

DICTIONARY



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

HRLN
HUMAN RIGHTS LAW NETWORK

DICTIONARY

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS



HUMAN RIGHTS LAW NETWORK: OUR VISION

- To protect fundamental human rights, increase access to basic resources for marginalized communities, and eliminate discrimination.
- To create a justice delivery system that is accessible, accountable, transparent, efficient and affordable, and works for the underprivileged.
- To raise the level of *pro bono* legal expertise for the poor to make the work uniformly competent as well as compassionate.
- To equip through professional training a new generation of public interest lawyers and paralegals who are comfortable both in the world of law as well as in social movements, and who learn from the social movements to refine legal concepts and strategies.
- To work towards an increased awareness of rights as universal and indivisible, and their realization of an immediate goal.

DICTIONARY: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHT

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How to use this dictionary

This dictionary is specifically intended to help users understand the various terms that are widely used while in literature and conversations around Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR). A huge part of SRHR is disseminating elaborate and relevant information, primarily regarding medical, legal and social dimensions of SRHR and that is exactly what this dictionary intends to do.

One can use it to:

- Understand medical terms that are used in the SRHR discourse
- Understand the basic premise of various laws, policies and their components as well as the acronyms for the same as per existing government policies of SRHR
- Understand the sociological terms that place SRHR in the context of personal identity, social relations and society at large

The terms in the dictionary are arranged in an alphabetical manner, with elaborate definitions provided to the right of the terms. Users can look up the terms in the dictionary to gain a basic understanding of them, which they can later supplement with other readings to gain a nuanced perspective. Vice versa, users can also use the dictionary to understand the basic meanings of new terms that they come across while reading up on SRHR. The dictionary can also aid students by guiding them with necessary information about SRHR. In short, users can rely on this dictionary to provide them with a fundamental explanation of terms used while discussing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights.

TERM	Definition
ABACAVIR	Abacavir belongs to a class of drugs known as nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors-NRTI, commonly produced by brand Ziagen. This drug is used with other HIV medications to help control HIV infection. It helps to decrease the amount of HIV in your body so your immune system can work better. This lowers your chance of getting HIV complications (such as new infections, cancer).

TERM	Definition
ABORTION	<p>Abortion is a procedure to end a pregnancy, i.e. Termination of a pregnancy before the fetus is capable of sustaining an independent life outside the uterus. It uses medicine or surgery to remove the embryo or fetus and placenta from the uterus. It is advisable that the procedure is done by a licensed health care professional. An abortion can either be spontaneous abortion otherwise known as miscarriage, or it can be brought about by deliberate intervention known as induced abortion. The stage at which a fetus is considered viable varies according to different legislations and recommendations. In India, abortion is legal and can be undertaken.</p> <p>The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 permits abortion to be performed only when the pregnancy poses a risk to the life of the pregnant woman, or, of grave injury to her physical or mental health, or, when there is a substantial risk of the child being born with physical or mental abnormalities so as to be seriously handicapped. A registered medical practitioner may terminate the pregnancy up to twelve weeks of gestation but where the period is between twelve to twenty weeks, the opinion of two registered medical practitioners is required. The limit of twenty weeks may be crossed only when the procedure is performed to save the life of the woman. Importantly, a pregnancy that results from rape or failure of a contraceptive device between married couples is viewed as causing grave injury to the mental health of the woman.</p>
ABSTINENCE	Abstinence is a voluntary restraint to certain acts or behaviors which give us pleasure. Sexual abstinence is a conscious decision to abstain from any sexual contact. For some, it may mean no sexual contact. For others, it may mean no penetration (anal, vaginal) and only 'lower-risk' behaviors (oral sex).

TERM	Definition
ACTG	AIDS Clinical Trials Group. The AIDS Clinical Trials Group network is one of the largest HIV clinical trials organizations in the world, playing a major role in setting standards of care for HIV infection and opportunistic diseases related to HIV and AIDS.
ACYCLOVIR	A drug used to treat the outbreak of genital herpes. In people with frequent outbreaks, acyclovir is used to help reduce the number of future episodes. Acyclovir is an antiviral drug. However, it is not a cure for these infections. The viruses that cause these infections continue to live in the body even between outbreaks. Acyclovir decreases the severity and length of these outbreaks.
ADAP	AIDS Drug Assistance Program - AIDS Drug Assistance Programs are a set of programs in all 50-states in the United States that provide Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved HIV treatment drugs to low income patients in the U.S. The programs are administered by each state with funds distributed by the United States government.
ADOLESCENCE	Adolescence (comes from the Latin word adolescere, (to) grow) is a transitional stage of physical and mental human development that occurs between childhood and adulthood. It generally occurs during the period from puberty to legal adulthood. Adolescence is usually associated with the teenage years, but its physical, psychological or cultural expressions may begin earlier and end later. The World Health Organization uses 10-19 year age range to define adolescence, with further divisions for early adolescence: 10-14 years, and late adolescence: 15-19 years.

