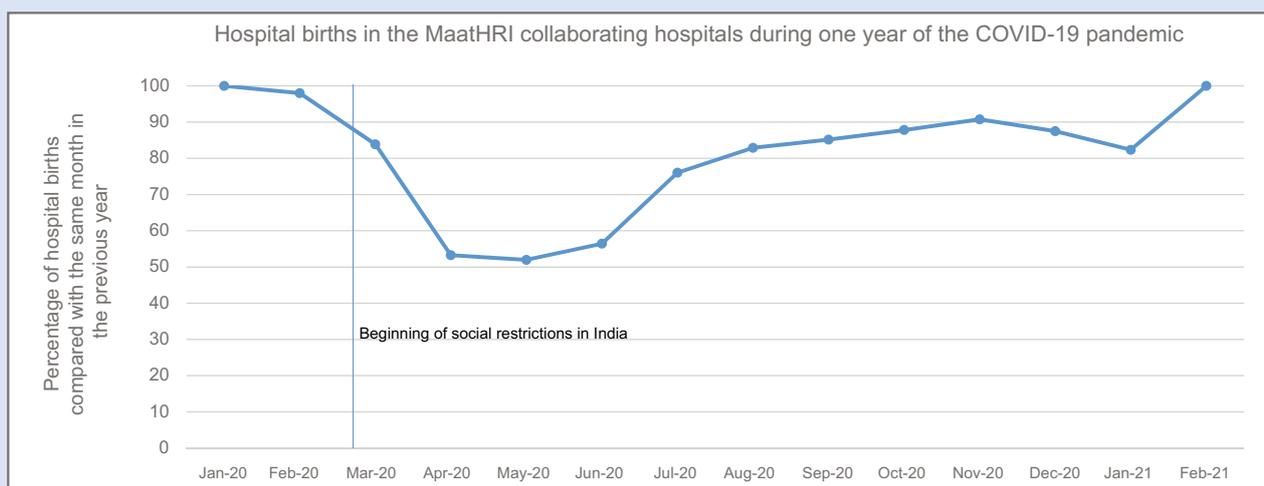


**Maternal and perinatal Health Research collaboration, India (MaatHRI)** is a UK-India collaboration for maternal and perinatal health research. It is a collaboration between the University of Oxford (National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, Nuffield Department of Population Health) and 15 government and private hospitals across five states in India.

## Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the project one year since the start of social restrictions in India (23rd March 2020 to 22nd March 2021)

- **Workstream-1 (monthly survey of severe maternal complications)** - continued in all hospitals and was least affected by the pandemic.
- **Workstream-2 (safety of induction and augmentation study)** – participant recruitment rate fell by 38%, but has recovered since December 2020 in all hospitals and is now up to the pre-pandemic level.
- **Workstream-3 (heart failure in pregnant women)** – was the most affected with a fall of 50% in participant recruitment rate across the study hospitals. The rate has increased since January 2021, but is still lower than the pre-pandemic level.

## Patient flow to the study hospitals gradually increased after the restrictions were eased in July 2020 and is now up to pre-pandemic levels.



## Training

We organised an online refresher training for the MaatHRI research staff on 12th February 2021. The staff greatly valued the opportunity to clarify doubts and meet their colleagues virtually.

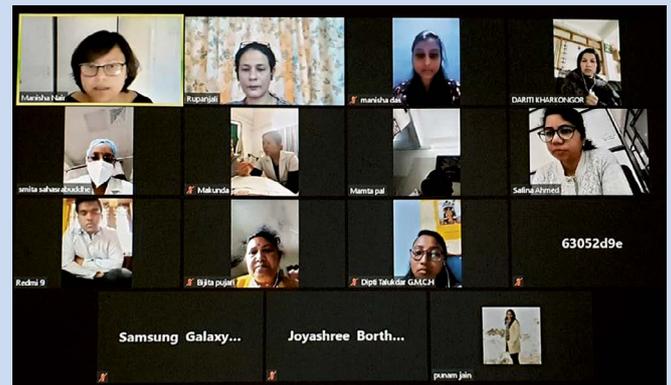
A face-to-face training session on using hand-held echocardiography was organised at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Assam on 10th and 11th March 2021.



Photographs from the training session at GMCH on 10th and 11th March 2021 (Prof Saswati Sanyal Choudhury and Dr Wahida Naznin, post-graduate trainee in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, FAAMCH, Barpeta)

**Photograph from the virtual training session for MaathRI research staff on 12th February 2021**

*Consent has been obtained from all for using the photograph*



**Reflections of the master trainer for using hand-held echocardiography and clinical co-lead for the heart failure study, Prof Saswati Sanyal Choudhury, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, GMCH, Assam**

“As an obstetrician it is very easy to acquire the skills to conduct echocardiography with a handheld machine because we are already trained in ultrasonography during post-graduate training. Only some practice is necessary – the more you use the device, the more you learn. Since the beginning of 2019, I have trained obstetricians, senior residents and post-graduate trainees in obstetrics to acquire standard images of the heart using a simple protocol. The staff I trained are proficient because of their experience of regularly doing obstetric ultrasonography and will be able to teach others. Today I trained a post-graduate trainee from FAAMCH hospital, Barpeta, and she also picked it up easily. With time and practice, she will automatically be able to change the gain and depth for better visualization of images to improve image quality. Doing the echocardiography is very easy. Any technician can do it. Recording is simple and use of colour flow is not difficult. With training, I think we can diagnose overt cardiac problems in the antenatal clinics. This will enable obstetricians to refer pregnant women promptly for specialist cardiac care. We are working towards developing a trigger protocol to enable obstetricians to identify overt cardiac pathology. We should also think about future work on using point-of-care devices like this for fetal echocardiography to diagnose congenital heart disease.”

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