

The Health News Updates (1st January 2016)
From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory
<http://www.rhobservatory.net/>

National	International
Reproductive and Maternal & Child Health	
<p>India Inc eager to go extra mile as government readies to extend maternity benefits in private sector</p> <p>A government proposal to extend maternity benefits in the private sector from 12 weeks of paid leave to 26 weeks is sending India Inc on an overdrive, with companies keen to substantially improve such benefits in order to improve gender diversity.</p> <p>http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/india-inc-eager-to-go-extra-mile-as-government-readies-to-extend-maternity-benefits-in-private-sector/articleshow/50387124.cms</p>	<p>Will the new global goals do it for women?</p> <p>It is a truth universally acknowledged that every pregnant woman hopes to deliver a healthy baby. In the event that this is not the case – when mother, baby or both die – it is a tragedy. Between 2013 and 2014, ten stillborn and newborn deaths in a single Victorian hospital stirred an investigation into the quality and delivery of care and led to the sacking of the hospital board and head of obstetrics.</p> <p>http://www.womensagenda.com.au/talking-about/top-stories/item/6644-will-the-new-global-goals-do-it-for-women</p>
<p>Sexual health is an obsession for Chennai's netizens</p> <p>Sexual stamina, premature ejaculation, erectile dysfunction, sex during pregnancy and libido are some of the topics that Chennai's netizens are obsessed with according to a recent report. Nearly two out of five people who logged into the internet from Chennai for medical consultation on a leading online forum this year asked questions relating to sexual health.</p> <p>http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Sexual-health-is-an-obsession-for-Chennai-netizens/articleshow/50388177.cms</p>	<p>Men: Missing factor in maternal health campaigns</p> <p>Maternal health experts contend that this has hampered efforts to ensure effective delivery of tailor-made health packages to expecting mothers. They say pregnant women often fight lone battles during pregnancy and soon after giving birth.</p> <p>Women and gender rights activist, Madeleine Kaseke said pregnancy and childbirth are often regarded as foreign territory by men, contributing to their little or no participation in maternal health.</p> <p>https://www.newsday.co.zw/2015/12/18/men-missing-factor-in-maternal-health-campaigns/</p>
<p>Poverty, Mother's Health Behind Child Malnutrition In India</p> <p>Short maternal stature, extreme poverty, poor dietary diversity and mother's lack of education are among the top five risk factors for malnutrition in children in India, according to a new Harvard study. Nearly 40 per cent of all children in India are stunted - of extremely low height for their age - and nearly 30 per cent are underweight, researchers said.</p> <p>The study from Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health has now pinpointed the five top risk factors responsible for more than two-thirds of the problem.</p> <p>http://www.ndtv.com/health/poverty-mothers-health-behind-child-malnutrition-in-india-1256472</p>	<p>Gambia: On the Passage of the Bill to End Female Genital Mutilation in the Gambia</p> <p>Fellow Gambians today marks an important day for the Gambia Feminist Movement in their effort to end female genital mutilation over a period of thirty years of grassroots activism and social mobilization in various regions of the Gambia. It has been a very cumbersome and hard won effort to arrive on a day like today in the history of the Gambia Women's Rights movement.</p> <p>http://allafrica.com/stories/201512301080.html</p>

