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EDITORIAL

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ARE VITAL FOR ACHIEVING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH GOALS

Reproductive Health (RH) is a major and crucial component of general health, and it provides a sound base for human development. As per definition of WHO and endorsed by the Programme of Action of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD Cairo, 1994), RH is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity in all matters relating to the reproductive system and its functions and processes. It is implied that people are able to have safe and satisfying sex life and be capable of fertility regulation according to their choice. They have the right of access to information and health care services that will help them to perform the above functions, and will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and child birth and to have a healthy infant. At ICPD, it was also emphasized that men should take greater responsibilities in family planning and in overall family life. The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 held under the auspices of United Nations also endorsed the above view and stressed on women's empowerment.

RH concerns both women and men. But since the women bear the brunt of pregnancy, child birth, child rearing, children's and adolescents' education, food and nutrition, women's RH is of greater concern. Major areas of concern for women in RH care are encompassed in the following:

1. Women's health, safe motherhood (including safe and humane management of unwanted pregnancy and abortion), and women's development.
2. Child survival, and integrated care and development of children.
3. Integrated development of adolescents and youths.
4. Prevention and management of reproductive tract infections (RTIs), and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS.
5. Effective family planning, ensuring free reproductive choice and greater male participation.
6. Promotion of sexual health.

Several conferences on ICPD+5 and ICPD+10 have noted varied developments made so far, and in most developing countries the progress has been very slow. They have also suggested measures for overcoming the obstacles for accelerating progress.

W.H.O's First Global Strategy for RH (2004)

Being concerned about the slow progress made in improving Reproductive and Sexual Health over the past decade, the WHO has developed a strategy for accelerating progress towards targets. This strategy is intended for the audience of policy-makers within governments, international agencies, professional associations, NGOs and other institutions. In this strategy the following five priority areas are targeted:

- Improving antenatal, delivery, post-partum and newborn care;

- Providing high quality services for family planning and infertility services;
- Eliminating unsafe abortion;
- Combating sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV, reproductive tract infections (RTIs), cervical cancer and other gynaecological morbidities; and
- Promoting sexual health.

Barriers to Progress

- A. Perception of Gender Role Among Adolescents - (a) Both females and males perceive male dominance in domestic and public life. (b) Women are conditioned to suffer low self-esteem, inferior status and see the birth of a daughter as a reason for apology and distress.

Gender perceptions are a societal construct, and are dependent upon socio-cultural practices in which the children, adolescents and youths grow up.

- B. Gender Inequity and Discriminations - (a) In case of females, the families may invest less in nutrition, education, medicare and developmental opportunities such as vocational training. (b) Selective abortion of female fetus and female foeticide/infanticide direct or indirect, are prevalent in certain sections of population.

- C. Gender Violence - It is observed in the following forms: (a) Rape, sexual assault and female genital mutilation; (b) Trafficking of women and children; and (c) Forced prostitution.

These have extensive consequences on reproductive and sexual health, such as unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS, gynaecological disorders and chronic pain syndrome.

- D. Status of Women in India: a Great Paradox - It is evident from the foregoing discussions that females are being subjected to various discriminatory practices. This is a very unfortunate and paradoxical situation. According to the Indian culture, the 'females' had been held in high esteem throughout the ages. One ancient Smriti Shloka states, Yatra narayastu pujiyante, ramante tatra devata, which means wherever women are worshiped there is the abode of God. Even in the present day, we show reverence to female gender by uttering Durga mata, Kali mata, Laxmi mata, Bharat mata, etc. Obviously, there is an urgent need for stopping such discriminatory practices. Women's health and maternal health cannot be improved, and maternal morbidity and mortality cannot be significantly reduced without empowerment and overall development of women.

