

**The Health News Updates (1<sup>st</sup> October, 2015)**  
**From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory**  
<http://www.rhobservatory.net/>

| National  | International   |
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| <b>Reproductive and Maternal &amp; Child Health</b>   |   |
| <p><b>Why Masahun Khatun and 50,000 pregnant women die</b></p> <p>Last year, in eastern Bihar’s Phulvari Sharif, 24-year-old Masahun Khatun was five months pregnant when she fell in the front yard of her house. For the next three weeks, Masahun and her husband shuttled between government hospitals and private practitioners, spending over Rs 40,000 on healthcare, as they tried to get an abortion. Masahun did not survive and her husband, a daily-wage labourer, is struggling to raise their four kids.<br/> <a href="http://www.newslandry.com/2015/09/25/why-masahun-khatun-and-50000-pregnant-women-died/">http://www.newslandry.com/2015/09/25/why-masahun-khatun-and-50000-pregnant-women-died/</a></p>   | <p><b>South Africa: Maternal Mortality - Breaking Avoidable Barriers to Healthcare</b></p> <p>Last week, Amnesty International presented the sobering outcome of 18 months of fieldwork in the area of maternal healthcare to the Third World Social Sciences Forum in Durban. Lack of access, lack of privacy and lack of knowledge remain the great barriers to maternal and child health, and as a result, thousands of preventable deaths occur each year. But there is some light at the end of the tunnel.<br/> <a href="http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2015-09-25-maternal-mortality-breaking-avoidable-barriers-to-healthcare/#.VgYsiPQc9r8">http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2015-09-25-maternal-mortality-breaking-avoidable-barriers-to-healthcare/#.VgYsiPQc9r8</a></p> |
| <p><b>Rethinking conditional maternal entitlements</b></p> <p>On 4 September, the ministry of women and child development (MWCD) was issued a notice by the Supreme Court questioning its failure to implement the maternal cash entitlement guaranteed in the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). Section 4 of the NFSA entitles all pregnant and lactating women to Rs6,000, if they are not receiving similar entitlements under another law.<br/> <a href="http://www.hindustantimes.com/bhopal/mp-govt-to-provide-free-meal-to-pregnant-women/article1-1377253.aspx">http://www.hindustantimes.com/bhopal/mp-govt-to-provide-free-meal-to-pregnant-women/article1-1377253.aspx</a></p>  | <p><b>The Women Who Keep Nepal Healthy</b></p> <p>The female community-health-volunteer program in Nepal has been highly effective at helping those who live far from clinics and hospitals—but could use some improvements.<br/> <a href="http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2015/09/the-women-who-keep-nepal-healthy/406810/">http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2015/09/the-women-who-keep-nepal-healthy/406810/</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Small leap forward in child health</b></p> <p>The recent release of summary findings from the Rapid Survey on Children (RSOC) has generated remarkably little interest in the mainstream media. The main focus of attention so far has been the indifferent performance of Gujarat in matters of health and nutrition — nothing new there. Related to this, there has also been some speculation about the reasons for the Central government’s apparent reluctance to release the findings. The substance of the findings, however, has passed largely unnoticed.<br/> <a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/small-leap-forward-in-child-health/article7655978.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/small-leap-forward-in-child-health/article7655978.ece</a></p> | <p><b>Kenya records a decline in stunted children</b></p> <p>Recent statistics indicate that there has been a decline in stunted children. Percentage points now stand at 26 per cent from the initial 30-35 per cent. According to the 2015 Global Nutrition report released yesterday, this makes Kenya the only country in the world that is on course to meet all World Health Assembly maternal and child nutrition health targets.<br/> <a href="http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/kenya-records-decline-stunted-children">http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/kenya-records-decline-stunted-children</a></p>   |

### **No magic bullet, but no excuses: we know what works for women's and girls' health**

Ever since my days of delivering babies, I have done everything I can to advocate for the health and human rights of women and girls. While I have seen a great deal of progress, societies across the world are still failing women and girls and their health.

