

Dear Members,

Greetings from the editor's desk....!!!

In 2005, the WHO report made it very loud and clear by saying "make every mother and child count". Over the years we have seen that majority of the deaths amongst women and children under five are largely preventable. It all depends on the kind of access they have to health care right from pregnancy to neonatal period and childhood. Though a lot of work has gone into preventing these deaths but it is not enough. I am very happy to say that in our region we have achieved a lot as far as maternal mortality ratio (MMR) and neonatal mortality ratio (NMR) are concerned but we are still far away from the ideal. Every woman and every child deserve the kind of care you and I deserve but unfortunately there are millions and millions of pregnant women and children who are far away from this goal. Governments, obstetricians and gynecologists are trying to do their level best to achieve universal health care but in spite of all the efforts, the outcomes are not at par. At the bottom of it somewhere we feel that a very strong intention with a dedicated broad-based, integrated, respectful care is what will bring about the desired outcomes and this needs a drastic change in the mindsets and work culture of not only the medical fraternity, but it has to be largely supported by the governments, the nursing and the midwives and the other ancillary care providers also.

Unless and until our thoughts and our actions are women-centric, not only the MMR and NMR but also the general quality of health and quality of life will not improve. When we say integrated, integration is at multiple levels, from top to the bottom. There is no doubt that there are two centers, one is the women and the children, and the other is the obstetricians and gynecologists, but none of them can function without the understanding and support of the family, society, nation and the world, backing them up in the true sense.

Today as an obstetrician and gynecologist I can only suggest that we are the privileged ones who come in contact with the female population maximum number of times and we should not lose these small opportunities to make a big impact on their health. When I say this, it is not only provision of curative, but also looking after the preventive aspects, the nutritional needs and supporting their emotional and mental wellbeing is a realistic expectation.

So today as a member of Accountability Group of PMNCH, I urge all members of the SAFOG countries to take charge of the women, children and neonatal health in this densely populated region with collaboration, commitment, dedication and devotion. There are so many opportunities for all of us to invent and innovate newer ideas to make our systems and our healthcare provision far-reaching, accessible, affordable, and cost-effective. I would encourage the GenNext to do research on all these aspects and come out with ideas and solutions to some of the problems which are unique to our region and here is your own journal to publish.



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