- E. Adolescents' Exposure to Risk - In most countries, taboos and norms about sexuality, including practices of child marriage and early sexual initiation pose strong barriers to providing the information, reproductive health services and other forms of support that the young people need to be healthy. It needs to be emphasized that reproductive and sexual behaviours during adolescence (age between 10 and 19 years) have immediate and long-term consequences. Sexual activity beginning during adolescence is often risky, whether

within or outside marriage. Adolescents rarely have the ability or support to resist pressure to have sexual relations, negotiate safer sex, or protect themselves against unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Pregnancy occurring in very young girls carries a high risk of maternal mortality and morbidity.

Unprotected sexual practice has greatly increased among unmarried (and also married) adolescents and youths in India. They are also the victims of drug abuse. All these need appropriate corrective measures.

- F. Incidence of Sexually Transmitted Diseases - It has greatly increased and HIV infection has assumed epidemic proportions. HIV has increased mainly through heterosexual contacts. The majority of afflicted persons are young. Mother to child transmission has greatly increased, the mother being innocently infected by the male partner, who had acquired this infection through extra-marital relations.

Steps Towards Women's Empowerment and Development

Alter Gender Perceptions - Gender perceptions are built during childhood and adolescence, depending mainly on prevailing socio-cultural practices, which leads to lower self-esteem among girls and they become used to the neglect and tolerate discrimination and injustice. These types of customs and discriminatory social practices need to be changed urgently with active cooperation of all concerned stake-holders - the family, the community, social activists and others. This will help to build self-confidence and courage to resist pressure, discrimination and abuse.

Adolescence and Youth Education - There should be systematic efforts to build rational and healthy sexual attitude and behaviour among boys and girls. They should be taught gender equality and mutual respect. In fact, many emphasize that the boys should learn to respect all females as their sisters, mothers or aunts or neighbours.

Ending Discrimination and Injustice - In December 1999, Dr. Nafis Sadik, the then Executive Director, UNFPA & Under-Secretary General, United Nations, delivered the 5th JRD Tata Memorial Oration in New Delhi. The title of her oration was, "A New Woman for India - A new India for Women". It may be recalled that ICPD, Cairo (1994) was organized under her dynamic Chairpersonship. In her oration she stated, "women work all day, every day, inside and outside the home. They are responsible for upkeep of the home; for food, fuel and water; for children's health care and education and often for the income to pay for these things. They very substantially contribute to labour force in agriculture. Yet they gain status and respect for only one among many activities - the bearing and raising male children.

Even in child-bearing women can expect scant support. Maternal mortality rate (MMR) in India is 570 per 1,00,000 live births, well above the average of developing countries. About 2/3rds of these deaths are easily preventable. In Kerala, where female literacy is about 86%, MMR is below 200 and infant mortality rate (IMR) is 16 per 1000 live births, compared to national average of 73.

In addition to neglect, women in India are subjected to actual violence and harassment in the home, on the street and in workplace. UNICEF reports that every 28 minutes a woman is

molested; a rape occurs every 34 minutes. Violence is very widespread, and is widely tolerated. What is happening in India in the name of 'Eve-teasing', is in fact dehumanizing. Although in India women have constitutional rights to protection, they have no such protection. It is time that good and responsible men at different levels stand-up against dehumanization of almost half of the population. If this evil is neglected, eventually it would dehumanize all of us."

In a number of meetings and conferences in India, Dr. Sadik very emphatically stated, "without women's empowerment and development, their reproductive health cannot be improved."

Educating Girls Leads to Empowerment and Development - Around the world, a quality education is the key to a brighter future. Education helps individuals to achieve greater self-fulfilment. In most societies, formal schooling improves employment prospects and earning.

Education has special benefits for young girls as well as adult women; it influences their patterns of child bearing. In most countries, educated girls, particularly those who go to secondary schools are more likely to delay marriage and child bearing; the girls with less education are more likely to become mothers as adolescents. Early child-bearing often limits educational and employment opportunities for women; young mothers and their children are more likely to live in poverty.

Educating Girls Promotes Sustainable Development. Expanding schooling for girls increases labour force participation, productivity and economic growth. More educated women want small families and are more likely to use contraception. This also slows the momentum of population growth. In societies where the status of women is low, girls need at least six to seven years schooling to reap the full benefits of education in all spheres of life.

