

<p style="text-align: center;">The Health News Updates (1st August, 2016) From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory http://www.rhobservatory.net/</p>	
National	International
Reproductive and Maternal & Child Health	
<p>'Why Men Should Start Talking About Menstrual Health</p> <p>Men are spared the ordeal of bleeding every month, going through menstrual cramps and having their body considered so "dirty", "impure" and "disgusting" that in some parts of India they are forbidden from entering kitchens and temples during "that time of the month." What is it about menstruation that makes it such a hush-hush, private affair when we all know that it is just a normal, bodily function that women have to undergo every month? Why are there so many taboos surrounding the menstruating woman? http://www.huffingtonpost.in/rafiul-alom-rahman/why-men-should-start-talking-about-menstrual-health/</p>	<p>UN experts urge Dominican Republic to protect women's rights to reproductive health</p> <p>Expressing serious concern over the proposed penal code amendment that would criminalize abortions, United Nations human rights experts on Wednesday urged the Dominican Republic's president and legislators to protect women's rights to sexual and reproductive health in the Caribbean country. http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/headline-UN-experts-urge-Dominican-Republic-to-protect-women's-rights-to-reproductive-health-31227.html</p>
<p>Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan: Worst States for Women, J&K Catching Up</p> <p>Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are the worst states to be a woman, reveals an <i>IndiaSpend</i> analysis of social indicators and demographic data of Indian states. Women in these states are among those who are most likely to be aborted as children, have the lowest literacy rates, marry earliest, die most frequently while pregnant, bear the most children, have the most crimes committed against them and are least likely to be employed. http://thewire.in/50299/uttar-pradesh-bihar-rajasthan-worst-states-for-women-jk-catching-up/</p>	<p>Zika Spotlights Latin America's Reproductive Rights</p> <p>The World Health Organisation advises people living in Zika-affected areas to avoid getting pregnant. But some experts say that suggestion is unrealistic in a region where women's reproductive rights are severely limited by law. https://www.newsdeeply.com/womenandgirls/zika-spotlights-latin-americas-reproductive-rights/</p>
<p>Reproductive Tourism in India: No Child's Play</p> <p>American nationals Morgan Newton and his partner were in for a rude shock when they discovered that the twins born through the in-vitro fertilisation arrangement they had opted for at a private clinic in Delhi were genetically not theirs. The gay couple had been swindled by the Surrogacy Center India and ISIS Hospital and IVF Center where they had paid US\$20,000 for their bundles of joy. http://www.asiasentinel.com/econ-business/india-reproductive-tourism/</p>	<p>Call for investment in sexual health in the Pacific</p> <p>Pacific governments are being called on to prioritise sexual and reproductive health (SRH) as they plan how they will implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The call has come from the New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development (NZPPD) today – World Population Day. http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1607/S00123/call-for-investment-in-sexual-health-in-the-pacific.htm</p>

