

**‘International Day of Action for Women’s Health’  
May 28, 2016**

**Consultation Workshop on Cervical Cancer**

**Organised by: Gender Resource Centre (GRC), Women Development Corporation (WDC)**

**Technical partner: State Health Society Bihar (SHSB), Department of Health, GoB**

**Venue: Hotel Maurya, South Gandhi Maidan, Patna**

A consultation workshop on “**Cervical Cancer**” was organized by Gender Resource Centre, Women Development Corporation, Government of Bihar in association with State Health Society at Hotel Maurya, Patna to commemorate the “**International Day of Action for Women’s Health**” i.e 28 May 2016.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of the occasion, Minister for Social Welfare, Government of Bihar Mrs. Kumari Manju Verma said that this initiative WDC will prove a milestone in the field of women health in Bihar. Cancer is a fatal disease but it can be prevented, so it is important to create mass awareness at grassroots level. She mentioned that she will try to take up the issue at the cabinet level and will do what best can be done to combat the issue of cervical cancer.

Dr. N Vijayalakshmi, Managing Director, Women Development Corporation has shown her great concern about the increasing rate of cervical cancer in India, particularly in a developing state like Bihar. She said that generating awareness about the growing menace of cancer among the mass at both rural and urban level is very necessary. Further she said that WDC is committed for the cause of women and now Gender Resource Centre (GRC) has also been established to support it. An annual calendar has been also discussed and prepared by us to mark the days related to women’s issues. Every month we will addressing at least one concern of women and will raise the issue to be deliberated. For cervical cancer she stressed upon introducing the vaccination programme for girls like any other immunization programme. She mentioned that she will take up the issue with the health department and will see that what best can be done in collaboration; WDC will not just support but will also propagate the issue.

Renowned surgeon of Bihar Dr. Abdul Ahmad Hai made a research based presentation and shared the extent of the prevalence of the cervical cancer in India and how it is important to devise a strategy at all levels. Senior Oncologist Dr. Jitendra Kumar Singh discussed the magnitude and consequence of this disease. . Dr. Rambha Pandey, Surgical Oncologist from AIIMS, Delhi talked about the complications, precaution and treatment of the cervical cancer.

While briefing the theme of the day which was “Prevent Cervical Cancer” Anand Madhab, Principal Consultant, Gender Resource Centre said that ignorance is darkness and prevention is cure. He said that our objective is not to just organize a one day event on cervical cancer but the objectives of this event are to :

- a) Devise a massive multi media campaign designed to create awareness on Cervical Cancer.
- b) Introduce effective screening and vaccination for young girls as a policy programme by the state government.

A panel discussion was also organized on this occasion moderated by Dr. Abdul Ahmad Hai. Dr. Ravi Shankar Singh, Regional Director & CEO, PARAS-HMRI, Easter Zone said that to fight against cervical cancer we need a multi-pronged strategy and a comprehensive, collective effort. PARAS is committed to the cause and assured to extend all technical support. Senior Gynecologists Dr. Sheila Sharma, Dr. Punam Dixit, Dr. Kumkum Sinha, Consultant Radiation Oncologist, Dr. Sneha Jha, Senior Consultant Radiology, Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt. also shared their expertise on this occasion. –Following recommendations were given by the learned panelists:

- A) Government should devise a proper and comprehensive action plan for vaccination and screening of young girls for Cervical Cancer
- B) Effective hygiene behavior must be propagated

C) Healthy sexual behavior should be practiced and promoted

D) “To catch them young” should be a part of school curriculum for the young students

Mr. Himanshu Kumar Rai, AED, SHSB and Jt. Secretary, Department of Health, Government of Bihar said he will take up the issue with his senior officers and will try make a impactful programme to fight against cervical cancer. He urged for the needful support from senior Doctors and private hospitals working in this field.

Mr. Rupesh Kumar, Project Director, WDC summarized the discourses of the day during consultation and proposed a vote of thanks.