Barriers to Girls' Education - Around the world, girls face multiple social and economic barriers to both enrolling and staying at school. It seems that the girls face greater-problems in getting enrolled than continuing in school once entered.

Girls traditionally marry early and leave their families; boys are more likely to provide financial and other support to the parents, particularly in their old age. Further, the girls attending school are less available to help household chores and child care of younger siblings. Poverty is an important reason for girls not going to school. When school places or family resources are limited, parents often give higher priority to sons' education. Decisions about schooling for girls are often influenced by social norms relating to marriage and sexuality. In traditional societies where chastity is highly valued and early marriage is customary, parents may be reluctant to allow girls to travel long distances, be taught by male teachers and have close contact with boys.

A more progressive political leadership and strong political will only can help in addressing social and cultural barriers to educating girls.

Other Required Measures - There is an urgent need for increasing the awareness, knowledge and perception of the people, and the women in particular, about the important role women can play in family life, performing domestic responsibilities, making economic contributions and as effective change agents for various social developments. For progress, women's development is of utmost importance and for all-round development, women's participation is vital. Women should

be motivated and helped to organize themselves as demand groups. There is an urgent need for arousing societal concern and for total social mobilization and action.

In the light of the above, it would be important to ensure the following:

- To promote appropriate education, health, nutrition, economic and social development programmes and practices that would improve the quality of women's life;
- To increase women's knowledge about the opportunities available to them through various programmes and to make these accessible to them;
- To make women aware about their potentialities, to empower them and give them opportunities and some degree of independence for self-improvement, and thus helping them to become self-confident and self-reliant;
- To make them aware about their legal and constitutional rights;
- To increase the role of women in decision-making processes in family life, domestic matters and in community activities; and
- To change the attitudes of the society, particularly of men, towards women in regard to discriminatory socio-cultural practices, and to accord the women their rightful status and dignity.

Conclusions

Reproductive Health (RH), which is a major and crucial component of general health, provides a sound base for human development. RH concerns both women and men, but because of various important factors women's RH is of greater concern. Since ICPD, Cairo (1994), efforts are being made to achieve the goals of Reproductive Health for All (RHFA) by 2015. But the developments have been very varied, and in most of the developing countries progress has been very slow.

Several barriers and obstacles to progress including discrimination, injustice and violence against women have been identified. Several important steps towards women's empowerment and development have been discussed.

References

1. Roy Somnath (1994-95). Dimensions of Reproductive Health: Opportunities and Challenges. Keynote Address, International Symposium on Perspectives in Reproductive Health, Nov. 21-23, 1994, New Delhi. In J. Sengupta & D Ghosh (Eds), Perspectives in Reproductive Health. New Age International (P) Ltd., Publishers, New Delhi, 1995, p.1-45.
2. Roy Somnath (1995-96). Dimensions of Reproductive Health in Men. In M. Rajalakshmi & PD Griffins (Eds), Male Contraception: Present and Future. New Age International (P) Ltd., Publishers, New Delhi 1996, p.339-68.
3. WHO (2004). Research on Reproductive Health at WHO - Pushing the Frontiers of Knowledge. Biennial Report 2002-2003, WHO, Geneva.
4. WHO (2004) Reproductive Health Strategy: To Accelerate Progress Towards Attainment of International Development Goals and Targets. WHO, Geneva.

- Roy Somnath (2005). Achieving Reproductive Health For All by 2015: Scope and Challenges. Presented at 15th Annual Conference of ISSRF, Kolkata, Feb.4-5, 2005 (In Press).

(The Editor-in-Chief acknowledges Prof. Somnath Roy, former-Director, NIHFW, for his guest editorial contribution to this issue).

EVENTS

Annual Day

Annual Day of the Institute was celebrated on 9 March 2005. Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, was the Chief Guest and Shri Prasanna Hota, Union Secretary, (Health and Family Welfare), presided over the function. 'National Rural Health Mission' is the theme of the Institute for the year 2005.

