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PROGRAMME: M.A., GENDER STUDIES

Course Title : GENDER HEALTH AND NUTRITION
Code : CC – III

Unit III: Reproductive Health: Gender Implications

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Introduction



- ▶ **Definition of Reproductive Health:** Complete physical, mental, and social well-being in all aspects related to reproduction.
- ▶ **Importance of Gender Implications:**
 - ▶ Unequal access to reproductive health services.
 - ▶ Impact of cultural norms and societal expectations.

Approaches and Components of Reproductive and Sexual Health

- ▶ **Key Components:**

- ▶ Access to contraception and safe pregnancy care.
- ▶ Prevention and treatment of RTIs/STIs.
- ▶ Safe abortion and post-abortion care.

- ▶ **Approaches:**

- ▶ Rights-based frameworks.
- ▶ Comprehensive education.
- ▶ Gender-sensitive healthcare.

Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs)



- ▶ **Examples:** IVF, surrogacy, and egg/sperm donation.
- ▶ **Gender Implications:**
 - ▶ Commercialization of surrogacy exploits poor women.
 - ▶ Emotional and financial burden on women in infertility treatments.

Gender Issues in Health Morbidity and Mortality



- ▶ **Physical Health Issues:**

- ▶ Maternal mortality due to lack of care.
- ▶ RTIs, STIs, HIV/AIDS.

- ▶ **Mental Health Issues:**

- ▶ Stigma associated with reproductive health conditions.
- ▶ Depression linked to infertility or unintended pregnancies.

RTI/STI and HIV/AIDS



▶ RTIs/STIs:

- ▶ Increased vulnerability among women due to biological and social factors.
- ▶ Stigma limiting access to treatment.

▶ HIV/AIDS:

- ▶ Gender disparity in care and prevention access.
- ▶ Impact on women, children, and marginalized groups.

Child Marriage and Early Pregnancy



- ▶ **Impact on Reproductive Health:**

- ▶ Increased risk of maternal and infant mortality.
- ▶ Restricted education and economic opportunities.

- ▶ **Gender Implications:**

- ▶ Violation of rights and autonomy.

Malnutrition and Declining Sex Ratio

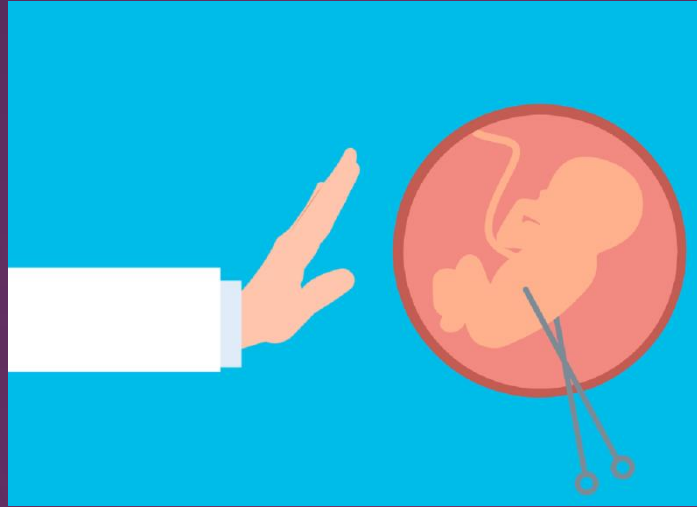


- ▶ Impacts maternal health and fetal development.
- ▶ Higher prevalence in women due to gender bias in food allocation.

Declining Sex Ratio:

- ▶ Result of son preference and gender-based abortions.

Unintended Pregnancy and Abortion



▶ **Causes:**

- ▶ Lack of contraception.
- ▶ Gender-based pressure for male offspring.

▶ **Impact on Women:**

- ▶ Health risks and emotional trauma.
- ▶ Economic and social consequences.

Infertility and Its Gender Issues



- ▶ **Challenges for Women:**

- ▶ Stigma and blame in patriarchal societies.
- ▶ Increased risk of domestic violence and mental health issues.

