



FOGSI FOR ALL ALWAYS and DHEERA Stop Violence Against Women. FOGSI for Every Mother Every Woman and Every FOGSIAN

Dear FOGSIans

It is a pleasure always to connect with you all especially as president of FOGSI 2021-2022. These have been challenging years with many obstacles in our path in working towards our objectives for women's health. As FOGSIANS I can say that we are battle hardened but not battle weary. Hurdles of covid pandemic have been converted into innovative opportunities by us all, we have connected virtually, stayed not only afloat but ahead, thanks to the leadership of FOGSIs and spirit of FOGSIANS.

I would like to share with you and request you to partner with me for two important campaigns close to my heart and the core of this year's programs. The first one is DHEERA Stop Violence Against Women Campaign and the other is Respectful Abortion Care.

I strongly believe that women reach their full potential and optimum health goals only when they have access to reproductive human rights in a coercion free and violence free safe environment. As OBGYNs and as women's primary care physicians and first point of contact to millions of women, we FOGSIANS have a tremendous responsibility.

In a historic move to provide universal access for reproductive health services, India amended the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act 1971 with increased access of comprehensive abortion care for all. The new Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act 2021 which came into force from 25 March 2021, aims to contribute significantly towards ending preventable maternal mortality to help in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and expand access to safe legal abortion services on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian, and social grounds.

The changes simplify requirement of providers, increase upper gestation limit for termination of pregnancy under specific conditions. The purpose is to strengthen access to comprehensive abortion care, without compromising service, safety, and quality of safe abortion. It also ensures dignity, autonomy, confidentiality, and justice for women who need to terminate pregnancy.

FOGSI in partnership with WHO India is embarking upon an ambitious program to disseminate this information in a data-driven, evidence-based manner across India. I earnestly urge you to be part of this campaign.

Violence against women is a violation of their rights and dignity, leading to health issues as well, unwanted pregnancies, complications during pregnancy, miscarriage, low birth weight babies and maternal mortality. VAW is now a larger public concern and thus needs to continuously be on the radar of Governments,

policy makers, organizations working for women and women's health, healthcare providers, educational institutions etc. No change is possible until the young people, boys and girls embrace it and make it part of their lives.

DHEERA, this year adds a new page in collaboration with UNICEF and has 4 pillared strategies to combat VAW

- Pillar 1 – Boys' group education alongside girls- DHEERA – ONLINE SCHOOL CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME
- Pillar 2 – Build capacities & sensitize health care professionals of VAW -WORK SHOPS /CMES FOR OBGYNs
- Pillar 3 – working with parents of school going (9th – 12th) children.
- Pillar 4 – Intensive community-level work and awareness-raising campaigns

I am very happy to share with all that we will be launching an ambitious yet future forward looking programme of DHEERA -The Online School Certification programme in the schools along the length and breadth of the country. The course is structured and prepared by our experts in the field which is highly interactive. The aim is to involve the Ministry of education and make this important course a part of the school curriculum.

I look forward for the cooperation of all the 262 FOGSI affiliated societies to take this program forward to all schools in your region. There will be training of TOTs and creation of Master Trainers and Trainers Pool from all the members coordinated by the Presidents and Secretaries of the Societies, whom I call upon to be the harbingers of change and ambassadors of DHEERA to reach all the schools in their region in the forthcoming year. Let us dream and bring about a Just Equitable and fair world for our girls and women.

Also there will be parallel workshop programs aimed at sensitising all the obgyns of FOGSI to all aspects of VAW and the health repercussions and how to deal with them.

I thank you for all the enthusiasm, cooperation and the zeal you have shown in the past 3 months and hope to walk together and work together for goals to be achieved and dreams to be fulfilled

"FOGSI FOR ALL ALWAYS, DHEERA STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN."

S. Shantha Kumari

Dr. S. Shantha Kumari
President FOGSI 2021-2022.

