

Editorial

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How to cite this article:

Chhugani M. Editorial. *Int J Nurs Midwif Res* 2020; 7(1): 1-1.

Nurses and Midwives are the backbone of healthcare. In order to appreciate and recognize the work of midwives and nurses, every year, May 5th is celebrated as International Day of the Midwives and May 12th as International Nurses Day.

May 5th, 'International Day of the Midwife' is a day when all come together as a global health community to celebrate midwives, and the commitment of the midwifery profession globally to saving lives and upholding the rights of women to a safe and positive birth. **The theme of International Day of the Midwife -2020 is "Midwives with women: celebrate, demonstrate, mobilise, unite- our time is NOW!"** and coincidentally, this is markedly relevant to the current scenario, amidst global pandemic where midwives have achieved or rising to their extra ordinary capabilities and accepting challenges to save the mothers and babies. The innovation, flexibility, resilience and caring nature of the midwives is being acknowledged today all over the world. International Day of the Midwife is a great opportunity for us to showcase how exceptionally proud we are of the way maternity teams have risen to this unprecedented challenge, adapting services and adopting new technology to ensure that mums and babies continue to receive the same great care as they always have, in the safest possible way. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 83 percent of all maternal deaths, stillbirths, and new born deaths could be averted with the full package of midwifery care. For the first time, countries across the world will unite in recognition of the essential role that midwives play in achieving Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health Coverage.

May 12th is another important landmark in Nursing as it marks the birth anniversary of Ms. Florence Nightingale, a pioneer of modern nursing. It is celebrated as International Nurses Day around the world in order to honor the nurses for their remarkable work. This year, 2020, the theme for the International Day of the Nurse which also marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale is **"Nurses: A Voice to Lead- Nursing the World to Health"**. It exhibits how nurses play a vital role in addressing the health challenges and promotion of health. The theme is even more apt in the present times where nurses are the frontline warriors in fighting with the covid-19 pandemic. Nurses are putting in their best in promoting health and saving lives.

May we all sail through these difficult times, safe and healthy!

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