<p>Indian women more prone to miscarriages, finds study</p> <p>Indian women seem more likely than other ethnicities to miscarry their first pregnancy or suffer recurrent miscarriages, said a new study published by a city doctor.</p> <p>The five-city study, which was published in The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology of India, said 32% of the 2,400-odd participants had suffered spontaneous miscarriage. Miscarriage or spontaneous abortion without medical means to terminate a pregnancy, has so far been presumed to be 10% across the globe.</p> <p>http://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/indian-women-more-prone-to-miscarriages-finds-study/50340508</p>	<p>State of the Ghanaian child in 2015: The untold story</p> <p>All children have the right to be safe and to receive love, care and support. Children also have the right to receive the services they need to enable them succeed in life.</p> <p>Parents have the primary responsibility to raise their children, and ensure that these rights are upheld. The best way to protect children is to prevent child abuse and neglect from occurring. Although the Government of Ghana can boast of having done a lot for the Ghanaian child, there is still much more to be done to ensure that kids get the very best in the country. Here is a review of the state of the Ghanaian child in 2015.</p> <p>http://citifmonline.com/2015/12/29/state-of-the-ghanaian-child-in-2015-the-untold-story/</p>
<p>Women’s right to decent loos upheld by HC</p> <p>Women have the right to have safe and decent toilets at all convenient places, observed the Bombay high court on Wednesday, upholding the "right to pee" for women who are outdoors. "Women have the right to safe and clean toilets which in a way impacts their right to live with human dignity," said a bench of Justice Abhay Oka and Justice Revati Mohite-Dere in their judgment. "One of the paramount duties of the state and the corporation is to improve public health by providing toilets for women at all convenient places."</p> <p>http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Womens-right-to-decent-loos-upheld-by-HC/articleshow/50303558.cms</p>	<p>UN health programmes benefit pregnant, lactating mothers</p> <p>The programme, a partnership between United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Children’s Fund, United National Population Fund and World Health Organisation, is also aimed at strengthening health systems to enable better provision of services for the mothers and their babies. "Lesser women are giving birth at home and since the beginning of the year, no child born to an HIV-positive mother has been infected," Phahlela Clinic nurse-in-charge Siyananiso Shava in rural Chiredzi said.</p> <p>https://www.newsday.co.zw/2015/12/30/un-health-programmes-benefit-pregnant-lactating-mothers/</p>
<p>Family Planning International & India News</p>	
<p>FP2020 report lauds India’s effort to expand new methods of contraceptives</p> <p>More number of women around the world now have access to modern contraceptive method, however, this progress is slow on keeping pace with the projections made during the 2012 London summit on family planning. According to the ‘FP2020 Commitment to Action 2014–2015’ Progress Report, although an additional 24.4 million women and girls now have access to modern methods of contraception, this is 10 million fewer than the benchmark for 2015 projected at the time of the 2012 London Summit.</p> <p>http://www.financialexpress.com/article/healthcare/happening-now/fp2020-report-lauds-indias-effort-to-expand-new-methods-of-contraceptives/185076/</p>	

Policymakers fine-tune family planning rules

CHINA will formally abolish the decades-old one-child policy on January 1, according to the draft family planning law designed to bolster the nation's shrinking workforce.

The draft came after the Party decided in October on the universal two-child proposal, which will replace the "one couple, one child" policy. However, the Party didn't specify the timeframe of phasing out the one-child rules at the time.

<http://www.shanghaidaily.com/national/Policymakers-finetune-family-planning-rules/shdaily.shtml>

Pregnancy Prevention, Family Planning Can Help Curb Maltreatment Mortality

The correlation between larger families and child maltreatment is not surprising. Parents of larger families undergo more stress due to both the difficulty of supervising more children and the financial burden.

Financial strain can also lead to neglect in the form of lack of supervision when the parent must work, inadequate housing, etc. Moreover, both child maltreatment and larger families may be related to underlying social factors such as poverty and low education levels.

<http://www.socialjusticesolutions.org/2015/12/17/pregnancy-prevention-family-planning-can-help-curb-maltreatment-mortality/>

India records higher sterilization than US, China, reveals govt data

India has registered the highest contraceptive prevalence rate for sterilization at 36.9%, as compared to other countries with similar demographics, government data showed. The US, which followed India in the rankings, recorded 36.3% whereas China's was at 33.2% and Brazil's at 34.2%.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-records-higher-sterilization-than-US-China-reveals-govt-data/articleshow/50251765.cms>

Abortion**National****Textbook teaches students abortion is remedy for population control**

Sparking yet another controversy, class X social science text book in Chhattisgarh states abortion as a remedy for population control. The chapter on population explosion also claims that women in India have high fertility rate due to hot climate. It's the same text book of Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) that had triggered controversy in September this year for its content quoting "working women are one of the causes of unemployment in country".

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/raipur/Textbook-teaches-students-abortion-is-remedy-for-population-control/articleshow/50306323.cms>

International**U.S. Passed 47 New Anti-Abortion Laws in 2015**

In 2015, U.S. states introduced upwards of 350 anti-abortion bills and passed 47 of them, according to a report from the Center for Reproductive Rights. This is down somewhat from 2013, but an increase over the number of measures passed in 2014.

