

**The Health News Updates (March 15th, 2016)**  
**From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory**  
**<http://www.rhobservatory.net/>**

National	International
<b>Maternal and Child Health</b>	
<p><b>Shunned for years, can trained midwives fix India's maternity mess?</b></p> <p>By and large, the most persuasive argument for making midwives more mainstream in India is a feminist one. It can hardly be contested that the current system in which women receive care here is heavily biased towards the convenience of doctors and hospital management, frequently overlooking scientific evidence, health of the mother and baby, and human rights. Disrespect and abuse of women in public facilities, and unnecessary interventional practices in private facilities, are not uncommon; it is women who end up suffering the most.</p> <p>In this context there is a need to get back trained midwives including traditional dais back into the system. The following article explains how trained midwives can make the birthing experience better.</p> <p>Source: Quartz India  Read more  <a href="http://qz.com/629132/shunned-for-years-can-trained-midwives-fix-indias-maternity-mess/">http://qz.com/629132/shunned-for-years-can-trained-midwives-fix-indias-maternity-mess/</a></p>	
<p><b>Over 90% expectant mothers in Jharkhand unaware of health, nutrition</b></p> <p>In Jharkhand, for every 100,000 live births 208 mothers die during delivery, compared to the national rate of 178, while the under-five mortality rate among children is at a high 51 per thousand live births, according to the state health department.</p> <p>More than 90% expectant mothers in rural areas are unaware of health and nutrition issues, the Jharkhand Economic Survey 2015-16 has shown. The state has one of the country's worst maternal mortality rates.</p> <p>Source: Hindustan Times  Read more  <a href="http://www.hindustantimes.com/ranchi/over-90-expectant-mothers-in-jharkhand-unaware-of-health-nutrition/story-rZqMuvhZFluuNqlw6ruoTK.html">http://www.hindustantimes.com/ranchi/over-90-expectant-mothers-in-jharkhand-unaware-of-health-nutrition/story-rZqMuvhZFluuNqlw6ruoTK.html</a></p>	

<p><b>Maternal health: MMR, Maternal Care, IVF and Surrogacy</b></p> <p>Dr. Pragya Mishra Choudhary, Consultant Gynaecologist &amp; IVF Specialist, MGM Hospital &amp; Research Centre, Patna shares her views on maternal health and suggests people should go for adoption over surrogacy.</p> <p>Source: Economic Times-Healthworld Read more <a href="http://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/surrogacy-is-surrounded-with-exploitation-dr-pragya-mishra-choudhary/51353386">http://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/surrogacy-is-surrounded-with-exploitation-dr-pragya-mishra-choudhary/51353386</a></p>	
<p><b>Fiscal irregularities in NRHM in Bihar, says CAG report</b></p> <p>A sad state of maternal health affairs.</p> <p>Source: TOI Patna Read more <a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/Fiscal-irregularities-in-NRHM-in-Bihar-says-CAG-report/articleshow/51463130.cms">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/Fiscal-irregularities-in-NRHM-in-Bihar-says-CAG-report/articleshow/51463130.cms</a></p>	
<b>Family Planning</b>	
<p><b>Nirodh condoms set for comeback in sensuous avatar</b></p> <p>“Considering that 45 % of country’s maternal deaths occur in the age group 15 to 25 years where 47 per cent of the total fertility is also clustered, India is moving from limiting to delaying and spacing for wider health benefits,” said Health Minister J P Nadda.</p> <p>So to get men use govt distributed condoms they are re packaging it and launching it in April with a new avatar. There could be a shift from private to the government condoms but the questions lies in how many non users will start using?</p> <p>Source: Deccan Herald Read more <a href="http://www.deccanherald.com/content/533435/nirodh-condoms-set-comeback-sensuous.html">http://www.deccanherald.com/content/533435/nirodh-condoms-set-comeback-sensuous.html</a></p>	<p><b>Rise in use of contraception offers hope for containing global population</b></p> <p>“Evidence shows that women who have access to family planning choose to use family planning, often resulting in smaller families, higher educational achievements, healthier children [and] greater economic power as well as influence in their households and communities,” said Upadhyay.</p> <p>Source: The Guardian Read more <a href="http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/mar/08/rise-use-contraception-global-population-growth-family-planning">http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/mar/08/rise-use-contraception-global-population-growth-family-planning</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/datablog/2016/mar/08/contraception-and-family-planning-around-the-world-interactive">http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/datablog/2016/mar/08/contraception-and-family-planning-around-the-world-interactive</a></p>
<p><b>Meeting of MPs to discuss Population Stabilization</b></p> <p>The meeting took place on the occasion of</p>	