- ▶ **Son Preference:**

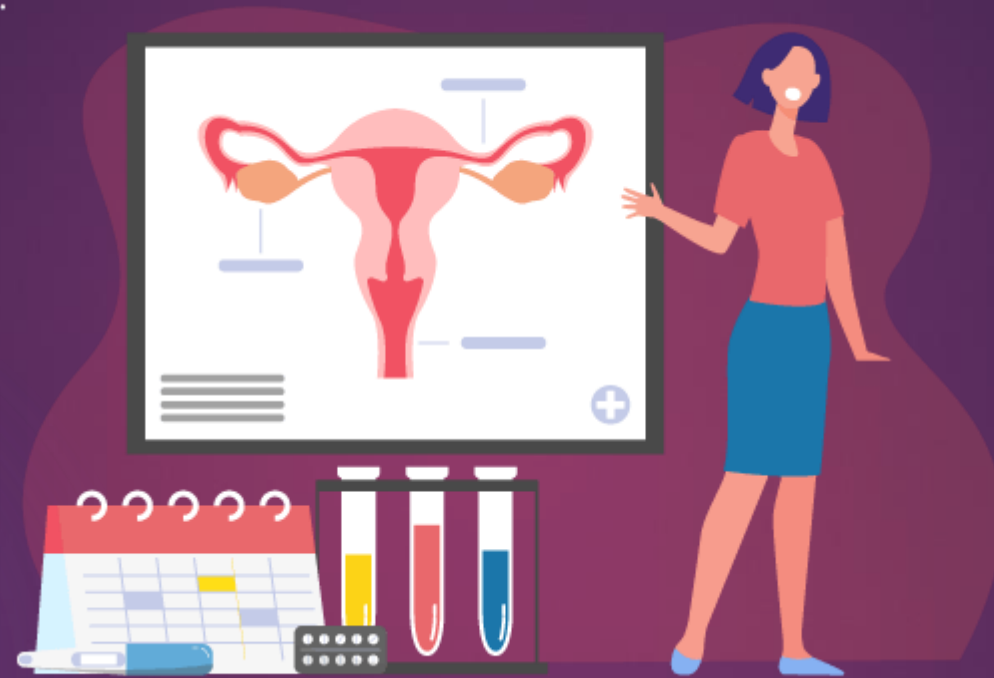
- ▶ Reinforces pressure on women to bear male children.

Cancer, Menstruation, and Menopause



- ▶ **Reproductive Cancers:** Cervical, ovarian, and breast cancer.
- ▶ **Menstruation and Hygiene:**
 - ▶ Lack of access to menstrual products impacts girls' education.
- ▶ **Menopause:**
 - ▶ Stigma and neglect in addressing health issues.

Work Hazards in Reproductive Health



- ▶ **Impact on Women and Children:**

- ▶ Exploitation in informal sectors.
- ▶ Poor maternity benefits and unsafe working conditions.

- ▶ **Marginalized Groups:**

- ▶ Increased vulnerability among sex workers and LGBTQ+ individuals.

Gender Issues in Sexuality and Objectification



- ▶ **Indifferent Attitude:**

- ▶ Neglect of male and female sexual health education.

- ▶ **Objectification of Women:**

- ▶ Commoditization through surrogacy, trafficking, and media portrayal.

Menstrual Hygiene and Its Importance

▶ Challenges:

- ▶ Taboos and stigma surrounding menstruation.
- ▶ Lack of education and sanitation facilities.

▶ Solutions:

- ▶ Awareness campaigns and affordable menstrual products.



Field Visit and Observations



- ▶ **Places to Visit:**

- ▶ Homes for AIDS-affected children.
- ▶ Centers for transgender or disabled individuals.

