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Editorial 2023 - Another exciting year of progress and fulfilment

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“2023 - Another exciting year of progress and fulfilment”

Mother- The Indispensable Person

Beginning the editorial with Khalil Gibran's Tribute to Motherhood and its Symbiosis with the Role of Midwives. “The most beautiful word on the lips of mankind is the word “Mother,” and the most beautiful call is the call of “My mother.” It is a word full of hope and love, a sweet and kind word coming from the depths of the heart. The mother is everything – she is our consolation in sorrow, our hope in misery, our strength in weakness, the source of love, mercy, sympathy, and forgiveness. Everything in nature bespeaks the mother. The sun is the mother of earth and gives it its nourishment of heart. This earth is the mother of trees and flowers. It produces them, nurses, and weans them. The trees and flowers become kind mothers of their great fruits and seeds. The word mother is hidden in our hearts, and it comes upon our lips in hours of sorrow and happiness.

A Salute to Resilience amidst Adversity

At the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) in Bali, a Ukrainian midwife's account of delivering 136 babies in a bomb shelter resonated as a testament to the indomitable spirit of midwives amidst adversity. In the pages of 2023, War and conflict affected areas where vulnerable populations suffer a lot, we witnessed the unwavering dedication of midwives around the world, especially in regions marred by conflict. We, wholeheartedly, agree with the ICM which stated that “the rights and well-being of women, newborn, and children must be upheld under all circumstances. Families can only thrive during peace - may it prevail!” Our thoughts turn to the brave women and midwives in Ukraine, Gaza, and Afghanistan, who faced the challenges of pregnancy and childbirth in the midst of violent circumstances.

‘Interesting Developments in the Region’

In Pakistan, a document on National vision and midwifery strategic document was developed as a joint effort of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Health Service Academy (HSA), and the Midwifery Association of Pakistan (MAP). The paper aims to provide qualified, well-educated, licenced, well-regulated, autonomous, and confident midwives to all Pakistani women by 2030. The national vision is to expand Pakistan's midwifery profession to support the SDGs. To achieve the objective, five critical areas are crucial: leadership, governance; regulation; education and practise; service delivery and scope of practise; advocacy, networking, and funding. The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation, and Coordination would create an immediate technical working group with all necessary players to discuss all issues regularly.

Bangladesh is investing purposefully and carefully in community midwifery. They are jointly working with an ICM for capacity building and practice. Bangladesh will be an exemplary in midwifery services.

In India, Fernandez organization is working towards full scope of midwifery practice including water births. They are doing very exciting work in midwifery services. Their team is always ready to help the region. They share and exchange knowledge with other institutions.

Afghanistan midwives are struggling with the maintenance of their midwifery services. They always remind the world that MNCH care and midwives are dyad that world must not forget especially in Afghanistan.

Nepal is also coming along in midwifery education and services, we always welcome our region and happy for our region and pray hard for our regional midwifery services.

Celebrating Achievements and Looking Ahead

Amidst the challenges, we are delighted to share the good news that in November 2023, the *Journal of Asian Midwives* has been included in the prestigious SCOPUS databases. This achievement would not be possible without the unwavering support of contributors, reviewers, authors, and readers. We extend our gratitude to the library staff at The Aga Khan University in Karachi and celebrate this milestone with pride.

Wishing you a year of progress and fulfilment

As we bid farewell to the past and welcome the promise of 2024, the *Journal of Asian Midwives* extends heartfelt wishes to all midwives for Christmas and New Year celebrations. May this year bring progress, understanding, and advancements in the field of midwifery, contributing to the well-being of mothers and newborn across the continents?

This last issue of 2023 of the *Journal of Asian Midwives* has 10 articles, covering Pakistan, India, Sweden, Nepal, UK countries, including one short blog and viewpoint.

Warm Regards,

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