



Society of Midwives (India)

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SOMI POSITION STATEMENT ON THE COVID-19 CRISIS

SOMI(Society of Midwives, India) believes that women, mothers and babies are the human capital of a society and their rights to be protected from the situation of COVID - 19 pandemic They have a right to get comprehensive care and support.

Nurse midwives and other health care providers are the technical resource that safe guard human health. SOMI is proud of it's members who have stepped up to provide care selflessly in this time of crisis. Their welfare and safety is, of prime importance during the COVID-19 pandemic, as they are exposed and work under stress.

SOMI urges all its members to be alert in this time of crisis and continue to function optimally. SOMI guides members

1. Continue to provide uninterrupted services for mothers and babies, focusing on safety and quality of services inspite the stress and shortage of resources and the seemingly critical situation.

2. Provide routine antenatal, in-tranatal, postnatal newborn services including breastfeeding, nutrition education and immunization services by maintaining the Standard Precaution of Infection Control.

3. Focus on anticipated social and economical crisis, gender discrimination and social inequalities and prepare their plan of action before they surface and add to the emerging burden of care.

4. Guide community leader for supportive action on health. Ensure nutrition, adequate and safe supply of drinking water to everyone: special care to be taken of the homeless: abused women and deserted population for availability of goods essential for survival.

5. Be prepared to volunteer for providing service in emergency. Adequate supply of transport facility for mothers to continue the institutional delivery.

6. Continue providing Respectful Maternity Care irrespective of the COVID -19 status to mother. Continue advocacy and protect rights of informed decision making for mothers and family.

All SOMI members are requested to take special measures for their own safety & welfare of their family members. SOMI urges you to:

A. Use appropriate Personal protective equipments (PPEs) as desired essential for the task you are allotted to perform. Protect yourself against infection at all times. Take adequate food, fluids and rest.

B. List, counsel and support health care providers directly serving COVID-19 positive cases and help protect their human rights.

C. Interact with colleagues on regular basis to share their experiences, to reduce their stress and encourage providing quality health care service at all times.

D. Take care of family members as they too face continued stress and exposure to disease

Mitali Adhikari
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