

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

National	International
Reproductive and Maternal & Child Health	
<p>India Low on Gender Equality Index, Trails Pakistan, Bangladesh</p> <p>Women constitute nearly half of the country's 1.25 billion people and gender equality — whether in politics, economics, education or health — is still a distant dream for most. This fact was driven home again sharply by the recently released United National Development Programme's Human Development Report (HDR) 2015 which ranks India at a lowly 130 out of 155 countries in the Gender Inequality Index (GII).</p> <p>http://www.thecitizen.in/NewsDetail.aspx?id=6623</p>	<p>Kenya: Maternal and Child Health Key to Kenya's Economic Growth</p> <p>On Friday, 06 November 2015, we had the honor of meeting the First Lady of Kenya Ms Margaret Kenyatta, a tireless advocate for "every woman and every child", during the launch of the Beyond Zero campaign in Mandera County, North-Eastern Kenya, a place which has often been described as 'the worst place on earth to give birth'. Mandera's maternal mortality ratio stands at 3 795 deaths per 100 000 live births, almost double that of wartime Sierra Leone at 2 000 deaths per 100 000 live births.</p> <p>http://allafrica.com/stories/201601200001.html</p>
<p>Alumna, a nutrition expert in India, wins international prize</p> <p>Soumya Gupta, Ph.D '15, an expert studying the intersection of agriculture, nutrition and women's status in India, is the winner of the inaugural Paula Kantor Award for Excellence in Field Research. The award from the International Center for Research on Women honors the achievement of young female researchers of Indian origin in the fields of gender and female empowerment in India.</p> <p>http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/2016/01/alumna-nutrition-expert-india-wins-international-prize</p>	<p>Breastfeeding could prevent 800,000 child deaths, Lancet says</p> <p>If almost every mother breastfed her children it could prevent more than 800,000 child deaths a year, yet governments are failing to promote and support breastfeeding, with rates remaining far below international targets, new research has found. Poor government policies, lack of community support and an aggressive formula milk industry mean breastfeeding is not as widespread as it could be, according to a two-part Lancet breastfeeding series published on Thursday.</p> <p>http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/jan/28/breastfeeding-could-prevent-800000-child-deaths-lancet-says</p>
<p>International Conference by Harvard & Jindal University Moots Comprehensive Health Coverage in India</p> <p>The O.P. Jindal Global University in collaboration with Harvard Global Health Institute and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health hosted an international conference, that brought together leading public health practitioners, academics and government representatives from both India and abroad to debate and deliberate upon some of the most critical and fundamental issues surrounding universal health coverage and public policy.</p> <p>http://businesswireindia.com/news/news-details/international-conference-by-harvard-jindal-university-moots-comprehensive-health-</p>	<p>Stillbirths Remain a Global and Urgent Concern</p> <p>Every day, approximately 7000 women worldwide experience stillbirth. Whereas most stillbirths occur in less developed countries, they remain a major public health issue in high-income countries as well. In high-income countries, stillbirths disproportionately affect women of lower socioeconomic status, suggesting many are preventable.</p> <p>http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/857535</p>

