

EDITORIAL

GMC MEANS PEACE Abdul Hussain M Al-Hadi PhD.

The global movement for mothers and children was declared in the late nineties and aims at improving the status of mothers and children all over the world with special emphasis on mothers and children in the developing world.

The WHO report for the year 2005 emphasizes that mothers and children matters so does their health.

In many countries universal access to the care all women and children are entitled still far from realization. This movement aims at meeting the principle requirements for child survival and mother revival.

It is necessary to refocus the technical strategies developed within maternal and child health programs and to put more emphasis on the importance for the often-overlooked health problems of newborn.

Management of child health has become one of the major programs developed to care for children from the under five group. It also aims to make such care more realistic and fruitful through upgrading the performance of health care workers to care for all health problems that are facing children feasibly and appropriately, at the same time the program give special importance to role that can be played by the family in providing care for the child who suffer from these problems.

Environmental sanitation has proven a major role in promotion, protection and maintenance of the health of general population, through ensuring

safe water supply and safe environment free from pollution one can ensure good health and high developmental opportunities.

Women and girls need special attention throughout their developmental stages, they both are at high risk of wider range of health problems related to their physiological characteristics. Women need special care during pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum and even more attention to the newborn baby. Through antenatal care, many of the complication that arises during the course of pregnancy and childbirth can be minimized or prevented. At the same time many causes of death of women and newborn babies could be prevented through proper delivery and postpartum care. Nutritional status of mothers and children play a major role in deciding their health status.

Insuring proper *nutrition* of mothers and children is a vital requirement to maintain their good health and to protect them from different health problems, at the same time depriving mothers and children from proper nutritional requirement will expose them to major health problems that can endanger their health and well being.

Short birth interval has proven its adverse effect on both mothers and children, children born after short birth interval are more liable to be born with low birth weight and born prematurely. At the same time children who are followed by pregnancy and childbirth during their first year will be deprived from the care they need because of pregnancy and arrival of the newborn baby, it will be more appropriate to

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have proper appropriate to have proper spacing of births for the sake of both mothers and children.

Iraq has suffered successive wars and civil disturbance away from *peace*, which all together have affected the health of mothers and children.

Sanction imposed on Iraq following the occupation of the state of Kuwait has endangered the health and well being of all Iraqi population, but more have has incurred on mothers and children. This was shown with the progressive deterioration of the health and nutritional status of both mothers and children with steep acceleration of infant, under five maternal morbidity and mortality. Surveys showed that infant mortality risen by 2.8 times during the period Aug 1990 to Aug 1991 as stated by the national survey conducted by a team from Harvard University during Sept 1991.

The *educational status* of mothers showed a positive relation with better health of mothers and children, mothers with higher educational level are more likely to look after their children in a better way, to secure their needs and demands and look after themselves and their families in a more rational manners.

All the health needs of mothers and children could be met with simple and cost effective *appropriate* mechanics and tools.

Through getting *communication* and proper exchange of experience many needs of mothers and children can be met instantly.

Finally the status of women within community is very much related to health and environmental status, through provision for proper opportunity for women to upgrade their status, and to play their role in the developmental process.

Emancipation of women is vital in this respect, through elimination of

gender discrimination providing women the share they deserve with community.