Shri B.K. Chaturvedi while talking about the importance of health in general, appreciated the role of the Institute, particularly in the area of education and training and research and evaluation in public health.

He released the following four publications on the occasion of the Annual Day of the Institute as part of the revision of health programme series undertaken by the Institute during 2004-2005:

- Control and Treatment of Occupational Diseases,
- Drug De-addiction Programme,
- National Population Education Project, and
- Prevention of Food Adulteration Programme.

Also, he gave away the best student award to Dr. (Mrs.) Meeta Mahar, for MD in Community Health Administration and Dr. (Ms.) Kavita Venkataraman for Diploma in Health Administration. Dr. Sawlani Kamal Kumar and Dr. (Ms.) Dharan Leisha were also awarded for their outstanding performance in the PG Certificate Courses through Distance Learning in Hospital Management and Health and Family Welfare Management respectively. The Best Worker Award for the year was given to Mr. J.C. Sharma, Data Entry Operator; Mrs. Pushpa Devi, Mali, and Mr. Ran Singh, Daftry.

In his speech, Shri Hota stated that the Rural Health Mission is a gigantic task and asked the Institute to undertake challenges to make the National Rural Health Mission 2005 a reality.

Lectures

Prof. S. Dandapani, Former United Nations' Advisor, delivered a lecture in the Institute on Rural Health, on 13 January 2005.

NIHFW and Indo-French Technical Association, Delhi Chapter, jointly organized a lecture on Osteoporosis- A Rising Public Health Problem in India on 15 March 2005. Prof. Rajesh Malhotra,

Department of Orthopaedics, AIIMS, New Delhi, delivered the lecture. Prof. N.K. Sethi, Director, NIHF, presided over the function.

VISITORS TO THE INSTITUTE

The Institute had the privilege of receiving the following visitors during the quarter:

- Dr. Jagannath Patnaik, Chairman, Institution of Action Learning and Industrial Research, New Delhi;
- Ms. Gunilla Essner, Senior Programme Officer (Health Division), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Stockholm, Sweden;
- Ms. Yasmin Zaveri Roy, Programme Manager (Health), Development Cooperation, India;
- Dr. Steinmann, GTZ India, New Delhi;
- Ms. K. Sujatha Rao, Secretary, NCHM, New Delhi.

In addition, students from the following colleges/institutes visited the Institute during the period under report:

- Indian Statistical Services, New Delhi;
- Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, Shahdara, Delhi;
- St. John's College of Nursing, Bangalore, Karnataka;
- Family Welfare Training and Research Centre, Mumbai;
- KVS College of Nursing, Bangalore, Karnataka;
- Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health and Family Welfare Trust, Tamil Nadu;
- Florence College of Nursing, Bangalore, Karnataka;
- International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai;
- St. Philomena's Hospital, Bangalore, Karnataka;
- ALVA's College of Nursing, Karnataka; and
- Berhampur University (Law Faculty), Orissa.

TRAINING COURSES

(*Courses under WHO Fellowship Programme)

Professional Training on Capacity Building for IEC Officers in Communication Skills for RCH Programme

Coordinator: Dr. T. Mathiyazhagan
Co-coordinator: Dr. (Mrs.) Gita Bamezai
Associates: Mr. M.P. Meshram , Mr. Roshan Lal, Mr. Lakhan Lal Meena and Mr. Ramesh Chand
Dates: 10-15 January 2005

Training Course on Immunisation Strengthening for Project Officers of UNICEF and WHO

Coordinator: Prof. (Ms.) K. Kalaivani

Co-coordinators: Dr. (Mrs.) Renu Paruthi and Dr. S. Chowdhary
Associate: Dr. (Mrs.) Vandana Bhatnagar
Dates: 31 January-5 February 2005

*Training-cum-Workshop on Counselling Skills for Health Professionals

Coordinator: Dr. (Mrs.) Rajni Bagga
Associates: Ms. Rita Rani and Mr. Ghanshyam Karol
Dates: 7-11 February 2005

Master Trainers' Training Course for Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Health and Family Welfare Training