<https://reason.com/blog/2015/12/30/anti-abortion-laws-passed-in-2015>

<p>Legal Abortions Have Killed 114 Women in Just One State in India, Some Abortions are Coerced</p> <p>The number of women is dying after legal abortions in India is alarming. The Times of India reports that 114 women's deaths were reported as a result of abortions at registered health centers between 2010 and October 2015 in the Mumbai region. The highest number of women's deaths to abortion were in 2010 and 2012 with 27 and 35 women's deaths, according to the report. In 2014 and 2015, 15 deaths were reported each year.</p> <p>http://www.lifenews.com/2015/12/28/legal-abortion-have-killed-114-women-in-just-one-state-in-india-some-abortion-are-coerced/</p>	<p>Illinois Law for Parental Notification on Abortion Saves Over 500 Unborn Babies From Abortion</p> <p>Abortion advocates fought persistently against the Illinois Parental Notification Act of 1995, but after almost 20 years of legal battles, the law is finally taking effect and saving lives.</p> <p>The 1995 law requires that a parent or guardian be notified at least 48 hours before a girl under the age of 18 has an abortion. The Illinois Supreme Court ruled that the law could stand in 2013 after abortion advocates spent years challenging it in court.</p> <p>http://www.lifenews.com/2015/12/30/illinois-law-for-parental-notification-on-abortion-saves-over-500-unborn-babies-from-abortion/</p>
<p>Govt recommends traditional medicine practitioners for Medical Termination of Pregnancy</p> <p>"The Union Health Ministry has proposed an amendment to the MTP Act, 1971 to increase the availability of safe and legal abortion services wherein it is being recommended to increase the base of legal MTP providers...This is proposed to be done "by including medical practitioners with Bachelor's degree in Unani, Siddha, Ayurveda or Homeopathy and working in public health sector using medical methods of abortion," Minister of State for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik said in a written reply.</p> <p>http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-govt-recommends-traditional-medicine-practitioners-for-medical-termination-of-pregnancy-2158524</p>	<p>Survey: 82 Abortion Clinics Closed or Reduced Abortion Services in 2015</p> <p>An annual survey of abortion clinics in the United States finds a total of 82 abortion clinics either closed down or reduced abortion services during 2015.</p> <p>According to Operation Rescue — which conducted a survey of all abortion facilities in the United States from December 1-15, 2015 — specifically 43 surgical abortion clinics had stopped all abortion services and 11 medical abortion clinics had done the same during the past year.</p> <p>http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/12/29/survey-82-abortion-clinics-closed-reduced-abortion-services-2015/</p>
<p>Other Health Related News</p>	
<p>Health for All: Towards an Integrated Pro-Poor Health Policy</p> <p>Despite growth in public and private hospitals, and primary care centres, and increased sophistication in medical insurance products, the poor in India still have very little access to proper medical care as compared to those in developed countries. What is the solution? K. Srinath Reddy, President, Public Health Foundation of India, looks at the way ahead for universal health insurance in India.</p> <p>http://www.businessstoday.in/magazine/cover-story/health-for-all-towards-an-integrated-pro-</p>	<p>WHO Reports Say India Has Highest Number Of Tuberculosis Cases: Health Minister</p> <p>New Delhi: A recent WHO report has ranked India with having the highest number of tuberculosis (TB) cases in the world, Health Minister J P Nadda said today.</p> <p>"As per the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global TB Report, 2015, in the year 2014, 2.2 million cases were estimated in India which is higher than any other country," the minister said in a written reply in Lok Sabha.</p> <p>http://www.ndtv.com/health/who-reports-say-india-has-highest-number-of-tuberculosis-cases-</p>

<p>poor-health-policy/story/227506.html</p> <p>Health for All: Accelerating Universal Health Coverage in India</p> <p>A critical component of the United Nations' 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals is health for all. However, despite a decade-long work under the National Rural Health Mission, a vast majority of Indians remains out of the health care-for-all umbrella. The more recent National Urban Health Mission of 2013 and the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana have only just begun. The WHO representative to India, Dr. Henk Bekedam, suggests ways to marry national and state priorities to bring quality health care to every Indian citizen.</p> <p>http://www.businesstoday.in/magazine/cover-story/health-for-all-accelerating-universal-health-coverage-in-india/story/227503.html</p>	<p>health-minister-1256475</p> <p>Health Care, India And The World</p> <p>Medical advances have increased human longevity significantly over the past few centuries. We have been successful in finding cures for common ailments, and in preventing and even eradicating many life-threatening illnesses. These advances are due to the dedication of medical scientists who have devoted their lives to research and development, as well as clinical practice.</p> <p>http://businessworld.in/article/Health-Care-India-And-The-World/21-12-2015-89561/</p>
<p>Harvard University's Public Health School opens centre in Mumbai</p> <p>The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health recently announced the opening of a centre in Mumbai. The collaboration is aimed at helping to broaden and coordinate the institution's collaborations to improve health in India and around the world.</p> <p>http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Harvard-Universitys-Public-Health-School-opens-centre-in-Mumbai/articleshow/50317065.cms</p>	<p>Govt plans mega health insurance cover for unorganized sector</p> <p>NEW DELHI: The government plans to cast the social security net much wider and include around 30 crore workers and their families across 393 districts to avail medical benefits under the Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), a move aimed at extending health cover to those in the unorganized sector.</p> <p>http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Govt-plans-mega-health-insurance-cover-for-unorganized-sector/articleshow/50240424.cms</p>
<p>Right to health is a human right: Himachal High Court</p> <p>In order to bring down maternal mortality rate (MMR) and infant mortality rate (IMR), Community Health Centres across the State will soon have a gynaecologist, paediatrician and anaesthesiologist each, Health Minister Kamineni Srinivas has said.</p> <p>http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/himachal-high-court-to-govt-offer-central-govt-employees-full-medical-benefits-after-retirement/</p>	<p>Again, India shows the way for equitable health services</p> <p>A year after polio eradication, India has achieved another momentous public health feat – the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus. Until a few decades ago, India reported 150 000 to 200 000 neonatal tetanus cases annually. Nearly 80% of these infants would die in the absence of quality health care services. Tetanus was killing babies and even mothers, causing untold miseries to families. But not anymore. Maternal and neonatal tetanus has now ceased to be a public health problem in India.</p> <p>http://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/health-files/again-india-shows-the-way-for-equitable-health-services/1101</p>