The poorest, most disadvantaged women and girls bear the burden of persistent inequalities, which exist between and within countries. Discrimination, unequal power relations, and structural failures mean that women and girls often miss out on life-saving health services and experience serious violations of their human rights.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/commentaries/women-girls-health/en/>

### **Integrated and indivisible: What the fight to end pediatric AIDS tells us about the future of sustainable global health**

The world has been waiting with both excitement and trepidation for the new global development agenda that lies beyond Dec. 31, referred to for so long as simply "post-2015." Finally, with the sustainable development goals set to be adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit this weekend, the landscape is clear: a new ambitious agenda around 17 goals and visible commitment by world leaders to act together to realize this shared vision.

<https://www.devex.com/news/integrated-and-indivisible-what-the-fight-to-end-pediatric-aids-tells-us-about-the-future-of-sustainable-global-health-86937>

### **Gender Equality and Women's Development in China**

China has set up a medical and health service system covering urban and rural areas, and has been working hard to enhance disease prevention and control capabilities, expand the overall coverage of medical insurance, improve laws and policies on maternal and child health as well as the service system in this regard, implement maternal and child healthcare programs, and endeavor to make maternal and child health services more equitable and accessible. As a result, women's health has significantly improved.

<http://www.globalpost.com/article/6654077/2015/09/21/full-text-gender-equality-and-womens-development-china-5>

## **Family Planning International & India News**

### **Maternal and neonatal health: The need for family planning**

KARACHI: More than 95 per cent of postpartum women do not want another child for at least two years, yet only 40 per cent are practising family planning methods, said speakers at a seminar organised by the National Committee for Maternal and Neonatal Health.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/958888/maternal-and-neonatal-health-the-need-for-family-planning/>

### Family planning needs still unmet

Research has confirmed high "unmet need" for family planning in sub-Saharan Africa in terms of the number or percentage of married women who prefer to avoid pregnancy but are not using any contraceptive method.

Although studies have shown that Family Planning (FP) reduces maternal deaths by between 20 and 30 per cent in Ghana, a multi sentinel survey conducted in 2011 revealed that the use of modern contraceptives stood at only 23 per cent. This shows that despite the almost universal knowledge about family planning (over 90 per cent), practice of contraception remains low.

UN projects world population to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, driven by growth in developing countries

<http://graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/50045-family-planning-needs-still-unmet.html>

### NGOs welcome govt's move to introduce injectable contraceptive

CHENNAI: A coalition of 32 NGOs, under the banner Advocating Reproductive Choices, has issued a statement welcoming the Union health ministry's recommendation to introduce injectable contraceptive in the government's family planning programme.

If implemented, the injectable (Depo-Provera) will be the sixth contraceptive to be given free of cost.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/NGOs-welcome-goverts-move-to-introduce-injectable-contraceptive/articleshow/49104513.cms>

### Abortion

#### National

##### Fixing the drug responsibility

Almost 70 per cent buyers of abortion drugs in India are married men and unsafe abortions contribute to eight per cent maternal deaths in the country, says data available with Population Services International (PSI), a global health organisation.

Health officials and doctors have now come together to train the "first point of contact for buyers" – the pharmacists – to avoid unsafe abortions.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/fixing-the-drug-responsibility/article7614876.ece>

#### International

##### Bust the myths: fight abortion stigma and discrimination

September 28 is Global Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion – a global mobilisation that seeks to decriminalise abortion, provide access to safe and affordable abortion services and end stigma and discrimination towards women who choose to have an abortion.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/bust-the-myths-fight-abortion-stigma-and-discrimination-1-6978421>

##### Protecting The Women's Health Movement On A Global Scale

Recently, I took part in the second annual Spotlight Health at the Aspen Ideas Festival, which gathered an amazing audience and speakers from around the world to talk about the most pressing global health challenges and to propose innovative solutions for these issues. I had the pleasure to share panels and discussions with more than 900 leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, and other stakeholders from 26 different countries.

<http://healthaffairs.org/blog/2015/09/14/protecting-the-women-s-health-movement-on-a-global-scale>