Coordinator: Dr. (Mrs.) S. Menon
Co-coordinator: Dr. (Ms.) Bindoo Sharma
Associate: Mrs. Renuka Patnaik
Dates: 8-11 February 2005

National Planning Workshop on IMNCI

Coordinators: Dr. S.V. Adhish and Dr. Sanjay Gupta
Associates: Mr. J.P. Shivdasani and Mr. Ramesh Gandotra
Dates: 10-11 February 2005

Training Course on Development of Training Materials/Aids for Faculty of Medical and Training Institutes

Coordinator: Dr. (Mrs.) Neera Dhar
Co-coordinators: Dr. (Mrs.) Uma Vasudeva and Mrs. Arti Mamtani
Associates: Mr. A.K. Verma and Mr. S.P. Singh
Dates: 21-25 February 2005

Training Course in Management for Senior Nursing Administrators

Coordinator: Dr. S.V. Adhish
Co-coordinator: Dr. Sanjay Gupta
Associates: Mrs. Vinod Zoon and Mrs. Manisha
Dates: 28 February-11 March 2005

Professional Development Course in Management, Public Health and Health Sector Reforms for District Medical Officers

Coordinator: Prof. (Mrs.) M. Bhattacharya
Co-coordinators: Dr. Sanjay Gupta and Dr. S.V. Adhish
Associates: Mr. R.S. Gupta, Dr. S.K. Yadav, Mr. Rajesh Sharma and Mr. Subhash Chand

Dates: 14 March-21 May 2005

National Consultative Meeting-cum-Workshop on Empowerment of the Elderly

Coordinator: Dr. A.M. Khan
Associate: Mrs. Vandana Bhattacharya
Dates: 28-30 March 2005

*Training Course on Community Care of the New-born

Coordinator: Dr. S.V. Adhish
Co-coordinator: Dr. (Mrs.) S. Menon
Associate: Mr. J.P. Shivdasani
Dates: 28 March-1 April 2005

FORTHCOMING TRAINING COURSES/WORKSHOPS

(Dates are tentative)

- Training Course on Programme Management in RCH II (25-29 April 2005)
- Training Course on Community Care of the New-born (2-6 May 2005 and 6-10 June 2005)
- Orientation Training Course on Health Statistics for Medical Officers (funded by CBHI) (9-13 May 2005)
- Training in Quality of Care for the Provision of RCH Services for State and District Health care Managers/Providers (6-10 June 2005)
- Workshop on Medical Ethics, Medical Negligence and Consumer Protection Act (June 27-29 2005)

NUGGETS

Director's Activities

Prof. N.K. Sethi, in addition to his regular activities in the Institute, participated as an expert in several scientific meetings, seminars, workshops, symposia, etc. organised by various national and international organizations during January-March 2005. Some of his significant activities include:

- 36th General Council Meeting of IIPS, Mumbai, on 9 January 2005;
- Meeting on "National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)", held at MOHFW, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi, on 13 January 2005;
- Meeting to discuss about the project on "Spread of HIV/AIDS" held at New Delhi, on 17 January 2005;
- State level conference on "Population Stabilisation, Health and Social Developmental Issues in Orissa", organized by the Population Foundation of India (PFI) at Bhubaneswar, during 21- 22 January 2005;
- Symposium of World Bank for Harvard School Alumni, held at NIHFW, New Delhi, on 28 January 2005;

- Meeting of the Task Force on “Accredited Social Health Activists” (ASHA), held at NIHFW, New Delhi, on 1 February 2005 and 21 February 2005;
- National Planning Workshop on IMNCI, held at NIHFW, New Delhi, on 10 and 11 February 2005;
- National Workshop of Advisory Group on Skilled Birth Attendants organized by the MOHFW on 26 February, 2005;
- National Workshop on NSV organized by the MOHFW at New Delhi on 14 and 15 February, 2005;
- National Workshop on Centres of Excellence organized by the MOHFW at NIHFW on 17 February, 2005;
- National Consultative Meeting-cum-Workshop on Empowerment of Elderly at NIHFW, New Delhi, during 28-30 March, 2005;
- Preparatory meeting on “National Consultation on Public Health Initiatives on Safe Abortion Services”, organized by the PFI, New Delhi, on 18 February 2005;
- Meeting on RCH with senior officers at MOHFW, New Delhi, on 24 February 2005;
- Meeting of national level consultation on NRHM, held at NIHFW, New Delhi, on 11 March 2005; and
- JRD Tata Memorial Oration on Population by Dr. Somnath Chatterjee, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha; organized by the PFI, New Delhi, on 30 March 2005.

