

# INTRODUCTION TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

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# Reproductive Health

**Reproductive Health:** It is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to reproductive system and to its functions and processes.

**Reproductive health care:** is defined as the constellation of methods, techniques and services that contribute to reproductive health and well-being through preventing and solving reproductive health problems.

# Historical development of reproductive health

- During 1960s UNFPA(United nations population fund)established with mandate to raise about rising population and to assist developing countries in addressing them
- there was a concern about population growth especially in developing world and among the poor
- This also coincided with the rapid increase

# Historical development..ctd

- in availability of technologies for reducing fertility (contraceptive pill,IUd and long acting hormonal methods)
- In 1972,WHO(world health organisation)established the special program of research development and research training in human population whose mandate focused on research into the development of new and improved

# Historical development ...ctd

- Methods of fertility regulation and issues of safety and efficacy of existing methods.
- modern contraceptive methods were seen as reliable, independent of people's ability to practice and more effective to traditional methods.
- population policies became widespread in developing countries during 1970s and 80s

# Historical development ..ctd

- This was supported by agencies and NGOs such as IPPF (international planned parenthood federation).
- rapid population growth hindered development as well as caused poverty
- Thorpe population policies focussed on the need to restrain population growth

# Historical development..ctd

- In 1994 ICPD(international conference on population development ) has been marked as the key event in the history of reproductive health. This conference followed some important occurrences that made the world to think of other ways to approach reproductive health.
- 1.growing strength of women's movement and their criticism of overemphasis of



# Historical development...ctd

- Female fertility regulation and this excluded their other needs

2.the advent of HIV/AIDs pandemic.it became important to respond to consequences of sexual activity other than pregnancy esp STDs-issues of sexuality became essential

3.articulation of concept of reproductive rights



# Historical development..ctd

- The rights that were identified were;
- Right of couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of children and to have the information and means to do so
- The right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health
- the right to make decision free of discrimination, coercion or violence.

# Summary of development of reproductive health

- Before 1978 Alma Ata conference

Basic health services in clinics and health centres

- Primary health care declarations of 1978

maternal child health services with more emphasis on child survival

family planning was more focussed on mothers

# Summary of development of reproductive health

## ■ Safe motherhood initiative in 1987:

emphasis on maternal health

emphasis on reduction of maternal mortality

## ● Reproductive health, ICPD 1994:

emphasis on quality services

emphasis on availability and accessibility

emphasis on social justice

# Summary...ctd

- Millennium development goals (MDGs) and reproductive health in 2000

MDGs are directly or indirectly related to health

MDGs 4, 5 and 6 are directly related to health while MDG 1, 2, 3 and 7 are indirectly related to health.

# Summary ctd...

- World summit 2005 declared universal access to reproductive health
- Lancet 2006 defined sexual and reproductive health as fundamental to social and economic development of communities and nations and a key component of an equitable society

# Summary ctd...

- Different countries have continued to improve reproductive health.
- in Kenya beyond zero initiative launched by Kenya's First Lady, Margaret Kenyatta, aims to improve maternal child health in Kenya and to reduce new HIV infections among children.
- The campaign was unveiled in Kenya in 2013 on World's Aids Day .

# Beyond zero initiative

- It encompasses five key areas;
- Accelerate elimination of HIV
- mobilize funds in support of maternal health, child health and HIV control initiatives
- educating men in support of the beyond zero efforts as clients, partners and agents of change



# Beyond zero...ctd

- Engaging communities to eliminate barriers to access to HIV, maternal and child health services
- the initiative is funded by donors and partners such as safari com, nation media group, Philip's Africa among others
- the initiative expanded its scope in 2018 to include:

# Beyond zero...ctd

- Enrolling pregnant women into Kenyas NHIF under Linda mama program
- supporting treatment of obstetric fistula
- making routine services such as HIV testing and counselling