<p>India Is Home To A Third Of World's Child Brides. Half Of India's Girls Get Married Before 18</p> <p>Adolescents (10-19 years) form 21 percent of India's population, of which adolescent girls constitute 48 percent (115 million). Despite improvements on several key development indicators, there are still issues which limit adolescents, especially girls, from achieving their full potential," said a press release issued by the UNFPA.</p> <p>http://www.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-is-home-to-a-third-of-world-s-child-brides-50-of-our-girls-get-married-before-turning-18_-258128.html</p>	<p>Abortion and Economic War: Revolution, Reproductive Rights, and Venezuela's Crisis</p> <p>In this interview, Venezuela's Network for Safe Abortion discusses the impact of the economic crisis on women's right to choose as well as the statistics behind its growing abortion helpline.</p> <p>https://venezuelanalysis.com/analysis/12093</p>
<p>India certified by WHO as maternal and neonatal tetanus free</p> <p>The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Thursday presented India the certificates declaring elimination of yaws, maternal and neonatal tetanus, an official statement said.</p> <p>http://www.thehealthsite.com/news/india-certified-by-who-as-maternal-and-neonatal-tetanus-free-ag0716/</p>	<p>WHO re-designates Center for Global Health's maternal/child health program</p> <p>The maternal and child health program within the Colorado School of Public Health's Center for Global Health announced today that it has been re-designated by the World Health Organization as a WHO Collaborating Center for Promoting Family and Child Health. The program, which is a partnership between Children's Hospital Colorado (Children's Colorado) and the Colorado School of Public Health, is the only maternal and child health collaborating center in North America.</p> <p>http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2016-07/chc-wrc071116.php</p>
<p>One basic way India can prevent mother and child deaths: Provide clean water at health centres</p> <p>When researchers with WaterAid India, an international nonprofit, presented their new evidence showing links between poor sanitation and maternal and neonatal mortality, they did not anticipate that the findings would irk other health rights activists. At the presentation at a conference in Delhi last week, activists said that focussing on evidence undermines discussion about rights of people to have water and sanitation.</p> <p>http://scroll.in/pulse/812284/mother-and-child-deaths-aside-clean-water-is-basic-right-missing-in-health-centres</p>	<p>Africa: Leveraging the Faith Community to Advance Maternal Health,</p> <p>UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, and United Religions Initiative - Africa (URI-Africa) sign a partnership agreement to work together at national, sub-regional and continental level.</p> <p>http://allafrica.com/stories/201607050768.html</p>
<p>Family Planning International & India News</p>	
<p>UP men fear the family planning knife</p> <p>Men in Uttar Pradesh have been lending a cold shoulder to the cause of population control, suggest health department data shared on World Population Awareness day here on Monday. While they do not come forward to take the responsibility, they do not let women take decisions on the issue.</p> <p>http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/UP-men-fear-the-family-planning-knife/articleshow/53161273.cms</p>	

'State poor at taking family planning measures'

World Population Day was observed with much publicity here on Monday but the state has performed poorly in terms of proper implementation of family planning methods like sterilization, usage of condoms, contraceptive pills and Intrauterine and Postpartum Intrauterine Devices (IUD/PPIUD) as per the latest National Family Health Survey 4 (NFHS 4).

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/State-poor-at-taking-family-planning-measures/articleshow/53165795.cms>

Centre mulls over plan to stop ASHAs from distributing condoms

Faced with angry Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) refusing to distribute repackaged condoms called Asha Nirodh given free under the national reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, the Union health ministry is exploring other distribution options, which may include vending machines.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/centre-mulls-over-plan-to-stop-ashas-from-distributing-condoms/story-hDgwnqY3iwFixjNFUrgmK.html>

State performs better in adopting family planning methods

Chhattisgarh on an average has been able to prevent over 5.9 lakh births every year by adopting different measures of family planning. Although educated as well as economically strong districts consist of Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur, Korba and Raigarh perform better in family planning measures as compared to tribal and less educated districts of the State but still over 65 percent of the population across State are aware of the uses of contraceptives and out of them 61 percent use at regular intervals of time.

<http://thehitavada.com/Encyc/2016/7/15/State-performs-better-in-adopting-family-planning-methods.aspx>

Family Planning: Lessons from Kenya's success story

Kenya surpassed its modern contraceptive prevalence rate target of 56% and achieved 58% according to its 2014 Demographic Health survey. Almost six out of every 10 Kenyan married women are using a modern contraceptive method from almost four (39%) in 2009.

http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1430079/family-planning-lessons-kenyas-success-story

Abortion**National****International****Illegal abortions cause of many maternal deaths**

The Supreme Court on Thursday sought the response of the Centre and Maharashtra government within 24 hours over a rape survivor's distress plea to abort her 24-week pregnancy, citing serious abnormalities in the fetus.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/health-fitness/health-news/Illegal-abortions-cause-of-many-maternal-deaths/articleshow/53331927.cms>

One In Four Pregnancies End In Abortion, Global Report Finds

Research from the World Health Organisation and Guttmacher Institute found that the annual number of abortions worldwide increased from 50 million per year between 1990-1994 to 56 million per year between 2010-2014.