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|   | <a href="#">ting-the-womens-health-movement-on-a-global-scale/</a>  |
| <p><b>High court rejects 14-year-old rape survivor's abortion plea</b></p> <p>Punjab and Haryana high court has refused to allow termination of pregnancy of a minor rape survivor from Haryana and asked a premier medical institute from the state to provide care to her till her delivery at the state's expense.</p> <p><a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/High-court-rejects-14-year-old-rape-survivors-abortion-plea/articleshow/49130676.cms">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/High-court-rejects-14-year-old-rape-survivors-abortion-plea/articleshow/49130676.cms</a></p>  | <p><b>Call for new look at abortion issue</b></p> <p>The health sector and legislature must revisit the issue of abortion given the dangers associated with unsafe abortion practices by those who need it, says Dr Bernadette Theodore-Gandi of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO).</p> <p><a href="http://www.guardian.co.tt/news/2015-09-22/call-new-look-abortion-issue">http://www.guardian.co.tt/news/2015-09-22/call-new-look-abortion-issue</a></p>  |
| <b>Other Health Related News</b>  |   |
| <p><b>The comprehensive healthcare alternative</b></p> <p>Given the rising burden of non-communicable diseases, there is an increasing demand to build health systems that can address these concerns. However, given how large the unfinished agenda of the Millennium Development Goals is, the Indian government has chosen to stay focussed on Maternal and Child Health (MCH). But is the most effective way to deliver on the MCH goals to build an MCH-only health system, or does it need a completely different approach?</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-comprehensive-healthcare-alternative/article7652640.ece">http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-comprehensive-healthcare-alternative/article7652640.ece</a></p>   | <p><b>बाल व मातृ मृत्यु दर रोकने की नई पहल</b></p> <p>देश के सबसे बड़े सूबे उत्तर प्रदेश ने इस दिशा में सार्थक पहल की है उत्तर प्रदेश की राजधानी लखनऊ से करीब 100 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थित खैराबाद सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र की मिनीकौशल-लघु स्किल लेब- प्रयोगशाला में नीतू ( .विजयन से हाल में मुलाकात का मौका मिला</p> <p><a href="http://www.samaylive.com/editorial/327275/new-initiatives-to-prevent-child-and-maternal-mortality.html">http://www.samaylive.com/editorial/327275/new-initiatives-to-prevent-child-and-maternal-mortality.html</a></p>   |
| <p><b>When our health sector goes digital</b></p> <p>Two years ago, we started a new initiative for this region called Total Health. The intention was to provide holistic services that would take care of an individual's physical, mental and social well-being. Telemedicine services were introduced which, for the first time, connected all the villages in the district to our hospitals in Hyderabad. Today, Shanthi Devi and many others need not travel 80 km to get medical advice. They walk to their telemedicine centre, avail of a remote consult, and ensure that their disease remains in check.</p> <p><a href="http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/when-our-health-sector-goes-digital/article7655869.ece">http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/when-our-health-sector-goes-digital/article7655869.ece</a></p> | <p><b>India's Community Health Centres face 83% shortage of specialists</b></p> <p>India's public-health system needs urgent attention, investment—especially in the rural areas—and attention, reveals an <b>IndiaSpend</b> analysis.</p> <p>There is an 83% shortage of specialist medical professionals in CHCs, according to the Rural Health Statistics 2015 released by the Ministry of Health &amp; Family Welfare.</p> <p><a href="http://www.business-standard.com/article/specials/india-s-community-health-centres-face-83-shortage-of-specialists-115092100256_1.html">http://www.business-standard.com/article/specials/india-s-community-health-centres-face-83-shortage-of-specialists-115092100256_1.html</a></p> |

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| <p><b>CAG orders health audit on dengue</b></p> <p>Worried over 1,700 fresh dengue cases have been reported in the city in the last one week, taking the total number of people affected from the vector-borne disease to 5,471, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Shashi Kant Sharma has decided to scrutinise the account of health department to ascertain the expenditure incurred and steps taken on curbing the menace of Dengue.</p> <p><a href="http://www.dailypioneer.com/city/cag-orders-health-audit-on-dengue.html">http://www.dailypioneer.com/city/cag-orders-health-audit-on-dengue.html</a></p>  | <p><b>Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, 2016-2030</b></p> <p>The new Global Strategy aims to achieve the highest attainable standard of health for all women, children and adolescents, transform the future and ensure that every newborn, mother and child not only survives, but thrives. Updated through a process of collaboration with stakeholders led by WHO, the Strategy builds on the success of the 2010 Strategy and its Every Woman Every Child movement, which helped accelerate the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals and will act as a platform to put women, children and adolescents at the heart of the new UN Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p><a href="http://who.int/life-course/partners/global-strategy/global-strategy-2016-2030/en/">http://who.int/life-course/partners/global-strategy/global-strategy-2016-2030/en/</a></p> |
| <p><b>Health And The UN</b></p> <p>September 8 marked 15 years to the day since the United Nations adopted the millennium development goals (MDGs). Soon the world will adopt a new regime in global milestones, the sustainable development goals (SDGs) that extend for the next 15 years, from 2015 to 2030. Given the way the MDGs captured the imagination of the developing world, it is perhaps safe to say that the SDGs will be a similar rallying point on a series of development issues.</p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/health-and-the-un/">http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/health-and-the-un/</a></p> | <p><b>World leaders adopt UN Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate poverty by 2030</b></p> <p>With the bang of a gavel, international leaders approved an ambitious 15-year plan Friday to tackle the world's biggest problems, from eradicating poverty to preserving the planet to reducing inequality. Now comes the tough part: Drumming up support and money to achieve the goals and transform the world.</p> <p><a href="http://indianexpress.com/article/world/world-news/world-leaders-adopt-un-sustainable-development-goals/">http://indianexpress.com/article/world/world-news/world-leaders-adopt-un-sustainable-development-goals/</a></p>  |