<p>International Women's Day on 8th March 2016, and was co-hosted by the 'Population Foundation of India' (PFI) that also provided technical support.</p> <p>Source: North-East Members of Parliament Forum  Read more  <a href="http://e-pao.net/GP.asp?src=11..100316.mar16">http://e-pao.net/GP.asp?src=11..100316.mar16</a></p>	
<p><b>Free injectable contraceptives set for release in India</b></p> <p>Considering the current family planning programme in India, will the new injectables do justice to the choice and consent of the users?</p> <p>Source: Hindustan Times  Read more  <a href="http://www.hindustantimes.com/health-and-fitness/injectable-contraceptives-costing-1-set-for-release-in-india/story-T75U68cN22Yu8GOwBtmnwN.html">http://www.hindustantimes.com/health-and-fitness/injectable-contraceptives-costing-1-set-for-release-in-india/story-T75U68cN22Yu8GOwBtmnwN.html</a></p>	
<p><b>Family planning</b></p> <p>Amitabh Bachan is the new face of the latest family planning campaign of the ministry. Will the use of condoms go up?</p> <p>Source: The Times of India Blog  Read more  <a href="http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/read-it-and-weep/family-planning/">http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/read-it-and-weep/family-planning/</a></p>	
<b>Abortion</b>	
National	International
<p><b>No. of teen, unwed pregnancies up</b></p> <p>As per NMC health department statistics, in 2012-2013, as many as 324 unwed mothers underwent abortion. In 2013-2014, the number rose to 472. It came down considerably and was 189 in 2014-2015 and stands at 212 for the period between April 1, 2015, and January 31, 2016.</p> <p>Six unwed women, including a minor, have lost their life during abortions since 2011, the RTI reply stated. In the same period, NMC also recorded death of five infants born to unwed mothers.</p> <p>Source: TOI Nagpur  Read more</p>	<p><b>We polled 1,060 Americans about abortion. This is what they got wrong.</b></p> <p>The findings are very interesting. One of which is – ‘Americans tend to think that abortion is rare — especially well-educated, high-income Americans.’</p> <p>Source: VOX  Read more  <a href="http://www.vox.com/a/abortion-statistics-opinions-2016/poll">http://www.vox.com/a/abortion-statistics-opinions-2016/poll</a></p>
<p><b>Supreme Court hears arguments on Texas abortion-clinics case</b></p>	

<p><a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/No-of-teen-unwed-pregnancies-up/articleshow/51231611.cms">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/No-of-teen-unwed-pregnancies-up/articleshow/51231611.cms</a></p>	<p>“What it’s about is that a woman has a fundamental right to make this choice for herself,” said Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She and Justice Sonia Sotomayor questioned the lawyers for so long after Roberts had indicated time was up that the scheduled one-hour argument stretched for almost 30 more minutes.</p> <p>Source: The Washington Post        Read more  <a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/supreme-court-to-hear-arguments-on-texas-abortion-clinics-case/2016/03/01/521c828e-dffa-11e5-9c36-e1902f6b6571_story.html">https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/supreme-court-to-hear-arguments-on-texas-abortion-clinics-case/2016/03/01/521c828e-dffa-11e5-9c36-e1902f6b6571_story.html</a></p>
	<p><b>One-Third Of Women Receive Misinformation On Abortion In Informed Consent States</b></p> <p>The study, <a href="#">which appears in the Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law</a>, analyzed text from government-produced booklets from 23 states that require informed consent. The booklets are intended to provide information on embryological and fetal development. The study found 31% of the information was medically inaccurate, and the most inaccuracies were found in the first trimester of pregnancy. Among women who have abortions, 90% do so in the first trimester.</p> <p>Source: Forbes        Read more  <a href="http://www.forbes.com/sites/emilymillin/2016/02/29/one-third-of-women-receive-misinformation-on-abortion-in-informed-consent-states/#3b76065d7636">http://www.forbes.com/sites/emilymillin/2016/02/29/one-third-of-women-receive-misinformation-on-abortion-in-informed-consent-states/#3b76065d7636</a></p>
<p><b>Reproductive Health</b></p>	<p><b>National</b></p>