<p>coverage-india/47049</p>	
<p>Outcry as surrogacy closed to most foreigners India's booming commercial surrogacy industry faces a bleak outlook. The government is planning legislation as soon as February that will ban most foreigners from hiring Indian surrogates. In October 2015 Indian embassies stopped issuing medical visas allowing foreigners to enter the country for the purposes of hiring a surrogate mother. The Indian Council of Medical Research has also banned clinics from offering such services to foreigners. http://asia.nikkei.com/Politics-Economy/Policy-Politics/Outcry-as-surrogacy-closed-to-most-foreigners</p>	<p>Involve fathers in childcare AROUND 80 percent of the world's men and boys will become fathers during their lifetime, and virtually all men have at least some connection to children in caregiving relationships. Despite this, the practice of engaging men in caregiving is virtually invisible in public policies and discourses. The first-ever State of the World's Fathers (SOWF) report is urging us to think and take actions about this. The report is a landmark analysis of fatherhood that draws evidence from hundreds of studies covering all countries in the world with available data. http://www.thedailystar.net/op-ed/involve-fathers-childcare-202744</p>
<p>Many Indian children, mothers healthier than ever, latest data shows The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a union territory, reported India's lowest infant-mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) and under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 children) among 13 states and two union territories for which data was released this week. Madhya Pradesh (MP) reported the highest infant-mortality rate (IMR) as well as under-five mortality rate (u5MR) with 51 and 65, respectively, according to data published by the health ministry, as per the National Family Health Survey 4 (NFHS 4), a nationwide health census, the last data for which was released in 2005-06. http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Sharp-decline-in-maternal-child-mortality-rate/articleshow/50662634.cms</p>	<p>WHO to hold emergency meeting Monday on Zika virus The World Health Organization will hold a meeting of its International Health Regulations Emergency Committee Monday to discuss the Zika virus, which WHO officials have said is "spreading explosively" throughout the Americas. The WHO could classify the Zika outbreak as a "public health emergency of international concern," which requires a coordinated global response. http://www.11alive.com/story/news/2016/01/31/who-hold-emergency-meeting-monday-zika-virus/79606432/</p>
<p>Sharp decline in maternal, child mortality rate The overall health status of Indians has improved substantially with a sharp decline in key indicators like maternal and child mortality, fertility rate and malnutrition over the past decade, according to the fourth national family health survey (NFHS-4) 2015-16, which called upon the government to focus more on equity. http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Sharp-decline-in-maternal-child-mortality-rate/articleshow/50662634.cms</p>	<p>UN calls for better reproductive health services for youth in Asia-Pacific Sex before marriage is more frequent than ever in the Asia-Pacific area, but the region's nearly one billion young people aged 15 to 24 years face a dangerous dearth of information on sexual and reproductive health and lack critical life skills needed to manage safe, consensual sexual relationships, a United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) report reveals http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/02/01/un-calls-better-reproductive-health-services-youth-asia-pacific.html</p>

**Family Planning
International & India News**

Family Planning - still a dream for India's urban poor women

Across the world, there are millions of women like Sali who still have no access to family planning facilities including contraception or the right to make a decision on whether or not to have a baby. As the Sustainable Development Goals have come into effect on January 1, 2016, there is an urgent need to reach out and help those women access those facilities and exercise their right to sexual and reproductive healthcare, said world leaders and experts at the 4th International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP2016) which began on Monday in Bali, Indonesia.

<http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/National/2016-01-26/Family-Planning---still-a-dream-for-Indias-urban-poor-women/202817>

Family planning is 'critical link' in eradicating poverty

Giving people access to family planning is crucial to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030, reproductive health experts said this week. Speaking at an International Family Planning Conference in Bali, Ellen Starbird, director of population and reproductive health at USAid, said family planning was the “critical link” to meet each of the 17 Goals that were adopted by UN member states in September.

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/jan/26/family-planning-critical-link-eradicating-poverty-modern-contraceptives-population-bulge>

Female sterilisation is the first choice for family planning in India

Despite drawing flak for slipshod surgeries leading to deaths of women in female sterilisation camps in the recent past, the government proposed the tubectomy surgery to be the first choice for family planning in India, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 revealed. Results of the NFHS-4 released by the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare conducted in 2015 also revealed that the percentage of male sterilisation surgery (vasectomy) is minuscule. Also, condoms and pills are the least chosen methods of family planning.

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/female-first-is-indias-choice-for-sterilisation/1/577671.html>

China’s Population Crisis: An Evangelical Opportunity?