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/quarter-of-all-pregnancies-end-in-abortion_uk_57343822e4b0f0f53e35bd7a

Abortion law: SC's judgment is perfect time to push for changes in pregnancy termination act

In the past several decades, the concept of abortion entailed an analysis of the legal personality of the unborn foetus vis-à-vis the mental and physical health of the pregnant mother. Often, this consists of rhetorical

Cambodia's garment workers vulnerable to unsafe abortions

Sopheak, a young woman employed at one of Cambodia's many garment factories, is sitting on her bed, crying. She has just learned she is pregnant – and her boyfriend left her the minute he heard the news.

<p>questions such as “where does life begin?” and thereafter, pitting the rights of the unborn foetus against the rights of the pregnant mother. http://www.firstpost.com/india/abortion-law-scs-judgment-is-perfect-time-to-push-for-changes-in-pregnancy-termination-act-2918330.html</p>	<p>https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/jul/13/cambodias-garment-workers-vulnerable-to-unsafe-abortions</p>
<p>20% abortions performed in city are between age group of 19 and 24: Devendra Fadnavis In a written reply to a question by Ashish Shelar (BJP-Bandra West), Atul Bhatkalkar (BJP-Kandivli) and others in the state legislative assembly on Thursday, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said that in 2015-16, a total of 34,790 abortions were conducted in Mumbai. http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-20-abortion-performed-in-city-are-between-age-group-of-19-and-24-devendra-fadnavis-2236760</p>	<p>Zika emergency pushes women to challenge Brazil's abortion law Women’s groups in Brazil are set to challenge the abortion laws this summer in the hope of making a safe and legal termination possible for women at risk of delivering a baby born with defects after exposure to the Zika virus. https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/jul/19/zika-emergency-pushes-women-to-challenge-brazil-abortion-law</p>
<p>India’s dubious distinction in female infanticide In a first ever global study on female infanticide by Asian Centre for Human Rights, a Delhi-based NGO dedicated to protection of human rights, it has been revealed that preference of son over daughter is a major reason for female infanticide in many countries around the world. Dowry system in South Asia, which makes daughters “an unaffordable economic burden”, also contributes to female infanticide. http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/News-Analysis/2016-07-11/Indias-dubious-distinction-in-female-infanticide/241209</p>	<p>Why America Is a Global Outlier on Abortion A pregnant American woman on Medicaid, the government health-insurance program for the poor, is covered if she goes into labor and has a baby. But if she opts to have an abortion, she’s on her own. A policy called the Hyde Amendment restricts government funding of abortion through Medicaid in most cases. http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/07/america-a-global-outlier-on-abortion/492551/</p>
Other Health Related News	
<p>Growing failures of public health system in world's fastest growing economy With a wound that refuses to heal on her shoulder, nine-month-old Ruksana lives with her parents - and hundreds of others patients from across India - on the footpath outside the Metro station of Delhi’s All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). After waiting six months amid the noise, dust and traffic, they finally have an appointment with an AIIMS doctor - a year from now. http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/Health/2016-07-18/Growing-failures-of-public-health-system-in-worlds-fastest-growing-economy/242973</p>	<p>The World Health Organization May Make a Major Announcement for Transgender Rights At long last, the World Health Organization may finally confirm something transgender people have known all along: Being trans is not some sort of disorder. https://psmag.com/the-world-health-organization-may-make-a-major-announcement-for-transgender-rights-dd2809b1e18d#.8oawoedg8</p>
<p>India is the worst place for retirement; worst in healthcare system too Even as the government is making all efforts to</p>	<p>Better health for poor women and children will strengthen global security The U.S. Agency for International Development</p>

