

International Journal on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) by Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka

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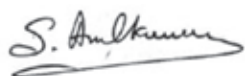


I am delighted that the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan Member Association of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), is initiating a new peer-reviewed multidisciplinary Journal on Sexual and Reproductive Health. The Journal aims to provide a comprehensive platform for high-quality research, policy dialogue, and thought leadership across the full spectrum of SRH, including contraception, gynaecology, obstetrics, subfertility, abortion, HIV/STIs, and sexuality, while embracing medical, social, behavioural, and legal perspectives. This area of care is influenced by ethical, moral, legal and cultural norms. Hence, we need to consider sexual and reproductive health within the norms of the society with interaction between society, health care personal, legal experts, social care personal and policy makers. Such policies and practice should be based on ethical principles. Learning the history of health and social care has helped us to fulfill our commitment with dignity and integrity on an ethics and human rights-based principles. The practical application of these principles on ethics and rights has resulted in the knowledge as to how we should understand and implement our professional duty. Ethical Principle of '**Beneficence**' dictates that care must be supportive, individualised and value-based. It is best served as a partnership model and has proven to be beneficial. '**Non-maleficence**' dictates that we are expected to avoid harmful practices and we should avoid disrespect and abuse. '**Justice**' dictates that we should provide respect, dignity and informed choice. Care based on these rights-based approach, prevents exclusion and mal-treatment of individuals that are marginalised and socio-economically disadvantaged. We should provide free or affordable care with cost transparency. Respect every woman's right to access and receive non-discriminatory and free or affordable care throughout the continuum of parenthood. Promote wellness and the prevention of illness as the foundations of improving sexual and reproductive health. Ethical Principle of '**Autonomy**' dictates that each HCP that sees a woman should listen to what women and their families say and should communicate health knowledge and information in a culturally safe and sensitive manner, and in a language that the woman and her family understand and ensure her the right to informed consent and refusal.

These principles are practiced by the Member Associations of the IPPF. Past President of FIGO, Professor Mahmoud Fathalla who was an ardent supporter of IPPF put it succinctly that "Sexual and reproductive rights are not a new set of human rights but they are simply the application of the already recognised list of human rights to the area of sexuality and reproduction". Women's

Sexual and Reproductive Rights are different because of reproductive functions. These rights have been denied for centuries. Some have changed and some remain static. Some examples are – Sati – wife pushed into funeral pyre; Sex selective abortion; Female genital mutilation; Honor Killing + Dowry related deaths; *Domestic / sexual violence*; *Rights to appropriate contraception and abortion*. Many of the unacceptable practices in the arena of sexual and reproductive health has been eliminated or reduced by policy changes and empowering the girl child and women by providing the rights to education, nutrition, health care and employment.

The research, policies and practice expressed in the new multidisciplinary '*Journal on Sexual and Reproductive Health*' edited by knowledgeable and experienced Professors Indralal de Silva and Sanath Lanerolle will further improve the rights and health of women and the couples.



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