



Recognising the poor health and nutritional status of women and girls, the health care system has to play a critical role in addressing gender based discrimination and violence. It is imperative that the system provides within reach, affordable, quality, and gender sensitive services especially to women and girls.

Service Delivery

- Health care providers have to ensure privacy and dignity of women clients irrespective of class, caste or religion.
- Access and availability of quality affordable services and continuity of care is imperative. Services have to be available within a reasonable physical and social distance with required access to women providers.
- Essential and life-saving medicines of optimum quality have to be available at affordable prices. Unbiased drug information pertaining to them has to be provided along with ensuring rational use of these medicines.
- Strict implementation of the service guidelines and protocols should be ensured, specifically for different national health programmes including those for tubectomy, vasectomy, oral contraceptives and IUD. Development of guidelines and protocols for services such as Ante-Natal care, Post natal care etc. are necessary to contribute to reduction of maternal mortality and ensuring safe motherhood.
- Informed choice and decision-making, voluntary acceptance, quality of care, and access to a basket of options and accessibility must form the cornerstone of contraceptive service delivery.
- Male participation has to be enhanced while encouraging responsible sexual and reproductive health behaviour among men.

Facilitating Care

- Health care system must address VAW as a public health concern. Providers should be equipped to address the issue through pre as well as in-service training programmes. Their capacities to identify and deal with women facing violence should be enhanced.
- Programme planners and managers must ensure that women health providers are able to perform their duties in a safe and secure environment.
- Citizens charter of services should be prepared, incorporating gender and violence issues. Grievance redressal mechanisms must be instituted at all levels to address violation of the charter, programme excesses as well personnel concerns of women providers including violence, mobility, postings, etc.
- Programme managers and providers must ensure implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Technique (PCPNDT) Act to prevent sex selection. They must also ensure provision of timely assistance in medico-legal cases.

Enabling Environment

- Since women's health is determined by their socio-economic and political reality, there is an urgent need to ensure inter-sectoral coordination in addressing their health concerns.
- Self help groups and Panchayati Raj institutions as constituents associated with different ministries and departments such as Women and Child Development, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Home, Health and Family Welfare, need to effectively work together.
- In creating awareness on implications of gender on health, gender sensitization of policy makers,





programme managers and providers is imperative in enhancing their understanding and responsiveness to women's concerns. The curricula for medical as well as paramedical providers should include gender implications on health as a critical element.

- Health IEC material has to be gender sensitive, culturally appropriate and developed in a participatory manner.

Planning and Monitoring

- Gender sensitive indicators are critical to monitoring and bridging gender gaps in health service provision. Gender disaggregated data collection is fundamental to gender sensitive formulation and implementation of health policies and programmes. All health data must be gender disaggregated, and new indicators incorporated wherever necessary. Registration of marriages and births (including those which take place at home) has to be ensured.
- Gender equitable health and social development plans must be developed especially for the backward districts to ensure access and utilisation of health services, overall improvement of health indicators and empowerment of women.

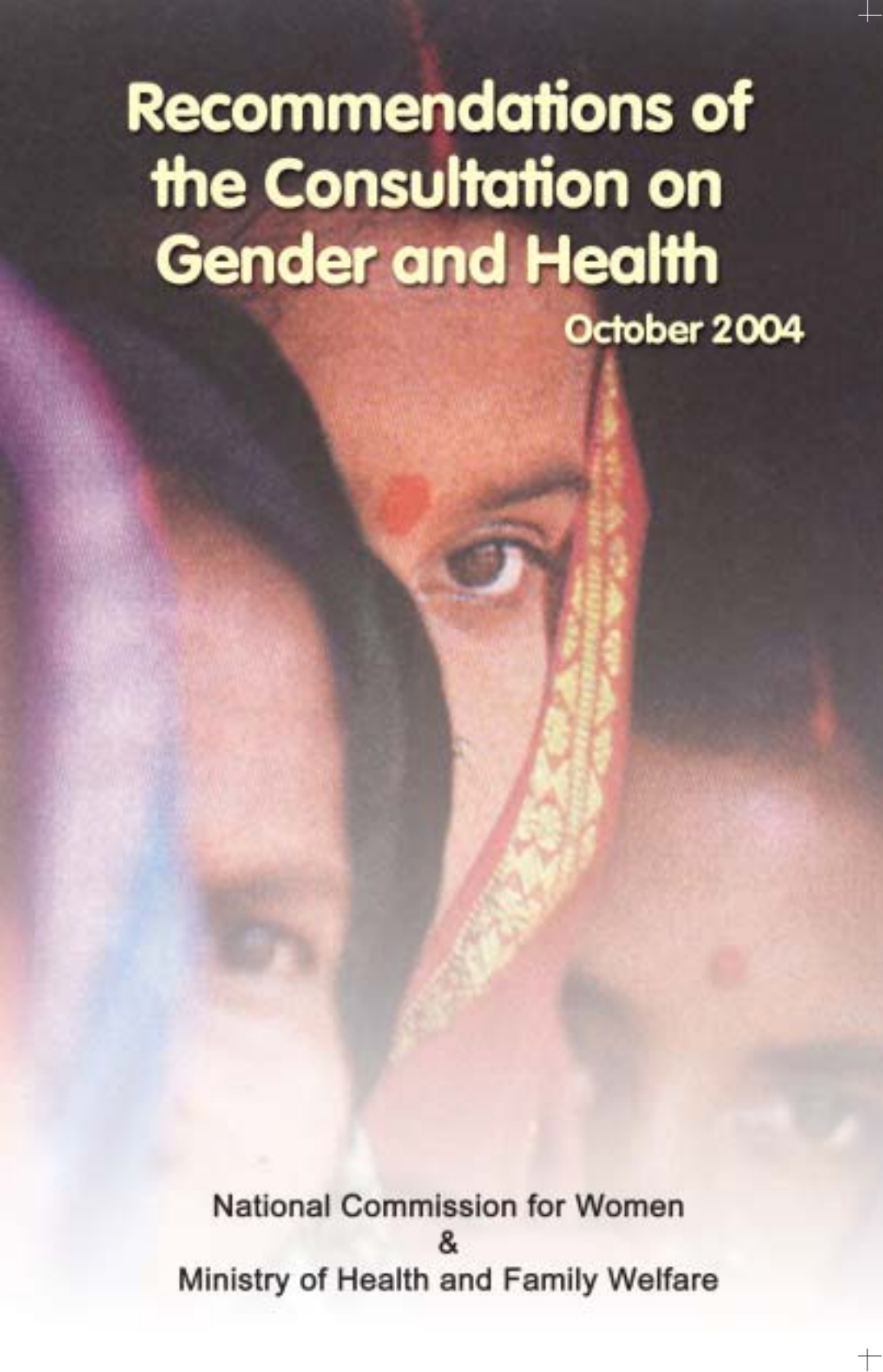


National Commission
for Women



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare



Recommendations of the Consultation on Gender and Health

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**National Commission for Women
&
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**