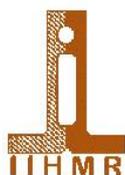


IIHMR New Delhi, works with a mission of improving standards of health through better management of healthcare and related programmes, prepare students for managerial positions with a focus on national and international healthcare management



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# SYNAPSE..... Monthly health e-newsletter

## IN THIS ISSUE:

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- ✓ Global news
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- ✓ Upcoming conferences
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- ✓ Do you know??
- ✓ Review Page - Pre Conception & Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (1994)

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- 1) National Conference on Pharmaceutical Analysis 2011  
Date: 16th - 17th September 2011  
Venue: Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India  
  
Website:  
<http://www.bamu.ac.in/workshop/acad2011/NCPA-2011-Final.pdf>
- 2) International Conference on Tissue Engineering & Regenerative Medicine  
  
Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September - 2nd October 2011  
Venue: Rourkela, Orissa, India  
Website:  
<http://www.nitrkl.ac.in/confere nce>
- 3) XVIth World Congress of Cardiology, Echocardiography & Allied Imaging Techniques  
  
Date: 30th September - 2nd October 2011  
Venue: New Delhi, Delhi, India  
Website:  
<http://www.worldcon2011.org>

## HOSPITAL AND HEALTH INSIGHT OF THE MONTH

### HEALTH SURVEY REVEALS THE BEST AND THE WORST

The first annual health survey of eight Empowered Action Group (EAG) states with Assam revealed a significant improvement in achievement of the targets set by the United Nations under the Millennium Development Goals. Among the 248 districts of EAG states, six have reduced the Infant Mortality Rate to 28 and some others are close to achieving the goals. The survey also revealed that the smaller states, carved out of the bigger ones in the recent past have performed better. Registrar General of India Dr. C. Chandramouli said that "These indicators would provide requisite inputs for better planning of health programmes and pave the way for evidence based intervention strategies at these vulnerable spots".

### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PROPOSES FREE HEALTH PACKAGE FOR ALL CITIZENS

The Central Government is planning towards a National Health Entitlement Card (NHEC) for every citizen which would let them to avail essential healthcare services fully funded by the Centre. The expert group of Planning Commission suggested that public spending on health should at least be raised to 2.5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by the end of 12th Five Year Plan and 3 percent of GDP by the year 2020 which will lead to reduce poverty. Proposal also states that all the Government funded insurance schemes should be integrated with Universal Healthcare and high quality primary care should be provided by these service providers.

### POLICY TO BAN OPEN SALE OF 90 DRUGS ON CARDS

The Union Health Ministry plans to ban 90 drugs, due to irrational use of antibiotics under the antibiotic policy. According to World Health Organization (WHO), soon the common infections will have no cure as antibiotic resistance has become a public health problem. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is therefore studying and guiding doctors as to which antibiotics regimen can be replaced by which combination. This will help to prevent drug resistance.

### INDIA HAS ONE DOCTOR FOR EVERY 1700 PEOPLE

Government of India steps forward to reduce the gap to 1 Doctor for every 1000 people by 2031. It has been found that India presently has one doctor for every 1700 people. Since doctors opting to go abroad has increased the burden on Indian Healthcare sector which represents another component of Brain Drain. According to

- 4) 1st Global Forum on Bacterial Infections: Balancing Treatment Access and Antibiotic Resistance

Date: 3rd - 5th October, 2011  
Venue: New Delhi, Delhi, India  
Website:  
<http://www.globalbacteria.org>

### EVENTS AT IIHMR

#### 1. CIPM

IIHMR, New Delhi launches Online Web based Course of Certificate in Project Management (CIPM) - specialization in Healthcare.

For details visit -  
<http://www.cepm-iihmr.org>

[MDP@IIHMR](mailto:MDP@IIHMR)

Forthcoming MDP's at IIHMR

- Database Management using Rational & Object Relational Databases  
12th - 17th September 2011
- Quantitative and Qualitative Data Management and Processing  
20th - 22nd October 2011

For MDP details contact:

Training Officer, IIHMR  
E-mail: [shikha@iihmr.org](mailto:shikha@iihmr.org)  
Mobile: 9312096282

a recent paper in Lancet, it was highlighted that India has 14.2 workers per 10,000 population which is about half of what WHO has benchmarked (25.4 workers per 10,000 population).

### RAJYA SABHA PASSES JUVENILE JUSTICE BILL

Rajya Sabha has passed Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Bill, 2010. According to it, children who are affected with diseases such as leprosy, sexually transmitted disease, Hepatitis-B, tuberculosis and unsound mind will not be separated from other children of juvenile homes. The Bill seeks to omit and amend certain sections of the original Act, which had provisions for removal of such children from juvenile homes to treatment centres. Centre provided Rs.10 lakh to each State with 15 districts and Rs.20 lakh to those with more districts, from the Integrated Child Protection Scheme.

### GLOBAL NEWS

#### LAUNCH OF GLOBAL CHILDHOOD PNEUMONIA STUDY

A groundbreaking new study called the Pneumonia Etiology Research for Child Health (PERCH) gets off the ground. This study will systematically look at current and likely future causes of childhood pneumonia in some of the world's hardest hit populations. Aiming to enroll more than 12,000 children in seven different countries, PERCH will be the largest, multi-country study of its kind in over 20 years. It is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and is expected to inform global efforts against pneumonia. The study is being conducted in Bangladesh, The Gambia, Kenya, Mali, South Africa, Thailand, and Zambia.

