

Fellowship in Social Obstetrics

NOVEMBER 2026

An opportunity for **MBBS doctors with an interest (especially those with no experience) in obstetrics** to spend time, observe, experience, learn and work in a rural women's health centre, that focuses primarily on **providing pregnancy and childbirth care.**

MINIMUM 6 MONTHS COMMITMENT

MODEST STIPEND & ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION FROM JCMB & THI

READY TO JOIN FROM JANUARY 2027 ONWARDS

What is Social Obstetrics?

HOW IS 'SOCIAL' DIFFERENT FROM USUAL TRAINING IN OBSTETRICS?

Jan Chetna Manch, Bokaro and Tribal Health Initiative are based in rural settings and though the experience of **childbirth ought to be the same globally, it is not.**

Childbirth, physiologically, may be the same, but the settings in which women give birth, are not; their health status is not; the community is not; health infrastructure is not.

There ought to be a nuanced training in obstetric care to encompass these differences – **without compromising on quality of care.** We feel that though our experience is from rural, community based settings, the main takeaways from this fellowship will be applicable in any setting.

ABOUT

JCMB

The women's health centre: Chetna Mahila Swasthya Kendra, is 25 kms from Bokaro Steel City in Jharkhand, and is facilitated by the NGO, Jan Chetna Manch Bokaro (JCMB). JCMB has been involved in providing maternal health care for over three decades. The centre helps around 70 women give birth each month and has a c-section rate of less than 10%. **Though over twenty thousand women have given birth over the years no maternal death has taken place yet.**

IT'S A PLACE WHERE...

- Childbirth and pregnancy are not considered to be illnesses to be 'treated'.
- Normal childbirth really is the norm, not the exception.
- Care providers learn to be 'patient', the woman giving birth is not a 'patient'.
- Medical interventions are based on indications – and are evidence-based.
- Robust links have been established between the centre and the community through outreach workers and women's groups.
- The doctor is a part of well functioning team, not the head of it.

What you will learn

Normal physiological childbirth: Respectful maternal care. The importance of reducing medical interventions without indications, and following evidence-based protocols. Including positive traditional practices.

Antenatal care: Importance of the role of the community and the whole family. As well as nutrition, basic examinations and investigations.

Neonatal care: Especially for preterm and small babies who need dedicated, motivated and intensive labour, more than sophisticated equipment.

Social determinants of maternal health: These often determine outcomes more than hospital facilities. You will get the opportunity to interact with families of women who visit the CMSK through our network of women's groups, health volunteers (Swasthya Sakhis) and Community Health Workers.

Quality maternal care: This is much more than a live mother and baby, but a happy, contented, non-traumatised mother and healthy baby.

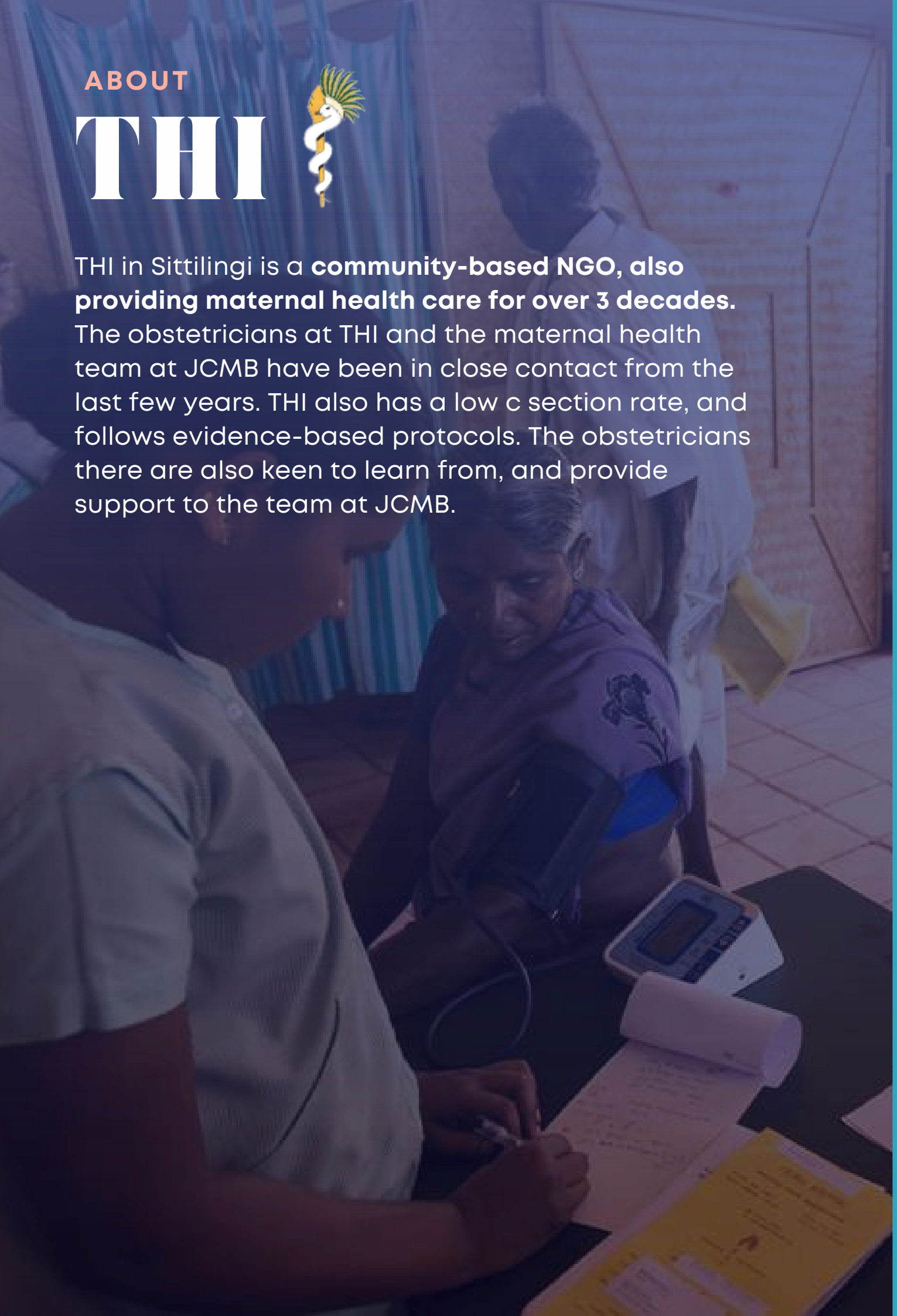
The importance of a well-trained team: Especially a team that involves community-based women as the main care providers.