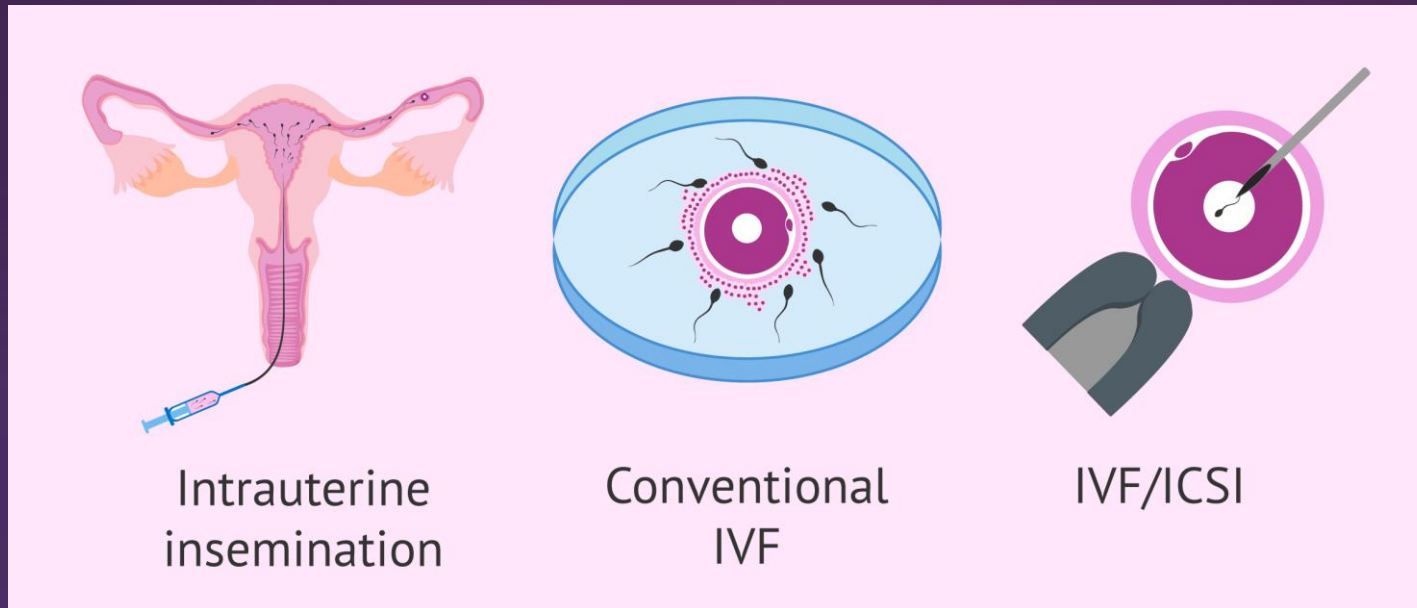
- ▶ **Objective:** Understand challenges and strategies for better care.

Debates on Abortion



- ▶ **Pro-Choice Perspective:** Advocates for women's right to decide.
- ▶ **Pro-Life Perspective:** Concerns about the rights of the fetus.
- ▶ **Challenges:** Legal, ethical, and social dilemmas.

Burden of Infertility and Reproductive Technology



- ▶ **Economic and Emotional Costs:**

- ▶ High expenses of ARTs burden families, especially women.

- ▶ **Social Impact:**

- ▶ Reinforces traditional gender roles.

Family Planning and Gender Equity



- ▶ **Goals:** Ensure informed decisions about family size.
- ▶ **Challenges:**
 - ▶ Male dominance in decision-making.
 - ▶ Limited access to contraception for women.
- ▶ **Solutions:** Gender-sensitive family planning programs.

Key Strategies for Addressing Gender Implications



- ▶ **Policy Changes:** Gender-focused healthcare policies.
- ▶ **Education:** Comprehensive reproductive health education.
- ▶ **Access:** Affordable and inclusive healthcare for marginalized groups.
- ▶ **Awareness Campaigns:** Addressing stigma and taboos.

Conclusion

- ▶ **Summary:** Reproductive health is deeply influenced by gender norms and inequalities.
- ▶ **Call to Action:**
 - ▶ Strengthen healthcare access for women and marginalized groups.
 - ▶ Promote education and gender equity in reproductive health policies.

Thank You...