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Choices

A Bi-Monthly e-Newsletter from Marie Stopes Society



Femplant



Editors Note

Dear Partners!

Welcome to the 7th issue of CHOICES for a snapshot of MSS' activities during this period.

We are delighted to announce the launch of Femplant at National level which was graced by the presence of Begum Shanaz Wazir Ali as the chief guest.

MSS hosted two visitors during March April. Nokia representative Mr. Malcolm Vernon and Dr. Iqbal Shah from WHO.

MSS has developed a blog and linked it with SRH matters website to make SRH matters more interactive. MSS also joined the World Cup media fever by its website promotion during those days.

Once again this year MSS celebrated women's day with much fervor and festivities at all centers. All FM 100 shows aired on Women's Day were branded by "Behtar Zindagi Centre"

This year we have also revamped our website www.mariestopespk.org. Its updated, colorful and more user friendly.

Like always, we look forward to your thoughts, comments and feedback at: feedback@msspk.org

Take good care of yourself!

Sada Abbas

Femplant Training Inauguration

The national launch of Femplant was held on 2nd April, in Karachi. The launch followed two training inaugurations in December 2010 (Islamabad) and January 2011 (Karachi) for Femplant, creating a cadre of Master Trainers and Resource Persons for step down trainings. As shared in our 6th Choices issue, Femplant was registered on 30th June 2010.

The national launch was graced by the presence of **Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali** (MNA and Co-Chair Pakistan Education Taskforce) as the Chief Guest. Presentations were made by **Dr. Yasmeen Sabeeh Qazi** (Senior Country Advisor - Packard Foundation) on "Addressing barriers to Modern Contraceptive Uptake", **Dr. Syed Hasan Raza Naqvi** (Country Director - Family Health International) on "Availability of a New Range of Commodity with Quality", **Dr. Muhammad Tariq** (Country Director - USAID - Deliver Project) on "Commodity Security and Health Supply Chain Vital for CPR Improvement", **Dr. Aleya Ali** (Head of Training - Greenstar Social Marketing on behalf of Mr. Chris Conrad) on "The Challenges of Family Planning in Pakistan - A Greenstar Perspective", and **Dr. Mohsina Bilgrami** (Managing Director - Marie Stopes Society) on "Enhancing Choices in Reproductive Healthcare". The presence and interventions by provincial government dignitaries further provided insight and perspectives of provincial health and population welfare departments. The Femplant launch was attended by the following Government dignitaries; Dr. Arshad Karim Chandio-Deputy National.

Coordinator (National Programme for Family Planning and Primary Health Care), Mr. Ahmad Hanif Orakzai - Secretary (Population Welfare Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Mr. Asmatullah Kakar - Secretary (Population Welfare Department Balochistan), Mr. Asad Khan Mengal - Director General (Population Welfare Department Balochistan), Dr. Farooq Azam Jan-Director, Health System Research (Ministry of Health Balochistan), Dr. Shabina Raza - Chief Health Sector Reform Unit (MoH Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Dr. Naseer Ahmed Baloch - Ad. Secretary (Technical) (MoH Balochistan), Dr. Talat Abro - c/o Secretary Health (Population welfare Department Sindh), Mr. Tariq Sohail - Director Planning (Population welfare Department Balochistan).

The presentations generated candid exchange of views and concerns regarding maternal health, service provider barriers and medical protocols for the insertion and removal of the contraceptive. Opportunities related to introduction of a new contraceptive in an environment where the contraceptive prevalence rate is way below the desired figure and there was a common sense of hope of Femplant being successful in providing choices to women and couples in reproductive healthcare - making healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies a reality!

Nokia, more than a mobile marketing company

NOKIA
Connecting People

Mr. Malcolm Vernon (Director Market Development, Nokia Mobile Financial Services) visited MSS offices in March 2011 to introduce and share Nokia's mobile financial services initiatives in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and some parts of Asia. He shared the potential in "mobile money" to bring very basic financial services to people who don't have access to a bank account, and particularly the interest towards the overlap between mobile money and mobile health. This was based on the premise that the majority of people who have a mobile phone but no access to financial services don't have access to adequate healthcare either. The discussion's thrust was on the possibility of increasing peoples' access to healthcare by providing basic financial services over a mobile!

An Afternoon with Dr. Iqbal H. Shah (WHO)

MSS organized a Karachi based Reproductive Health core group meeting with Dr Iqbal H. Shah on 4th April 2011. Dr. Shah, from the Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization (Geneva) shared with the participant's information on: **Maternal Mortality, Unsafe Abortion and Access to Health-Care Providers in Asia**. Dr. Shah also spoke on WHO's work in preventing unsafe abortion and briefly touched upon WHO guidelines and scope of work in contexts with restricted access to the service. Discussion on the correlation of incidence of unsafe abortion and the role of mid-level providers in healthcare was also held. It was a pleasure to have the presence of all our partners and the opportunity to meet and discuss issues of mutual interest and concern.



Blog us!



An interactive blog has been added to SRHmatters web site. The addition of this blog to our website is to create communication opportunities for our visitors and give them a medium to express their thoughts. This blog is a vital link to the SRHmatters website which was launched in November 2008, and has had thousands of visitors seeking guidance with relevance to Sexual and Reproductive Health matters. The blog is divided into different categories namely Sexual, Reproductive and Psychological Health, with 34 interesting posts which have so far received 453 comments.

<http://blog.srhmatters.org/>

SRHmatters catches on the World Cup fever

An FM 100 Radio Campaign on SRHmatters website from February 17 – April 02, 2011 during Cricket World Cup 2011 was broadcasted. This campaign focused towards creating awareness of the website www.srhmatters.org.



100 years of "Women's Day" celebrated on air and at Behtar Zindagi Centre

MSS commemorated the centenary of "International Women's Day" with a day branded transmission on Radio FM 100 across Pakistan. Behtar Zindagi TVCs, public service messages delivered by personalities from media, sports and show business were aired. "Mother and Child Camp" activities were organized by all Behtar Zindagi centers, which included free consultation, counseling, medicines and pregnancy tests. Karachi Centers also participated in a walk which was organized by Society of Obstetricians & Gynecologists of Pakistan (SOGP).

MSS wears a new look!

We are proud to announce that we have a new look for our website with added features like a podcast which has all our radio shows. We also have all our TVCs, Marketing and Communication newsletters, MSS fact sheet, annual report and strategic plan for easy access.

Do visit our website:

www.mariestopespk.org