Besides, Prof. Sethi, took a session on “Issues in the Organisation of Health Care Delivery” for the participants of Professional Development Course in Management, Public Health and Health Sector Reforms for District Medical Officers, during his visit to SIHFW, Bhubaneswar, on 19 and 20 January 2005. He also visited IIFHW, Hyderabad, on 8 February 2005 to monitor the progress of RCH training programme and addressed the participants of Training of Trainers organized by IIFHW, Hyderabad.

Faculty/Staff Activities

- Prof. (Mrs.) M. Bhattacharya, Head, Department of Community Health Administration, participated in the following as an expert:
 - the review meeting of the Task Force on Finalisation of HIV Estimates, held at ICMR, New Delhi, on 25 January and 22 March 2005;
 - the consultation meeting for developing Integrated Training Curriculum for National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDPC), organized by DGHS, New Delhi, at NICD, New Delhi, on 25 January and 16 March 2005; and
 - took a session on Epidemiology in Health Management for the participants of Professional Development Course at SIHFW, Bhubaneswar on 21 January 2005.
- Prof. (Ms.) K. Kalaivani, Head, Department of Reproductive Biomedicine, attended a training course on “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Poverty Reduction, Reproductive Health and Health Sector Reforms”; conducted by the World Bank Institute and the Centre for Health Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, during 14-25 March 2005.
- Prof. T. Mathiyazhagan, Head, Department of Communication, took a session on Linkages between BEEs and other health functionaries at district level in the Specialised Communication

Training Programme under the RCH for Block-level IEC Personnel of Jammu and Kashmir at MAMTA - Health Institute for Mother and Child, New Delhi, on 1 March 2005 and 30 March 2005.

- Dr. (Mrs.) S. Menon, Reader, participated in a workshop on “Gender Awareness and Newborn Care: Knowledge, Attitude and Health Care Practices by TBAs”, at Sundarlal Jain Hospital, New Delhi, during 15-16 February 2005. She also delivered a lecture on Efficient Operation of Primary Health System with Special Emphasis on Mother and Child Health, at Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), Gurgaon, Haryana, on 20 January 2005 and 23 February 2005.
- Dr. V.K. Tiwari, Reader, attended the 22nd Annual National Conference of Indian Society for Medical Statistics (ISMS), at JIPMER, Pondicherry, during 21-25 January 2005. He attended a training course on “Network of Internal Security”, at the National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi, on 31 January 2005. Dr. Tiwari also attended a meeting on 'Research Information in the Country', held at ICMR, New Delhi, on 22 March 2005.
- Dr. S.V. Adhish, Reader, delivered a lecture on “Preparing District Epidemiological Profile and Using Them for Policy and Programme Directions”, at Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), Gurgaon, Haryana, on 20 January 2005 and 21 February 2005.
- Dr. (Mrs.) Gita Bamezai, Reader, took a session on Message Development in the Specialised Communication Training Programme under the RCH for Block-level IEC Personnel of Jammu and Kashmir at MAMTA - Health Institute for Mother and Child, New Delhi, on 4 March and 21 March, 2005.
- Dr. T. Bir, Reader, attended a 'Qualitative Research Workshop in Reproductive Health', organized by the Population Council, New Delhi, at Hotel Taj Residency, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, U.P., during 28 March - 2 April 2005
- Dr. M.M. Misro, Reader, attended the SRBCE Conference, organized by the Society for Reproductive Biology and Comparative Endocrinology at Vishva Bharati, Shantiniketan, West Bengal, during 7-9 February 2005.
- Dr. T.G. Shrivastav, Reader, Chaired a scientific session as well as delivered a lecture on “Antigen Heterologous Enzyme Immunoassay for Estradiol” in the SRBCE Conference organized by the Society for Reproductive Biology and Comparative Endocrinology at Vishva Bharati, Shantiniketan, West Bengal, during 7-9 February 2005.
- Dr. (Mrs.) Neera Dhar, Reader, attended a national Workshop on “Execution of Health and Stress Management”, at the Indian Society of Health Administrators (ISHA), Bangalore, during 24-26 February 2005.
- Dr. U. Datta, Reader, delivered a lecture on 'District Medical Care and Hospital Management', at Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), Gurgaon, Haryana, on 20 January, 2005 and 14 February 2005. He also took a session on Material Management in the Specialised Communication Training Programme under the RCH for Block-level IEC Personnel of Jammu and Kashmir, at MAMTA - Health Institute for Mother and Child, New Delhi, on 8 and 22 March, 2005.
- Dr. (Mrs.) Pushpanjali Swain, Senior Lecturer and Acting Head, Department of Statistics and Demography, attended a workshop on “Health and Human Development” at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, during 12-14 March 2005.
- Mrs. Reeta Dhingra, Research Officer, attended the Advisory Group Meeting on “Public-Private Partnership”, organized by the MOHFW, at WHO, New Delhi, on 3 March 2005.

