

5th NATIONAL BIO ETHICS CONFERENCE (NBC)

Colloquium on “ETHICAL PERSPECTIVES IN GENDER IN HEALTH “
(Supported by Packard Foundation)

Date: Wednesday 10th December 2014, 9.30 am to 5 pm

Venue: Annex III, St. John’s National Academy of Health Sciences

Concept Note:

The Women’s Movement has been addressing the core issue of gender inequity underpinned by patriarchy that crosscuts all aspects of life of the entire population affecting individuals, families, communities and society at large. This effort has evolved in recent decades into a larger social movement for gender and social justice. Health and health care have also been increasingly part of this process of transformation and change. The role of medical technology and of the medical and health professions have come under the scanner and debates rage about the adverse effects of certain practices on health and well being. Gender issues in health, health care, medicine and research are many. They include adverse gender ratio’s, lack of effective regulation and poor quality of reproductive health care, maternal mortality that continues to be high because of lack of good pre-natal care and facilities for safe deliveries for many communities and populations, inadequate support systems and safety for women health workers who comprise the majority in the health human resource pool, loss of autonomy, absence of voice in decision and policy making. An enormous amount of work and effort has gone into addressing and redressing some issues. Women’s groups have adopted a Women’s Health Charter in 2007. The People’s Health Movements (PHM) and Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA) have a Campaign against Female Foeticide. LGBTs struggle for justice and voice and to sensitise the health care system to their needs for dignity and access to care. The National Rural Health Mission has made some progress with regard to increasing access to maternal and reproductive health care. However the gaps are huge and human rights violations continue as is evident from the horrific incident in Bilaspur. Pressure to meet family planning targets continue in many states despite signing of international conventions and the passing of government orders. Efforts towards gender sensitization of the public health system are underway and at a very early stage.

This one day Colloquium offers an opportunity for an experienced and committed group to come together to reflect on the ethical perspectives and considerations in Gender in Health and see how this can be taken forward in health action, education and research. It will be conducted in the form of an Open House. Lead discussants will share their thoughts on particular topics for about 10 minutes followed by a moderated discussion. The views of each participant are valuable and we will together ensure that all voices are heard.

Sessions will focus on a current situation analysis; a perspective of the issue from an ethics lens, leading to a few points towards strengthening the movement of Gender Justice in Health: an Ethical Approach.

Draft Programme:

Time	Programme
9.00am	Registration
9.30am	Introduction to the day – Dr. Elizabeth Vallikad (St. John’s Medical College) Self introductions
10.00 – 11.15 am –	Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sex selection and adverse gender ratios: What next steps?• Reproductive Health & contraception• Adolescent issues Lead discussant will introduce each topic (15 minutes each) followed by a moderated discussion (30 min)
11.15 – 11.45 am	Tea break
11:45 am – 1.00 pm	Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addressing high maternal mortality : Efforts of a Collective• Domestic Violence, Burns and Health System Response• Gender equity in health carers Lead discussant will introduce each topic (15 minutes each) followed by a moderated discussion (30 min)
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Lunch
2.00 – 3.00 pm	Breakout sessions (participants break out into 6 groups each focusing on a single theme)
3.00 – 4.00 pm	Reports from each group and discussion
4.00 – 4.15 pm	Final conclusions
Tea	