#### INTERNATIONAL AIDS ALLIANCE AND MARIE STOPES INTERNATIONAL JOIN HANDS TO COMBAT HIV AND MATERNAL MORTALITY

AIDS and complications related to pregnancy and childbirth are the two main causes of death in women of reproductive age globally. The International HIV/AIDS Alliance and Marie Stopes International have announced a new partnership which will combine their collective strengths within the sexual and reproductive health arena: community action on AIDS and family planning. The partnership will work to prevent HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, improve the lives of those living with HIV/AIDS, including broadening access to quality, stigma-free family planning and HIV/AIDS treatment.

#### UPDATE ON THE MDG: WHERE ARE THE HEALTH WORKERS?

The United Nation's Millennium Development Goals Report 2011 provides a fascinating snapshot of how far we've come in improving health outcomes - and how much further we need to go. Unfortunately, the report ignores the health workforce crisis in many of the countries struggling to meet their 2015 health goals. The MDGs cannot be achieved as the fundamental barrier to improve health is the health worker crisis.

## DO YOU KNOW?

1. Delhi State Government take steps for rehabilitation of sex workers
2. Cancer, diabetes & hypertension are the largest cause of death in India
3. In India, 45-year-old is the age for onset of cataract
4. 80 percent of Indians don't use essential drugs
5. State of Tamil Nadu plans to give mothers cash for vaccines
6. 'One billion people live without access to safe drinking water': United Nations
7. Limiting salt intake checks blood pressure, protects heart
8. Mutant strain of bird flu spreading in Asia, warns United Nations

## RECENT RESEARCHES

### SMOKING HARMS WOMEN MORE: STUDY

A study published in "The Lancet" says women smokers are at 25 percent higher risk than men for developing coronary heart disease. The relative risk ratio of female to male increased by 2 percent every additional year of follow up. Females extract a greater quantity of carcinogens and other toxic agents from same number of cigarettes than men, which doubles the risk of lung cancer. Fourteen percent of the total deaths every year are caused by Coronary Heart Disease and by 2030 this would be the main cause of death globally.

### SCIENTISTS MOVE CLOSER TO HIV VACCINE, ISOLATE ANTIBODIES

In a recent research scientists have isolated most powerful broadly neutralizing antibodies against HIV. So far it is a major step towards finding an effective vaccine against the deadly virus. This will help in turn to design immunogens, which will further help to find the elusive HIV vaccine. Necessity of having HIV vaccine is increasing as 7000 new HIV infections occur daily and 9 million HIV infected individuals are unable to access life saving anti-retroviral medication.

### NEWBORN DEATHS ACCOUNT FOR 41 PER CENT OF CHILD

#### MORTALITY: SURVEY

Increased focus on maternal and child health often overlooks newborn deaths, which account for 41 percent of the total child deaths according to a new study published in the medical journal 'PLOS Medicine'. India has the greatest number of newborn deaths — more than 9 lakh a year. The three leading causes of newborn deaths are preterm delivery, asphyxia and severe infections which are highly preventable with proper care. The share of child deaths that occur in the newborn period (the first four weeks of life) has rose from an already high 37 per cent to 41 per cent. Training more midwives and community health workers will allow many more lives to be saved.

## REVIEW PAGE

### CURRENT TOPIC

Pre Conception & Pre Natal  
Diagnostic Techniques Act (1994)

### TOPIC IN NEXT ISSUE

Medical Termination of Pregnancy  
Act 1971/ 2002

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### PRE CONCEPTION & PRE NATAL DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES ACT (1994)

#### **Introduction**

The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 was enacted and brought into operation from January 1, 1996. Primarily, the Act prohibits determination and disclosure of the sex of foetus. It was amended in 2003 to empower the act in the light of new fertility technologies, which facilitate the selection of the sex of the foetus before conception.

**Key Highlights:** The law chiefly provides for the following:

- Prohibition of sex selection, before and after conception
- Regulation of prenatal diagnostic techniques (e.g. amniocentesis and ultra sonography) for detection of genetic abnormalities, by restricting their use to registered institutions. The Act allows the use of these techniques only at a registered place for a specified purpose and by a qualified person, registered for this purpose.
- Prevention of misuse of such techniques for sex selection before conception.
- Prohibition of advertisement of any technique for sex selection as well as sex determination.
- Prohibition on sale of ultrasound machines to persons not registered under this Act.
- Punishment for violations of the Act: Violations carry a three-year jail term and a fine of about Rs 20000.

#### **Recent Happenings:**

The Indian Union Government on 9 April 2011 reconstituted the Central Supervisory Board set up under the Pre-conception & Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 (PC & PNDT Act). According to the 2011 census data, in the last decade alone, the child sex ratio has dipped from 927 to 914 per 1000, the lowest since independence. The Board will advise the Centre on policy matters related to use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques, sex-selection techniques and against their misuse; review and monitor implementation of the Act and rules made under it. It will recommend to the Union government changes in PC & PNDT Act and rules.

The board has the responsibility to help create public awareness against the practice of pre-conception sex selection and pre-natal determination of sex of foetus. The board will also lay down code of conduct to be observed by persons working at genetic counseling centres, laboratories and clinics. Also it will oversee the performance of various bodies constituted under the Act and take appropriate steps to ensure its proper and effective implementation. We hope in next census the figures of sex ratio will improve by all these measures

#### **References:**

<http://pndt.gov.in/writereaddata/mainlinkfile/File22.pdf>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/Civic-body-toughens-stand-on-PCPNDT-Act/articleshow/9328719.cms>

**NOTE:** The newsletter is open for inclusion of any information or advertisement; however selection of information will be governed by the SYNAPSE Team, IIHMR, New Delhi

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE FURTHER ISSUES, KINDLY MAIL US.