

Preserving maternal health: Responses required

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Preserving maternal health is of paramount significance in order to achieve SDG (sustainable development goal-3: to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. According to data published by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2022, nearly 140 million births take place annually. The term “maternal health” refers to the health of women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period. The author of this research argues that each stage in maternal health should be a positive experience, ensuring that women and their babies reach their full potential for health and well-being. Despite the fact that significance progress has been made in the last two decades, countless number of women die during and following pregnancy and childbirth, especially in countries with (a) comparatively lower literacy rates among women, and (b) poor health infrastructure. Analysis of research data on maternal mortality is indicative of the fact that most common direct causes of maternal injury and death are: (a) excessive blood loss, (b) infection, (c) high blood pressure, and (d) unsafe abortion. Indirect causes, on the other hand, include: (a) anemia, (b) malaria, and (c) heart disease. It is pertinent to note that post maternal of the deaths are preventable with timely management by a skilled health professional working in a supportive environment. It is for this reason that ending preventable maternal death remain priority health agenda in many countries. This research paper aims to investigate into interventions

required for further preserving maternal health. Secondary data (largely ‘quantitative’ in nature) have been used and method of data analysis is descriptive, involving “desk-based research” approach. The paper briefly concludes that there is need to make good progress in improving maternal health and health systems need to respond by prioritizing strategic interventions.

Keywords: Maternal Health, Pregnancy, Responses, Sustainable Development Goals, and Childbirth

Biography

Santosh Kumar Mishra retired on June 30, 2020 from the Population Education Resource Centre, department of lifelong learning and extension, SNTD Women's University, Mumbai, India. He acquired MA (Economics), post-master's diploma in Adult and Continuing Education, diploma in human resource development and certificate course in hospital and health care management. Also, he underwent training in demography and acquired PhD degree. His areas of interest include demography, sustainable development, gender issues and allied subject areas. Mishra has authored (some co-authored) 5 booklets, 4 books, 23 book chapters, 75 journal articles, and 49 papers for conferences some with bursary for presenting research papers at international events held in Sweden, Australia, Tajikistan, USA, Tanzania, Philippines, Ireland, etc. Also, he has contributed to 170 e-discussions. Dr. Mishra has reviewed: (a) nearly 325 proposals for 23 international conferences (b) 160 manuscripts for 81 journals.

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