

4th State Level Conference of SOMI (Maharashtra Chapter)
Rebirth of Midwifery in India: Challenges faced by Midwives
E – Conference on 6th and 7th January 2021

The state level conference “Rebirth of Midwifery in India: Challenges face by Midwife” was organised on 6th &7th January 2021 by MGM New Bombay College of Nursing in collaboration with Society of Midwives India (Maharashtra Chapter).

Aim:

To Create awareness on changing trends in Midwifery in India

Objectives:

1. To overview the current challenges in independent midwifery practices.
2. To identify the strategies to improve midwifery practices.
3. To enlighten new reforms in midwifery practices.

Day One: 6th January 2021

Total 210 participants from various institutions across the country participated in the E Conference. Mrs. Preethi Mathew, Convenor of the conference opened the conference with New year greetings which was followed by an invocation song. Formal inaugural session commenced with welcome note by Dr. Prabha K. Dasila Chairperson of the conference.

Prof Mangala Joshi President SOMI (Maharashtra Chapter) delivered the key note address and briefed regarding Society of Midwives India its Mission, Objectives, Functions and Various activities. Also explained the activities of SOMI (Maharashtra Chapter)

Session I: Evolution of Midwifery in India

Lt. Col. Retd (Mrs) Manonmani Venkat, Principal, Manmohini Academic Institution, West Bengal briefed about Traditional midwifery in Pre-Independent Era, during Independent Era and future of Midwifery in India. More emphasis is given on Midwifery led care units.

Panel Discussion: Reflection on Midwifery practices today

The session was delt by four speakers who spoke their views on this topic. Dr. Nilima Rajan Bhare Principal, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed to be University College of Nursing, Sangali discussed on Ethical dilemmas and practical challenges face by midwives in India. She explained various ethical Challenges faced by the client, Various steps in ethical decision making. Dr.Bhare also mentioned that Ethical judgement relies on rational thought not on emotion, judgement has to be taken from a sound knowledge base.

Dr. Supriya Pottal Ray Assistant Professor Bharati Vidyapeeth, College of Nursing, Pune, focused on Strategies to overcome the Practical Challenges. She discussed on guiding principles to overcome challenges, various strategic directions and what are the priority areas needed to regulate and action to be taken to implement these strategies.

Dr. Rita Lakhani Principal D.Y Patil School of Nursing, Navi Mumbai elaborated on Changing nature of Midwifery in the State. She stressed that the midwives can help to prevent two third of all maternal deaths and half of new born deaths, provided they are well-educated, well equipped, well supported and authorized .She gave several research based evidences regarding Midwifery practices and emphasized on importance of upgradation of educational program, concept of midwife and curriculum revision .Next topic was discussed by Dr. Manisha Kadam Professor, Sadhu Vaswani College of Nursing, Pune. She discussed on guidelines provided by the government of India in improving the maternity care. She explained various programs under GOI and highlighted the importance of LaQshya program.

Day ended with reflection by a midwives and for this Dr. Sujata B. Sawant Certified Lactation Professional Dr. D.Y Patil Medical College Hospital &Research Centre, Pune shared her experiences, the challenges by her at personal as well as professional levels and how she overcomes these challenges.

Day Two: 7th January 2021

Second day started with brief recap of the first day sessions by welcoming the participants and speakers of the day.

Session 2: Introduction to Birth companion at facility

Dr. Sudha Raddi Dean Faculty of Nursing, Principal & Professor, Institute of Nursing Sciences, KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research, Belagavi, elaborated on who is a companion and need for companion during birth of a baby. Explained “Douglas”, pre requisites for a birth companion, how support decrease anxiety in mother which in turn may decrease fetal distress.

Session 3: Establishment of Midwifery led care Units

This topic was shared by two speakers. First speaker Prof. Pravina Mahadalkar Professor, Bharati Vidyapeeth, Deemed to be University, College of Nursing, Pune discussed on challenges faced by the midwives to establish Midwifery Led care Units in India. She explained who is a Midwife, what are the midwifery situation in India, Various challenges faced by the midwives to establish MLCU. This session was continued by the next speaker Dr. Usha Ukande Editor in Chief, IJNS. Consultant Midwife MOM, President NHS. She discussed on strategies to be adopted to start MLCU and shared her experiences in establishing “Swa” birthing centre in Choitrum Hospital, Indore.

Session 4: Advocacy for Independent Midwifery Practice

This topic was covered by three speakers Dr. Supriya Chinchpure Principal, Kamalnayan Bajaj Nursing College, Aurangabad spoke on Issues and challenges in the Independent Midwifery practice .This session was continued by Dr. Nancy Fernandes Principal, Leelabai Thackersey College of Nursing, Churchgate, Mumbai who highlighted scenario in India on Independent Midwifery Practice, Barriers for Independent Midwifery Practice, regulatory act and shortcoming of this act, weakness of regulatory and governing bodies .

The last session was on Independent Nurse Practitioner role in Midwifery in India by Mrs. Prachi Dharap Principal, Sau Minatai Thakare Institute of Nursing Education, TMC. She discussed on Nurse Practitioner in Midwifery, The unique role of the midwife outlined by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM).

The day ended with a Brief discussion Dr. Sripriya Gopalkrishnan Chapter Secretary (Maharashtra) highlighted various topics of the conference and thanked the organising institution for organizing. She congratulated the organizers for selecting apt topic of the need of the hour, she continued saying that there may be massive changes in the coming years in the field of midwifery. Dr. Sripriya concluded saying that this was an amalgamation of different specialities of nursing who spoke about reforms and rebirth of midwifery in India. The conference concluded by Vote of thanks.

Mrs. Preethi Mathew

Conference Convenor

MGM New Bombay College of Nursing
Nursing

Dr. Prabha K. Dasila

Conference organizing Chairperson

MGM New Bombay College of