### No access to toilets for 63 million girls: Report

Recommendations in the report-

View girls as end users, not beneficiaries;

Target adolescent girls to boost India's sanitation and hygiene achievements;

Move beyond the 'menstruation hypothesis';

Engage boys and men in addressing girls' hygiene and sanitation needs;

Build data for the sector from the ground.

Source: DNA India

Read more

<http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-woeful-sanitation-for-adolescent-girls-in-schools-report-2186985>

### Public Health Campaigns Shouldn't Diminish the Importance of HPV Vaccines

Many networks pushing for the HPV. But does India really need it and what is the safety norms?

Source: The Wire

Read more

<http://thewire.in/2016/03/10/public-health-campaigns-shouldnt-diminish-the-importance-of-hpv-vaccines-24434/>

## Other Health News

### National

#### Life saving drugs to cost more

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of reports that the Centre has recently removed a custom duty waiver and also imposed excise duty on certain life saving drugs, making them costlier for the patients. It is not clear how it is in the public interest of the people

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://m.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/nhrc-notice-over-excise-duty-on-lifesaving-drugs/article8302210.ece>

#### Squeeze on health funds, say activists

The Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA), a consortium of doctors and health activists have critiqued the newly proposed budget for health which seems to be encouraging more private involvement rather than increasing public expenditure.

Source: The Telegraph

Read more

[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160302/jsp/nation/story\\_72356.jsp#.VtfpWpx97IU](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1160302/jsp/nation/story_72356.jsp#.VtfpWpx97IU)

#### New health scheme to reduce out of pocket expenses for BPL families

The government has launched an additional health scheme which will run parallel to the already existing RSBY. This new scheme aims at reducing the out of pocket expenditure as it is going to have a higher amount of coverage. We are yet to see the benefit for those in the BPL category.

Source: Business Standard

[Read more](#)

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/new-health-scheme-to-reduce-out-of-pocket-expenses-for-bpl-families-116030100225\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/new-health-scheme-to-reduce-out-of-pocket-expenses-for-bpl-families-116030100225_1.html)

## **Latest Articles on Maternal and Reproductive Health**

### **Rethinking maternal health**

Women's health has gone through a major epidemiological transition in the past decades. It is now time to rethink how global health defines maternal in order to encompass challenges to the health of all women, as well as their transformative potential as productive members of society.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(16\)00044-9/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(16)00044-9/abstract)

### **MAKING IT HAPPEN FOR GLOBAL WOMEN'S HEALTH**

Interview with Dr. Charles Ameh, deputy head of the Centre for Maternal and Newborn Health at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

<http://www.bmjjournals.org/lookfor/who-we-are/case-studies/case-studies-ii/the-bmj-womens-health-team-of-the-year-making-it-happen/>

### **Maternal Health- Mobile Technology**

The explosive growth of mobile technology over the past decade has generated exciting new thinking around the potential of so-called "mhealth" to improve health, with evidence beginning to emerge from high-income countries. However, the evidence base from low- and middle-income countries is weak.

<http://www.bmjjournals.org/lookfor/who-we-are/case-studies/mhealth-case-study/>