Latest Articles on Maternal and Reproductive Health

BMC International Health and Human Rights: review of 2015

With 2015 marking the year for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, Brolan et al. analyse in their highly accessed article the reasons why the right to health is not explicit in the post-2015 negotiations. The authors carried out two rounds of in-depth interviews with key organizations responsible for health in the post-2015 development agenda. They identify several reasons for this absence, including a general marginalisation of human rights, a reticence in talking about sexual and reproductive health, and the fact that health goals are often perceived as too broad or too difficult to implement.

<http://blogs.biomedcentral.com/bmcseriesblog/2015/12/30/bmc-international-health-human-rights-review-2015/>

Maternal health care in India: some observations from RSOC, NFHS - 3 and DLHS-3

The data shows that maternal health care differs with the socio-cultural background like income, age, caste and place of residence. After having a comparison of the data provided by the three different surveys, it was observed that since the last decade the percentage of institutional deliveries has increased for both rural and urban areas. There has been an increase in the proportion of postnatal care received by women within 48 hours of discharge/ delivery. The Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) intake for 90 days or more has not improved by more than 0.5 percent. In India still about 30 percent women aged (20-24) married before the legal minimum marriage age of 18. Percentage of women receiving ANC from government health facility has decreased and for private facility it has increased when we compare the data from all the three surveys

<http://www.scopemed.org/fulltextpdf.php?mno=204846>

An overview of women with post-partum haemorrhage in a tertiary care centre at capital of Madhya Pradesh, India

Death due to pregnancy remains an important cause of premature mortality of women worldwide. Post-Partum hemorrhage (PPH) is still most common cause of maternal morbidity and mortality. Attention needs to be paid to the prevention of PPH with organization of continuous in-service training for all the health workers to emphasize early identification of the patient's at risk, anticipation and corresponding readiness to manage PPH cum active management of third stage of labour. Our institute is a tertiary care centre receiving moribund patients with late referral affecting the outcome adversely. This area needs to be explored methodically. The main objective is to study the pattern of referred & in-house PPH cases, to re-emphasize the importance of antenatal supervision & anticipating, identifying and managing the complications at the earliest as well as prophylactic management of PPH, enhancing the awareness in this regard. Also to find out if there are situations where early referral to the tertiary care centre could have changed the outcome.

<http://www.scopemed.org/fulltextpdf.php?mno=209691>

Non-barrier contraceptive use and relation to condom use behaviour by partner type among female sex workers in Andhra Pradesh, India

The study assessed non-barrier contraceptive use among female sex workers (FSW) in Andhra Pradesh, India and relation to inconsistent condom use among commercial and non-commercial male sexual partners.

Findings document potential unmet need for modern, spacing contraceptives (i.e. pill, intrauterine device), but also indicate the importance for family planning services, particularly those promoting modern contraceptive methods to be provided alongside HIV prevention among FSW in Andhra Pradesh, India.

<http://jfprhc.bmj.com/content/early/2015/12/22/jfprhc-2014-100918.full>

Socio-cultural and economic factors influencing adolescents' resilience against the threat of teenage pregnancy: a cross-sectional survey in Accra, Ghana

Adolescent pregnancy exposes female adolescents to medical, social and economic risks. In Ghana, adolescent mothers are more likely to experience complications during pregnancy and delivery as compared to older mothers. This study examined the competencies of adolescent girls to either proactively prevent teenage pregnancy or reactively cope effectively with it.

<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content/12/1/117>

