

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from the Editor's Desk...!!

I hope you are enjoying the content of our ever-evolving journal with so many newer aspects being brought under the umbrella of thought-provoking publications, but one area which I have always thought is not getting our due attention is our adolescent population. When I see the publications and research, not many are focussed on this population. Our region is the youngest region of the world. We have far too many adolescents and young population to whom we are failing to reach out and help them evolve physically, mentally, in health and making them empowered to face the multiple challenges which they may see in their future.

This year, on 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> October 2023, a high-profile initiative from Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH) is being organized, has called the 1.8 billion young people for change campaign. Which will lead up to the global forum for adolescents with participation of all member countries and more than 1 million adolescent participations globally.

It was understood that prior to COVID-19, adolescents and our youth faced multiple intersecting challenges to their health and well-being but during COVID, it was a different story, which was an eye-opener and shocking to see that our already struggling health system and economy was not really providing proper attention and investment that our adolescent population so deserve. This campaign is going to highlight many needs and gaps in our commitment and will engage champions from all across the countries to help build cross-sectoral partnerships and collaborative alliances to promote country level commitments and policies which are action-oriented towards building up adolescent well-being. The goal of this campaign is to engage one million young people and to look at key strategies of reaching out to this target population in order to leverage the power of influencers and build a lot of visibility around the issues which are affecting their health and well-being. This is not only a national or regional campaign but a huge global campaign also.

### **Why am I writing this here?**

We are in the region which has a sizable youth and adolescent population. Our proactive strategies would give a huge platform to address many needs of this population, such as unintended pregnancies, rights and justice for young people, their health and well-being and each of these strategies has to be individually built addressing the specific region in mind, particularly for the girls and women, who face significant challenges and also the ecosystem of stakeholders supporting them and their issues, is quite fragmented. I really hope that this campaign will catalyze action and will improve the lives of adolescent girls not only in India but also the world over. By investing in this population, we will build a stable, prosperous, and successful future. Education, safe homes, vocational training, and access to health services are very critically important areas to help this young population achieve their full potential. I feel, it is a big opportunity for all of us to join this campaign wholeheartedly, not only for providing access to good health, sex education and contraception but also empowering them in all other aspects, which have been so much invisible and ignored.

### **Tell me one good reason, why should adolescent health not be our priority?**

I will leave you with these thoughts confident and with full trust that we will extend our collaborative efforts and commitments towards promoting and providing whatever help and efforts it takes to build our future generations. Let us join hands with the world's largest gathering for adolescent well-being bringing together youth and adolescent, advocates and global decision makers by organizing national events to promote political and financial commitments towards adolescent health and well-being. This Global forum is organized with the support of the PMNCH, the largest global alliance advocating for women, children and adolescent health organized by the World Health Organization (WHO).



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