- Mr. P.D. Kulkarni, Programmer, attended a training programme on “Working with Data-base”, at National Informatics Centre (NIC), New Delhi, during 14-18 March 2005.

Papers/Poster Presentation

- Dr. (Mrs.) Gita Bamezai, Reader, presented a paper on “Sexual and Reproductive Health among Adolescent and Youth” in the National Conference on Globalization and Health Equity, at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, during 4-5 February 2005.
- Dr. T. Bir, Reader, presented a paper on 'Health Insurance: A Potential Policy Option for Health Care Financing in the Developing Countries like India' in the International Conference on Service Management, organized by the Institute for Service Management and Technology, at Radisson Hotel, New Delhi, during 11-12 March 2005. He also presented a paper on 'Globalization and Tribal Health in North-East India' in a seminar on 'Globalisation: Challenges to Tribal Identify of North-East', organized by the Himalayan Region Study and Research Institute at North-East Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tezpur, Assam, during 19-20 March 2005.
- Mr. Salek Chand, SDO, presented a paper titled “Preservation of Library Materials Using IT in the Digital Era”, in the International Conference on Information Management, at Hotel Grand Hyatt, Mumbai, during 21-25 February 2005.
- Dr. M.H. Meitei, Lecturer, presented a paper on “Health Seeking Behaviour of Women in Manipur” Who have Reproductive Health Problem, in the National Conference on Globalisation and Health Equity, at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, during 4-5 February 2005.
- Dr. Debabrata Sinha, Medical Officer, made a poster presentation on “Clinical Aspects of Human Reproduction - The Role and Values of Testicular Aspiration Cytology (FNAC) and Morphology (SGCM) in the Management of Azoospermic Subjects: A Comparative Study,” in the symposium on Trends in molecular and applied approaches to the reproduction, during 4-6 February, 2005, organized by the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology and Institute of Reproductive Medicine, Kolkata, India, under the auspices of the Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and Fertility.
- Dr. K. S. Nair, Assistant Research Officer, presented two papers entitled 'An Overview of Public-Private Partnership in India', and 'Swasthya Bima Yojna for Rural Populations in Madhya Pradesh'; in the workshop on Public-Private Partnership, organized by the Rajiv Gandhi Mission for Community Health, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, on 23 February 2005.
- Dr. S.K. Chaube presented a paper entitled “Clomiphene Citrate Induces Apoptosis in Rat Ovarian Follicles and Ovulated Cumulus Oocyte Complexes” in the Symposium on Trends in Molecular and Applied Approaches to the Reproduction, during 4-6 February, 2005, organized by the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology and Institute of Reproductive Medicine, Kolkata, India, under the auspices of the Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and Fertility.
- Ms. Kiran Rangari, Assistant Research Officer, presented a paper entitled “Inhibitory Action of Antiestrogens is not Mediated Through Membrane Bound Estrogen Receptors on Human Spermatozoa” in the Symposium on Trends in Molecular and Applied Approaches to the Reproduction, during 4-6 February, 2005, organized by the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology and Institute of Reproductive Medicine, Kolkata, India, under the auspices of the Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and Fertility. She has also presented another paper