TERM	Definition
AFHC	<p>Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics. Under the National Health Mission, AFHC entails a whole gamut of clinical and counseling services on diverse adolescent health issues ranging from Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) to Nutrition, Substance abuse, Injuries and Violence (including Gender-based violence, Non-Communicable Diseases, and Mental Health. Adolescent Friendly Health Services are delivered through trained service providers.</p> <p>The key 'friendly' component of AFHC mandates facility-based clinical and counseling services for adolescents, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable—services are provided to all adolescents who need them. • Accessible—ready accessibility to AFHCs by adolescents i.e. AFHC should be established where adolescents can go without hesitation, for example, it should not be placed near labor rooms, integrated counseling and treatment centers, Sexual and Reproductive Transmitted Infections (STI/RTI) center etc. • Acceptable—health providers meet the expectation of adolescents who use the services. • Appropriate—the required care is provided and any unnecessary and harmful practices are avoided. • Effective—healthcare produces positive change in the status of the adolescents; services are efficient and have high quality. The right health services are provided in the right way, and make a positive contribution to their health. • Comprehensive—care provision covers promotive, preventive and curative aspects.
AGAMMAGLOBULINEMIA	<p>Agammaglobulinemia is an inherited disorder in which a person has very low levels of protective immune system proteins called immunoglobulins. Immunoglobulins are a type of antibody. Low levels of these antibodies make you more likely to get infections.</p>

TERM	Definition
AIDS	The acronym stands for Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome, the late stage of infection caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). HIV steadily weakens the body's defense (immune) system until the immune system can no longer fight off life-threatening illnesses. These include infections such as pneumonia and certain cancers.
AMPRENAVIR	Also called Agenerase This drug was discontinued as of October of 2007 (Reference below) Amprenavir is an oral medication that is used for treating infections with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). It is in a class of drugs called protease inhibitors, among others.
ANC	Antenatal care or prenatal care is the routine health check-up of presumed healthy pregnant women without symptoms (screening), in order to diagnose diseases or complicating obstetric conditions without symptoms and to provide information about lifestyle, pregnancy, and delivery. Its goal is to provide regular check-ups that allow doctors or midwives to treat and prevent potential health problems throughout the course of the pregnancy and to promote healthy lifestyles that benefit both mother and child.
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife is a village-level female health worker in India who is known as the first contact person between the community and the health services. ANMs are regarded as grass-roots workers in the health organization pyramid. Their services are considered important to provide safe and effective care to village communities. The role may help communities achieve the targets of national health programs.
ANNIVERSARY SYNDROME	This "anniversary" can be the aborted child's due date or the date of the abortion. On these dates, individuals that have this abortion PTSD symptom can feel horrible for no apparent reason. It can take years to realize these dates are related to their abortion experience.

TERM	Definition
ANTIBODY DEPENDENT CELL MEDIATED CYTOTOXICITY (ADCC)	<p>The antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC), also referred to as antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity, is a mechanism of cell-mediated immune defense whereby an effector cell of the immune system actively lyses a target cell, whose membrane-surface antigens have been bound by specific antibodies.</p> <p>An increasing body of evidence suggests that ADCC-mediating antibodies, particularly when combined with neutralizing functions, can facilitate prevention and control of HIV-1.</p>
ART	Antiretroviral therapy drugs are combinations of medicines for the treatment of infection by a retrovirus, primarily HIV, it reduces the risk of HIV transmission. The combination of several drug approaches is known as "Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy" or HAART.
ARSH	<p>Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health</p> <p>In order to reduce risky sexual behavior and empower adolescents to make informed decisions for facing the challenges of life, they need to develop the necessary life skills. Thus, the focus of interventions with adolescents has to shift from information giving to building life skills. While life skills are built through experimental learning, these skills can be enhanced in the context of ARSH. The ARSH program has evolved keeping these needs in mind. It plans to increase the health-seeking behavior in the adolescent age group and provide them with the right knowledge about various aspects of their growing life.</p>
ASHA	<p>Accredited Social Health Activist</p> <p>He/ She is a community health worker instituted by the government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) as a part of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). A trained female community health activist ASHA is selected from the village itself and accountable to it. The ASHA will be trained to work as an interface between the community and the public health system.</p>