<p>push growth and improve the living conditions of the people, a global survey has revealed that India is the worst place for retirement http://zeenews.india.com/business/news/economy/india-is-the-worst-place-for-retirement-worst-in-healthcare-system-too_1909556.html</p>	<p>(USAID) recently released its third annual Acting on the Call report. It details the progress that is being made to improve maternal and child health in 24 priority countries. For the first time, this year's report focuses on the poorest 40 percent of the world's population. USAID asserts that investment in better care for people with the least can save the lives of 8 million women and children by 2020. http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/289190-better-health-for-poor-women-and-children-will-strengthen</p>
<p>Health Minister Patel pitches for increase in health budget Union minister Anupriya Patel on Monday stressed on the need for an increase in health budget in order to reduce out-of-pocket spending. The Minister of State for Health said such spending currently is at 84 per cent of the total health expenditure and most of it goes for buying medicines. http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/health-minister-patel-pitches-for-increase-in-health-budget-2935305/</p>	<p>Hepatitis is on the rise as a global killer More people are dying from viral liver disease than ever before, scientists have found. While much progress has been made to curb the spread of infectious diseases like HIV, TB and malaria, hepatitis-related deaths reached an alarming 1.45 million in 2013. These new findings reveal major challenges faced by the population-health community in its campaign to halt the worldwide burden of viral hepatitis by 2030. http://www.humanosphere.org/global-health/2016/07/hepatitis-is-on-the-rise-as-a-global-killer/</p>
<p>Shortage of doctors in India takes a toll on public health India's creaking health infrastructure is facing one of its most dire challenges yet: a severe shortage of doctors and medical practitioners, which results in deficient care for hundreds of millions of people across the country. http://www.thenational.ae/world/south-asia/shortage-of-doctors-in-india-takes-a-toll-on-public-health</p>	<p>Social spending, not medical spending, is the key to good health Given the cost of health insurance, prescriptions and deductibles, few Americans would be surprised to learn that we spend a much higher proportion of our economy on health care than other major countries do. The major European countries, for instance, spend about 9 percent to 12 percent of their GDP on health services. We spend more than 17 percent. https://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/jul/27/social-spending-not-medical-spending-is-the-key-to/</p>

Latest Articles on Maternal and Reproductive Health

Participatory approaches involving community and healthcare providers in family planning/contraceptive information and service provision: a scoping review
 As efforts to address unmet need for family planning and contraception (FP/C) accelerate, voluntary use, informed choice and quality must remain at the fore. Active involvement of affected populations has been recognized as one of the key principles in ensuring human rights in the provision of FP/C and in improving quality of care. However, community participation continues to be inadequately addressed in large-scale FP/C programmes. <https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12978-016-0198-9>

The Relationship between Mode of Delivery and Sexual Function in Nulliparous Women

Sexual activity is one of the most important aspects of a marital life. Childbirth is also a major event in the life of women, and the period of postpartum is a time of emotional upheaval. Since women believe that vaginal delivery could negatively affect their sexual function after childbirth, they tend to give birth through caesarean section. Therefore, this study aimed to evaluate the relationship between mode of delivery and sexual function in nulliparous women referred to healthcare centers in Mashhad, Iran.

http://jmrh.mums.ac.ir/article_7094_f6a0008df24c776412747d1eff4b32da.pdf

Male involvement in reproductive, maternal and child health: a qualitative study of policymaker and practitioner perspectives in the Pacific

The importance of involving men in reproductive, maternal and child health programs is increasingly recognised globally. In the Pacific region, most maternal and child health services do not actively engage expectant fathers and fathers of young children and few studies have been conducted on the challenges, benefits and opportunities for involving fathers. This study explores the attitudes and beliefs of maternal and child health policymakers and practitioners regarding the benefits, challenges, risks and approaches to increasing men's involvement in maternal and child health education and clinical services in the Pacific.

<https://reproductive-health-journal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12978-016-0184-2>