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knowledge, evidence, practice and power

call for papers

RHM 47
May 2016

Gender based and sexual violence:

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Knowledge, evidence, practice and power - editorial
Dr Shirin Heidari, RHM Editor
'It is an editor's foremost responsibility to assess the limits and possibilities of new knowledge ... The theme of this issue extends beyond knowledge production and engages with the domain of evidence-based policy and practice that appeals to the advocate in me. As Johann Wolfgang von Goethe has said, "Knowing is not enough, we must apply; willing is not enough, we must act".'
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barriers to reproductive health and rights

deadline November 2015

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Farewell, but not goodbye! - editorial
Marge Berer, RHM founding editor

'RHM has never been just a journal or a place to park one's research findings, either for me or for those publishing in and involved with it. The aim was always to bring people together to use knowledge as a power for good. I'm proud that literally thousands of people have come together in these pages to share and add value to each other's work and offer so much information to each other about all the ways of improving sexual and reproductive health and people's lives. I hope the RHM community will go on serving that purpose for many years to come.' read more...

A Tribute to RHM Founding Editor, Marge Berer

This issue marks a turning point in the history of RHM as a journal, as its founding editor, Marge Berer, hands over to a new editor, Shirin Heidari. It is therefore timely to recognize the tremendous contribution RHM has made with Marge at its helm to the sexual and reproductive health field. read more...

Papers in RHM45 report on studies from Argentina, Cambodia, Chile, Ecuador, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda the United States and Venezuela. They address a wide range of topics related to the theme, including: Abortion law and practice, safe abortion hotlines, young people and contraception; under-representation of marginalised groups in fertility research; facilitating advocates to impact the research agenda; suppression of research on sex workers and HIV; mHealth and ICT in sexual and reproductive health and rights; scaling up family planning interventions; using photos and animation as a vehicle for knowledge generation and dissemination and more. read all the papers here

A selection of papers from the current journal

Historical note: How bringing women’s health advocacy groups to WHO helped change the research agenda
Jane Cottingham

This paper reports on an initiative by the World Health Organization in the 1990s to include women's health advocates in discussions with scientists and researchers about contraception. The advocates could speak about women's lived experience of contraception and family planning programmes. This resulted in an examination of concepts such as efficacy, acceptability, ethics and safety in broader terms than scientific research normally allows.

"If a woman has even one daughter, I refuse to perform the
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information and resources for authors
information on forthcoming journal themes and calls for papers
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abortion": Sex determination and safe abortion in India
Pritam Potdar, Alka Barua, Suchitra Dalvie, Anand Pawar
There is a tension between two laws in India: one which enables doctors to provide safe, legal abortion, the other which outlaws the identification of the sex of the child pre-conception, or pre-natally. This paper reports on a study exploring the impact of these laws on decisions of private medical practitioners to provide or deny abortions; and the impact their decisions have on women.

Speaking of sex workers: How suppression of research has distorted the United States' domestic HIV response
Anna Forbes
Research on sex workers and HIV in the United States is constrained not only by criminalisation, but by ideological opposition to research addressing issues such as AIDS, drug use, and sex work - resulting in self-censorship of both the content and labelling of research. As a result data to inform programmes and law doesn't exist or where it does it can be hard to find.

Using photovoice to examine community level barriers affecting maternal health in rural Wakiso district, Uganda
David Musoke, Elizabeth Ekirapa-Kiracho, Rawlance Ndejjo, Asha George
The authors describe using photovoice, a community-based research approach to identify and solve local problems. Participants took photographs, discussed and reflected on their implications, to develop an understanding of barriers women face in accessing maternity care. As well as known practical problems, the project identified key gender-related determinants of maternal health.

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