TERM	Definition
ASYMPTOMATIC	<p>Asymptomatic means there are no symptoms. You are considered asymptomatic if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have recovered from an illness or condition and no longer have symptoms • Have an illness or condition but do not have symptoms of it.
BASAL BODY TEMPERATURE	<p>Your basal body temperature is your temperature when you're fully at rest. Ovulation may cause a slight increase in basal body temperature.</p> <p>You'll be most fertile during the two to three days before your temperature rises. By tracking your basal body temperature each day, you may be able to predict when you'll ovulate. In turn, this may help you determine when you're most likely to conceive.</p> <p>Otherwise known as fertility awareness method (FAM) where the body temperature each morning determines the fertile phase in a woman's menstrual cycle. During the fertile period, sexual intercourse is either avoided or other forms of contraception are used.</p>
BIOMEDICAL WASTE	<p>Any waste generated during the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals. Medical waste is any kind of waste that contains infectious material (or material that's potentially infectious). This definition includes waste generated by healthcare facilities like physician's offices, hospitals, dental practices, laboratories, medical research facilities, and veterinary clinics.</p> <p>Medical waste can contain bodily fluids like blood or other contaminants.</p> <p>The Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, issued in 2016, detail the requirements for disposal and treatment of bio-medical waste so as not to cause any adverse effect to human health and the environment.</p>

TERM	Definition
BIRTH CONTROL	<p>Birth control is any method used to prevent pregnancy. There are many different methods of birth control including condoms, IUDs, birth control pills, the rhythm method, vasectomy, and tubal ligation.</p> <p>This term was used in the early days of modern family planning. It is not strictly a synonym for family planning or contraception, though it is often used as such, as it refers to all methods of preventing births, including abstinence and abortion.</p>
CALENDAR METHOD	<p>The calendar method helps you predict your fertile days by tracking the length of your menstrual cycles over several months.</p> <p>The calendar method helps you predict your fertile days by tracking the length of your menstrual cycles over several months.</p> <p>To predict the first fertile day (when you can get pregnant) in your current cycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find the shortest cycle in your past record. • Subtract 18 from the total number of days in that cycle. • Count that number from day 1 of your current cycle, and mark that day with an X. (Include day 1 when you count.) • The day marked X is your first fertile day. <p>Doing this enables a woman to determine whether or not she is fertile on a given day of her menstrual cycle and avoid sexual intercourse or use contraception on those days.</p>

TERM	Definition
CEDAW	<p>Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</p> <p>It is an international treaty adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly. Described as an international bill of rights for women, India signed and ratified CEDAW in 1993.</p> <p>It is one of the core international human rights treaties of the United Nations treaty system, which requires the Member States to undertake legal obligations to respect, protect and fulfill human rights.</p> <p>The articles of CEDAW fall into three main groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature and scope of the State's obligations; the second set of articles targets • Specific forms of discrimination and outlines measures that the State must undertake to eliminate discrimination in each of these areas; and • Procedural and administrative matters, such as the way the CEDAW reporting process works.
CERVICAL LACERATION	<p>Cervical tears usually occur during vaginal delivery. Cervical lacerations (CL) are a known cause of postpartum hemorrhage.</p>
CERVICAL MUCOUS METHOD	<p>The cervical mucus method is based on careful observation of mucus patterns during the course of your menstrual cycle. Before ovulation, cervical secretions change — creating an environment that helps sperm travel through the cervix, uterus and fallopian tubes to the egg. By recognizing the changing characteristics of your cervical mucus, you can predict when you'll ovulate, which can help you determine when you're most likely to conceive.</p> <p>If you're hoping to avoid pregnancy, you can use the cervical mucus method to determine which days to avoid unprotected sex.</p>

