

Posted on: 28th July 2011

Women who endured the call of death!!!

There are many things happening around us every next second, good and bad...

Recently, the CH team shared a few stories of maternal deaths with our list serve members.

Here is another happy moment to share about the 'lives saved' irrespective of the "death valley experiences". However, disheartening is the information on the sufferings underwent by the family and particularly the women. Hopefully their lives at present are much better than what it was hours before. Kudos for the rescue team of these women...

"In the State of Jharkhand, three young women reached NJH hospital, 2 of them were with eclampsia and the other with a uterus rupture. The first one had convulsions and was unconscious, the second one too had seizures and needed a blood transfusion, due to severe anemia (5 gm %). The third reached there with a bulging abdomen like a 'Bactrian Camel's hump' (take a look at the picture in the source website) all within 48 hours.

Although 2 of the 3 women seem to be progressing in their health status, the second one with Anemia is still under observation for progress towards stable conditions."

The author of this story raises a few questions based on these 3 cases on the following –

1. The availability of trained doctors in FRU's – the role of the specialty of Family Medicine....
2. The role of ambulance services in the state which is supposed to have made an impact on the state
3. The system of re-licensing through continuing medical education given the doctors uncertainty about treatment protocols and procedures...

For more details visit: <http://jeevankuruvilla.blogspot.com/2011/07/2-eclampsias-and-1-rupture-uterus.html>

Posted on: 13th July 2011

Articles/Reports

Hussein J, Kanguru L, Astin M, Munjanja S (2011) What kinds of policy and programme interventions contribute to reductions in maternal mortality? **The effectiveness of primary level referral systems for emergency maternity care in developing countries.** Technical report. London: EPPI-Centre, Social Science Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London. ISBN: 978-1-907345-16-6

"Many pregnancy complications are unpredictable and many women in developing countries live far away from where life-saving care is available. Referral interventions aim to address these problems. A systematic literature review was conducted to assess studies on the transfer of women with emergency obstetric complications from their homes, or from first contact with the health service, to an emergency obstetric care facility. Nineteen studies were included that assessed the effect of referral interventions from rural settings in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Malawi, Nepal, Pakistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In several South Asian settings, the organisation of communities to generate funds for transport, implemented as part of other community mobilisation activities, reduced neonatal deaths. The studies from Zambia and Zimbabwe suggested that the use of maternity waiting homes may reduce stillbirths. There is some evidence that referral interventions improve the utilisation of health services.

This review has strengthened the evidence for continuing to implement interventions that overcome delays in reaching obstetric care during emergencies. There are constraints limiting the conclusiveness of the evidence. Continued inclusion of referral interventions within maternal and newborn health programmes and as part of wider health system improvements is recommended, but practices in monitoring, research and evaluation of these interventions need to be improved....."

Download this article from the URL:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/r4d/PDF/Outputs/SystematicReviews/Maternal-mortality-2011Hussein.pdf>

Posted on 9th July 2011

Articles and Reports

The article on "**Legal Abortion Worldwide in 2008: Levels and Recent Trends**" by Gilda Sedgh et.al, International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, Volume 37, Number 2, June 2011.

"High abortion rates in some countries, and small increases in rates in others, indicate a great need for more effective family planning services for these populations. Reliable data collection systems, needed to ensure that trends can be effectively monitored, are lacking in many countries....."

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The other article is on "**What Is the Cost of Maternal Health Care and How Can it Be Financed?**" by Josephine Borghi.

"This paper reviews the evidence on the cost of providing maternal health services, the use of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) in the evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of these services, and alternative sources of financing maternal health services. The findings suggest that, for most interventions, care can be provided most cheaply at the primary care level. Personnel and drugs are the main components of cost. Community....."

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An interesting resource material for practioners, NGO providers, researchers.....

"Community Mobilisation through Women's Groups to improve the Health of Mothers and Babies", BADAS, Ekjut, Women and Children First (UK), UCL March 2011.

"This 'good practice' guide, based on the experience of a project in India and Bangladesh called Saving Mothers and Children, describes an approach that has the potential to reduce maternal and newborn deaths, and to address other health problems. The project worked through women's groups, using a participatory learning and action cycle, to mobilise community action to improve the health of mothers and babies. The project was implemented by an NGO, Ekjut, in India and the Perinatal Care Project of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS) in Bangladesh, together with the University College London Centre for International Health and Development and Women and Children First, an international NGO based in the UK. In India, Ekjut worked in tribal communities in West Singhbhum and Saraikela Kharswan districts of Jharkhand State and the Keonjhar district of Orissa State. In Bangladesh, BADAS worked with three rural districts, Bogra, Faridpur and Moulavibazar."

Download this article from <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/cihd/news-attachments/good-practice-guide>.



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