State-sponsored cruelty has been a staple of the human condition for millennia. But has there ever been a more wicked policy, with more disastrous social consequences, than the “one-child policy” China began to implement in the early 1980s – a state-decreed population-control measure that resulted in, among other horrors, untold tens of millions of coerced abortions? In her new book, *One Child* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), veteran China-watcher Mei Fong describes both the impact of the policy on the destruction of China’s traditional social fabric and its draconian effects on China’s medium- and long-term future.

http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Blog/4531/chinas_population_crisis_an_evangelical_opportunity.aspx

Abortion

National	International
<p>What Abortions In India Can Teach Us About American Women’s Health</p> <p>What the state of abortion access in India makes clear is that legality doesn’t necessarily translate into availability, but lack of availability does translate into increased injury and death.</p>	<p>Brazil Petition Demands Abortion Exception for Women Infected by Zika</p> <p>Pregnant women in Brazil who are infected with Zika-a virus suspected of causing birth defects-are prohibited from having an abortion. That's prompting a group of lawyers, activists, and</p>

<p>Women’s ability to get contraception, especially the most effective long-term methods, remains low in rural and impoverished areas. There is virtually no sex education. Abortion is heavily stigmatized, which pushes women to seek the procedure in private rather than going to a local hospital where they have to fill out paperwork and may run into a friend or acquaintance. Despite the diligent work of community health workers, misconceptions about birth control remain rife.</p> <p>http://time.com/4155456/abortion-india/</p>	<p>scientists to demand that the country's supreme court make an exception.</p> <p>http://www.gizmodo.in/science/Brazil-Petition-Demands-Abortion-Exception-for-Women-Infected-by-Zika/articleshow/50778935.cms</p>
<p>Former deputy CMO faces arrest for illegal abortion</p> <p>Haryana Police are conducting raids to arrest a retired deputy chief medical officer (CMO) for conducting abortions illegally in Panipat recently. The retired deputy CMO, Dr Anita Tandon, runs a private hospital in Panipat.</p> <p>http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/Former-deputy-CMO-faces-arrest-for-illegal-abortion/articleshow/50703550.cms</p>	<p>A Global Clash on Abortion</p> <p>“On Paper, Italy Allows Abortions, but Few Doctors Will Perform Them” (news article, Jan. 17) presents the challenges women in Italy face in getting abortions because of providers claiming conscientious objection. This is a growing and widespread trend. More than 60 percent of the world’s population lives in countries where abortion is allowed either without restriction or in a wide range of circumstances. Yet women are routinely denied these services by gynecologists.</p> <p>http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/29/opinion/a-global-clash-on-abortion.html?_r=0</p>
<p>Want To Reduce Abortions? Don't Stigmatise Sex</p> <p>Here is the fact that everyone debating abortion should know. There is no association between its legality and its incidence. In other words, banning abortion does not stop the practice; it merely makes it more dangerous.]</p> <p>http://www.outlookindia.com/article/want-to-reduce-abortions-dont-stigmatise-sex/296431</p>	<p>Induced Abortion Clinical Trials 2016 Review, Analysis By Global Market Research Store</p> <p>This report on Induced Abortion also includes an review of trial numbers as well as their (Induced Abortion) average enrollment in uppermost/top countries which are conducted worldwide. Induced Abortion report also covers disease clinical trials by country (G7 & E7), sponsor type, region, trial status as well as end points status.</p> <p>http://www.medgadget.com/2016/01/induced-abortion-clinical-trials-2016-review-analysis-by-global-market-research-store.html</p>
Other Health Related News	
<p>Health for All: Towards an Integrated Pro-Poor Health Policy</p> <p>India’s health care sector is poised at a crossroads, and the direction taken now will be critical in determining its trajectory for years to come. In a recent Brookings India paper on the Indian government’s health care policy, we argue that it should prioritize expanding and effectively delivering those aspects of health that fall under the definition of “public goods” for example, vaccination, health education, sanitation, public health, primary care and screening, family</p>	<p>Richest 62 People Control Same Wealth as Poorest Half of World's Population, Report States</p> <p>The richest 62 people in the world control more than half of the world's money, according to a new report. That means that those 62 people have the same collective wealth as the world's poorest 3.6 billion people, and the gap between rich and poor is growing wider, the report released by Oxfam states. The report was released Sunday in the</p>