Essential skills: Such as monitoring taking care of women in labour; perineal support to avoid tears (we don't give episiotomies) and suturing if needed; vacuum delivery; neonatal resuscitation; management of pre- and eclampsia; post partum haemorrhage...and much more

ABOUT

THI

THI in Sittilingi is a **community-based NGO, also providing maternal health care for over 3 decades.** The obstetricians at THI and the maternal health team at JCMB have been in close contact from the last few years. THI also has a low c section rate, and follows evidence-based protocols. The obstetricians there are also keen to learn from, and provide support to the team at JCMB.



MEET

The Mentors



Lindsay Barnes is JCMB's health director for nearly 3 decades. She was conferred an honorary fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in recognition of providing quality maternal health care to rural women in 2014. She has trained over a hundred health workers to provide quality maternal health care.



Jyothi Unni is one of JCMB's advisors for pregnancy and childbirth care. She is a senior consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology and is to be credited for ensuring JCMB follows evidence based practices and provides quality of care. She is also a long standing fellow of the RCOG.



Pravin Singarayar is an obstetrician based in THI, Sittilingi. He shuttles between JCMB, THI and a couple of other rural health care initiatives. He has been one of the main initiators of the Rural Travel Fellowship Program, a scheme to enhance young medicos' sensitisation and understanding of primary health care in India

MEET

The Mentors



Sevantee Ghosh, MBBS, MPH, has over a decade of experience in healthcare programme delivery in local and international humanitarian contexts. She brings her experience in the spheres of public health and research to the programme.



Rishabh Mitkari, an MBBS doctor with experience in clinical care and public health management. He was the first Social Obstetrics Fellow in October 2024, and has been volunteering for the programme ever since. He helps the new fellows understand the programme, set objectives, and find the right resources to achieve them.

*MENTORS FROM OTHER AREAS OF EXPERTISE WILL ALSO BE ACTIVELY GUIDING THE FELLOW THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM

Terms & Conditions

YES, THERE ARE A FEW RULES

You should understand that **you are part of a team and that you are here to learn more than to teach,** however it would be appreciated if you can **impart any training in skills and knowledge which we lack.**

You will be expected to **contribute to the fellowship programme and JCMB** in some way, apart from helping to provide clinical care. This may mean **developing protocols or training materials;** undertaking small research projects; documenting stories of your experience and what 'social' obstetrics means to you.

You should be prepared to **stay for a minimum of 6 months**. This can be extended if needed. The stipend will be Rs.50k per month. Basic accommodation on site is available, free of cost.

You should agree to support the team and the centre by allowing JCMB to include your **medical council registration number for our local administrative requirements** – a requirement for our registration under the Clinical Establishment Act.

REGISTER HERE



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