

Annual Congress on

MIDWIFERY NURSING AND GYNAECOLOGY

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Women's health: A global challenge

Women suffer throughout their lives because of biological functions and related disorders and gender inequalities in society. In some parts of globe female gamete is eliminated preconception. Female foeticide, infanticide, neglect in childhood, (nutrition, education or social development) continue. Adolescence is challenging globally. There are many issues, Congenital defects, genetic disorders, sexuality, violence, unwanted pregnancy and so on, which affect their health and future life. A lot is not known and challenges continue. Family Life Education about growth development, prevention of pregnancy, safe motherhood, breastfeeding, HIV AIDS helps. One to 10% of births are in adolescents, affect the girls, society at large. Unwanted pregnancy in a adolescent creates many problems for her future life. Adolescents need social, financial, medical assistance for safe abortion, safe birth with system for girl's and baby's rehabilitation if the need be. Pregnancy, birth related disorders continue to kill women globally, with long term sequelae too. Major issue seems to be quality of care at all levels. Maternal mortality, severe morbidity have increased even in affluent America. Increasing c sections have their immediate, late effects, global concern. World over problem of infertility is increasing, may be due to lifestyle, environment other reasons. It is women who suffer during attempts at assisted reproduction and surrogacy in modern era of glittering technology with diagnostics and therapeutics. Underuse and overuse both continue. Many gynaecological disorders end up in hysterectomy with its sequelae. World over more than 60 lacs hysterectomies annually are avoidable as alternative modalities are available. Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome, a misnomer affects women's health in many ways. Diabetes, hypertension, ischemic heart disease, endometrial cancer, osteoporosis linkages are being researched. Gynaecological cancers are common, continue to kill women with challenges of early diagnosis, appropriate management. Cervical cancer is almost preventable but in some regions continues to be rampant, kill women. Endometrial cancer is being diagnosed in young women, seems to be increasing. Globally ovarian cancer is diagnosed late with unknown prognosis. Knowledge and awareness in women, family, society health system are must to help women have healthy, womanhood. Consequences of reproductive health dysfunctions affect women during aging. It appears its woman's destiny to suffer for being 'a woman' There are no magic bullets to remain healthy. There is limitation to prevention for many of the disorders, they suffer. But vision, concern for fellow human beings-Women, are imperative. Of 8 MDG s three are not achieved, all of maternal child health. Women, vulnerable segment of society must have quality life throughout, which needs equity. Extent of disorders with which they suffer is mammoth and so are challenges around the world.

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Biography

Shakuntala Chhabra has served as head of the Department, Obstetrics and Gynaecology at MGIMS (1984-2007), Medical Superintendent of the hospital (2005-2007) and Dean (2007-10). She is right now helping MGIMS develop a child and mother care hospital at Village Utavali in Melghat, a region with a dubious distinction of high prevalence of severe malnutrition. She has received MBBS, DGO and MD from the Government Medical College Nagpur. She has received several awards during her illustrious career. She has received fellowship of Indian Academy of Juvenile & Adolescent Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Certificate for excellent work in National Family Welfare Programme in Wardha district and also

Scroll of Honour of Breast feeding of Promotion Network of India. She also received International fellowships from the British Council; She is a prolific researcher: she has authored 405 scholarly papers and five chapters in books and some booklets and has held many editorial positions (International Journal of Gynecological Oncology, Women's reproductive health and Gynecological Oncology). She is a reviewer for several journals: British journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Studies in Family Planning, Archives of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Indian Journal of Medical Sciences, Indian Journal of Clinical Medicine, and Who's Who in Science and Engineering.

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