<p>planning through empowering women, and reproductive and child health. http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/health360/posts/2016/01/26-priorities-india-health-policy-ravi-ahluwalia</p>	<p>lead up to the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland, which is scheduled to start on Wednesday. http://abcnews.go.com/International/richest-62-people-control-amount-wealth-poorest-half/story?id=36357265</p>
<p>India prepares for Zika virus, health ministry readies testing kits</p> <p>As countries in South and Central America grapple with the Zika virus which has been linked to microcephaly— a birth defect where babies are born with smaller heads which limits brain development — India is preparing for any intrusion of the virus. http://www.hindustantimes.com/india/india-prepares-for-zika-virus-health-min-readies-testing-kits/story-3IkJewuNCi61Gqtd5GRuRK.html</p>	<p>Zika virus: WHO mulls global health emergency declaration</p> <p>The World Health Organization's emergency committee will on Monday debate whether a Zika virus outbreak suspected of causing a surge in serious birth defects in South America should be considered a global health emergency. http://www.firstpost.com/world/zika-virus-who-mulls-global-health-emergency-declaration-2605972.html</p>
<p>India needs extensive universal health coverage policy: Experts</p> <p>India's universal health coverage policy needs to be extensive, considering the role of the states and Centre and lower than expected performance of healthcare services, experts opined here on Saturday at a conference on healthcare. http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-needs-extensive-universal-health-coverage-policy-experts-116012300881_1.html</p>	<p>Investing in global health</p> <p>Congress is considering an urgently needed bill that would save millions of lives by ensuring that U.S. investments in global child and maternal health are effectively spent. http://www.toledoblade.com/Featured-Editorial-Home/2016/01/31/Investing-in-global-health.html</p>
<p>Welfare body urges Centre to make health a "fundamental right"</p> <p>Ruing the lack of adequate healthcare facilities across the country, a welfare body has asked the Centre to make health a "fundamental right" to address issues of infrastructure and access in the medical sector. http://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/welfare-body-urges-centre-to-make-health-a-fundamental-right/50767676</p>	<p>The fight against leprosy in India</p> <p>It is nearly 11 years since leprosy was officially declared eliminated as a public health concern in India. India was officially declared to have eliminated leprosy in 2005 when new cases fell to less than 1 per 10,000, yet India still accounts for the largest number of leprosy affected people in the world (58 per cent) with a registered prevalence of 86,319 and 1,25,785 new detected cases. http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/the-fight-against-leprosy-in-india/article8175600.ece</p>

Latest Articles on Maternal and Reproductive Health

How can midwives promote a normal birth and a positive birth experience? The experience of first-time Norwegian mothers

The purpose of this study is to gain a deeper understanding of the experience of first-time mothers regarding how the midwife may promote a normal birth and a positive birth experience. The findings included two main themes: “To be seen as an individual” and “Health-promoting perspective”. The experience of being cared for by a midwife who provides presence is vital for the woman to be seen as an individual. When the midwife has a health-promoting perspective, she can more easily assist the woman in developing inner strength and coping strategies.

<http://www.srhcjournal.org/article/S1877-5756%2815%2900060-9/fulltext>

A scoping review on determinants of unmet need for family planning among women of reproductive age in low and middle income countries

Poor access and low contraceptive prevalence are common to many Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). Unmet need for family planning (FP), defined as the proportion of women wishing to limit or postpone child birth, but not using contraception, has been central to reproductive health efforts for decades and still remains relevant for most policy makers and FP programs in LMICs. There is still a lag in contraceptive uptake across regions resulting in high unmet need due to various socioeconomic and cultural factors. In this mixed method scoping review we analyzed quantitative, qualitative and mixed method studies to summarize those factors influencing unmet need among women in LMICs.

<http://bmcwomenshealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12905-015-0281-3>

Factors leading to cesarean section delivery at Felegehiwot referral hospital, Northwest Ethiopia: a retrospective record review

Cesarean section is the commonest obstetric operative procedure worldwide. When used appropriately cesarean sections can improve infant and/or maternal outcomes. However, when used inappropriately the potential harm may exceed the potential benefit of cesarean section. Appreciating the limited information in this area the current study assessed the rate and factors associated with cesarean section in Felegehiwot referral hospital, Bahir Dar, northwest Ethiopia.

<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content/13/1/6>