

# Concept Article: *Midwifery Model of Care(MMC)*

\* **Dr. Manju Chhugani**, Ph.D.(N): \*\* **Prof. B. Bhattacharya**, M.Sc. (N)

## Background

International Confederation of Midwives' theme for the year 2010 is "The World Needs Midwives now more than ever to save the lives of mothers and babies".

The evidence is now overwhelming that the world needs more midwives. The 2005 World Health Report: Making Every Mother and Child Count identified midwives and others with midwifery skills as the essential human resource in health systems to reach MDGs 4 and 5. In the last 18-24 months, a broad consensus has emerged within the maternal health community identifying the core health-sector strategies for the reduction of maternal mortality:

Midwives not only provide antenatal, intrapartum and postpartum care, their competencies also include delivery of essential sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services at the primary health care level. Midwives' competencies include skills in counselling women to make informed choices regarding family planning to prevent unwanted pregnancies as well as abortion & referrals where it is legal. They also play an important role in post-abortion care through identification and referral of women with complications from unsafe abortion. Midwives can provide contraceptives and test for and treat reproductive tract infections and STIs. Midwives also provide health promotion including counselling to prevent girls and women from becoming infected with HIV as well as providing testing and access to treatment for HIV/AIDS. Safe delivery practices implemented by

midwives can also help to reduce transmission of HIV to the newborn.

Comprehensive maternal and newborn care is based on the Midwifery Model of Care (MMC). MMC emanates from the belief that pregnancy, birth and menopause are normal life processes and midwives are expert in protecting, supporting and enhancing the normal physiology of pregnancy, labor, delivery and puerperium and provide care to normal newborn.

## Who is a Midwife?

A midwife is a person who, having been regularly admitted to a midwifery educational program, duly recognised in the country in which it is located, has successfully completed the prescribed course of studies in midwifery and has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and /or legally licensed to practise midwifery. The International Confederation of Midwives believes that a midwife offers care based on a Philosophy, which influences the Midwifery model of care.

## Reasons to focus on Midwives

To achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including improving maternal health (MDG 5) and reducing childhood mortality (MDG 4), and also promoting gender equality and empowering women (MDG 3) and contributing to combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (MDG 6), midwives provide comprehensive maternal and newborn care.

Midwifery is the only healthcare profession whose training has a fundamental focus on the care of both the new mother and her infant together. In recent years the

\* **Dr. Manju Chhugani**, Ph.D. (N)

Associate Professor, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi

Email: totan\_28@yahoo.co.in

\*\* **Prof. B. Bhattacharya**, M.Sc. (N)

College of Nursing, Adesh Institute of Medical Sciences, Muksar,