## Latest Articles on Maternal and Reproductive Health

### **Sex differences in the awareness of emergency contraceptive pills associated with unmarried Korean university students' intention to use contraceptive methods: an online survey**

Awareness of emergency contraceptive pills (ECP) associated with an intention to use other contraceptive methods has rarely been investigated. This study compared the ECP awareness of males and females and its associations with intention to use four other contraceptive methods (condoms, oral contraceptive pills, and withdrawal and rhythm methods) in unmarried university students in Korea. This study explores the importance of ECP awareness in university students' contraceptive education.

<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content/12/1/91>

### **Maternal Knowledge on Postpartum Care in Healthcare Centers of Mashhad, Iran in 201**

In this descriptive, cross-sectional study, 500 eligible mothers were randomly selected via multistage sampling from 19 healthcare centers of Mashhad. Data collection tools included a demographic questionnaire and a researcher-made questionnaire for assessing maternal knowledge. Descriptive and analytical statistics, independent t-test, analysis of variance, Pearson's correlation coefficient and multivariable regression analysis were applied, using SPSS version 16. P-value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

[http://jmrh.mums.ac.ir/article\\_4810\\_548.html](http://jmrh.mums.ac.ir/article_4810_548.html)

### **New WHO recommendations to improve the outcomes of preterm birth**

An estimated 15 million babies are born preterm annually. Preterm birth complications account for more than 15% of deaths in children younger than 5 years and survivors often have long-term consequences with respect to their health, growth, and psychosocial functioning. The most beneficial interventions available are those that improve newborn outcomes when preterm birth is inevitable (tertiary interventions) and those that focus on special care for preterm newborns. Today WHO publishes new recommendations on interventions for pregnant women in whom preterm birth is imminent (including antenatal corticosteroids, tocolytics, magnesium sulfate, antibiotics, and mode of delivery) and for care of preterm neonates (including thermal care, continuous positive airway pressure [CPAP], surfactant administration, and oxygen therapy) to improve preterm birth outcomes

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X%2815%2900183-7/fulltext>

### **Maternal mortality at Gulbarga district hospital, at tertiary care centre**

Pregnancy, although being considered a normal physiological state, carries Serious risk of morbidity and at times maternal death. Maternal mortality Ratio (MMR) is a very sensitive index that reflects the quality of health care Provided by the country to the women population. It also reflects the educational and socioeconomic state of a country as well as public health consciousness. This study was carried out to determine the causes of maternal deaths at Gulbarga district hospital, a tertiary care hospital.

<http://www.scopemed.org/fulltextpdf.php?mno=201907>

**A Cross-Sectional Study of Contraceptive Use Among Migrant Women of Reproductive Age Group in a Rural Area of NorthIndia**

Wide geographical variations have been observed in the practice of using contraceptives, over a large period of time. There are gaps in the information on the sporadic nature of acceptance of contraceptive practices, in view of which, this study was undertaken in a migrant population in a rural area of North India.

[http://www.pharmahealthsciences.net/pdfs/volume3-issue2/13\\_Vol3\\_Issue2\\_MS\\_15165.pdf](http://www.pharmahealthsciences.net/pdfs/volume3-issue2/13_Vol3_Issue2_MS_15165.pdf)