entitled "Action of Estradiol 17 B on the Plasma Membrane of Human Spermatozoa from Normal and Asthenozoospermic Individuals" in the SRBCE Conference, organized by the Society for Reproductive Biology and Comparative Endocrinology at Vishva Bharati, Shantiniketan, West Bengal, during 7-9 February 2005.

- Mrs. Shashi Prabha, STA, presented a paper titled "Preservation of Library Materials Using IT in the Digital Era", in the International Conference on Information Management, at Hotel Grand Hyatt, Mumbai, during 21-25 February 2005.
- Mr. Anupam Basu, Research Assistant, presented a paper entitled "Insulin Resistance in Women with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome: How to Determine?", in the symposium on Trends in Molecular and Applied Approaches to the Reproduction, during 4-6 February, 2005, organized by the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology and Institute of Reproductive Medicine, Kolkata, India, under the auspices of the Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and Fertility. He also presented a paper entitled, "Development of Simultaneous Immunoassay for two Implantation Hormones Using Non-Radioactive Markers" in the SRBCE Conference, organized by the Society for Reproductive Biology and Comparative Endocrinology at Vishva Bharati, Shantiniketan, West Bengal, during 7-9 February 2005.

APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION

- Dr. T.Mathiyazhagan has been appointed as Professor (Communication); and
- Mr. M. P. Meshram has been promoted from Assistant Research Officer to Research Officer.

RETIREMENTS

- Mr. Vikram Singh, Driver;
- Mrs. Shakuntala Devi, Peon;
- Mr. Mohinder Singh, Packer; and
- Mr. Kameshwar Singh, Addressographer.

Felicitations to Prof. Somnath Roy, Former Director and Emeritus Professor of NIHF at Annual Conference of ISSRF in Kolkata on February 4, 2005

Prof. Somnath Roy has been felicitated by the Indian Society for Study of Reproduction and Fertility (ISSRF) in February 2005 in Kolkata for his outstanding contributions in diverse fields of reproduction. Prof. Roy has completed 51 years of his eventful scientific and academic career. He is internationally known for his pioneering research contributions on three fertility regulating drugs, polycystic ovary syndrome and male infertility. Some excerpts from the Citation of Felicitations of Prof. Roy in Kolkata are given below:

"Prof. Somnath Roy, a Doyen of Medical Fraternity, a legend in your life time, you are a pride possession of the whole nation. You are a messiah of ailing mankind, a priest of the sacrosanct temple of learning.Characteristically, a true statesman, you preferred to serve your motherland and selflessly delivered your best for the well being of mankind in general and your fellow countrymen in particular.

According to William Shakespeare, some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them. We are proud that you have achieved greatness by inching up the elevator. Professor Roy we believe from the core of our heart that your name is synonymous to activities and deeds. As you are branded by your deeds you are great indeed. May the Almighty's blessings be bestowed on you. Sir, please accept our heart-felt reverence and shower your blessings on us."

Prof. Roy has provided dedicated services to NIHFW over a long 27 years, and during his Directorship, this Institute received WHO Medal as a Centre of Excellence in 1988. Presently also, he is supporting and promoting research and academic activities at NIHFW in multiple ways and enhancing the image of the Institute. For all his contributions, we are greatly beholden to him.

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, the Director, faculty and staff members of the Institute condole the untimely demise of Miss Amardeep Kaur Toor, PG Student (DHA). We pray for the eternal peace of her immortal soul.