TERM	Definition
CHC	<p>Community Health Centers (CHCs) are private, non-profit entities that deliver health care services based on consumer influence and participation. Typically, CHCs provide primary and preventive care to medically underserved and uninsured people.</p> <p>CHCs are being established and maintained by the State Government under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP)/ Basic Minimum Services (BMS). As per minimum norms, in India, a CHC is required to be manned by four medical specialists i.e. Surgeon, Physician, Gynecologist and Pediatrician supported by 21 paramedical and other staff. It has 30 in-door beds with one OT, X-ray, Labor Room, and Laboratory facilities. It serves as a referral center for 4 PHCs and also provides facilities for obstetric care and specialist consultations.</p>
CHILD TRAFFICKING	<p>Trafficking of children is a form of human trafficking and is defined as the «recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, and/or receipt» of a child for the purpose of slavery, forced labor, and exploitation.</p> <p>It is a violation of their rights, their well-being and denies them the opportunity to reach their full potential.</p>
CLANDESTINE	Planned or done in secret, especially describing something that is not officially allowed. It is a secret, usually illegal activity.
CDPOS	<p>Child Development Project Officers</p> <p>The Child Development Project Officer is the key functionary of the scheme of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). They are responsible for the organization of services as also for the administration and implementation of this scheme at the field level.</p>

TERM	Definition
CLPR	<p>The Child Labour (protection and regulation) Act, 1986 amended in 2016. A "Child" is defined as any person below the age of 15, and the CLPR Act prohibits employment of a Child in any employment including domestic help. It is a cognizable criminal offense to employ a Child for any work.</p> <p>Children between the age of 14 and 18 are defined as "Adolescent" and the law allows adolescents to be employed except in the listed hazardous occupation.</p>
COERCIVE STERILIZATION	<p>It also is known as forced or coerced sterilization; programs are government policies that force people to undergo surgical or other sterilization.</p> <p>The reasons governments implement sterilization programs vary in purpose and intent like general population growth management, sex discrimination, "sex-normalizing" surgeries of intersex persons, limiting the spread of HIV and reducing the population of ethnic groups, etc.</p>
COMBINED ORAL CONTRACEPTIVE	<p>The Combined Oral Contraceptive Pill (COCP) often referred to as the birth control pill or simply the 'the pill' includes estrogen and Progestin hormones.</p> <p>Combination birth control pills keep your ovaries from releasing an egg. They also cause changes in the cervical mucus and the lining of the uterus (endometrium) to keep sperm from joining the egg thus, inhibiting fertility.</p>
CONCEPTION	The process of a male (sperm) and a female (egg) sex cell joining and causing a zygote to implant on the wall of the uterus, which later develops into a fetus.
CONSENT	It refers to permission for something to happen or agreement to do something.
CONTRACEPTIVE/ CONDOM OUTLET	The final distribution point where clients receive their contraceptives including condoms (clinic, pharmacy, CBS workers, etc.).

TERM	Definition
CRC	<p>Convention on Rights of the Child</p> <p>It is a human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. The Convention defines a child as any human being under the age of eighteen unless the age of majority is attained earlier under national legislation.</p> <p>Contained in this treaty is a profound idea: those children are not just objects who belong to their parents and for whom decisions are made, or adults in training. Rather, they are human beings and individuals with their own rights. The Convention says childhood is separate from adulthood and lasts until 18; in which children must be allowed to grow, learn, play, develop and flourish with dignity.</p>
D & E ABORTION	Dilation and evacuation (D&E also sometimes called dilation and extraction) is the dilation of the cervix and surgical evacuation of the contents of the uterus. It is a method of abortion as well as a therapeutic procedure used after a miscarriage to prevent infection by ensuring that the uterus is fully evacuated.
DISHA	<p>Delhi Initiative for Safeguarding Health of Adolescents</p> <p>The Delhi government established DISHA clinics to strengthen and promote services that cater specifically to adolescent health. This program serves to provide curative, preventive, referral and counseling services.</p>
DLSA	District legal service authority set up when Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 was enacted to constitute Legal Services Authorities for providing free and competent legal services to weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice were not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities and to organize Lok adalats.

TERM	Definition
DISSEMINATED LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS	Lupus erythematosus is a collection of autoimmune diseases in which the human immune system becomes hyperactive and attacks healthy tissues. Disseminated Lupus erythematosus an inflammatory disease of connective tissue with variable features including fever and weakness and fatigability and joint pains and skin lesions on the face or neck or arms.
DRUG RESISTANCE	Drug resistance is the reduction in the effectiveness of a medication. A condition in which disease-causing microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, etc develop an ability to tolerate drugs that were once effective against them, leading these microorganisms to adapt themselves to grow and multiply even in the presence of drugs that would have usually killed them.
DUAL PROTECTION	"Dual protection" refers to the use of methods that will prevent both unwanted pregnancy and HIV/STD infections during sexual intercourse. For sexually active individuals, a condom is the only device that is effective for dual protection. Dual protection can also be achieved by using condoms with another method of contraception, referred to as dual method or double protection. Dual protection is of particular relevance when interventions are focused on groups in vulnerable situations such as young people, sex workers, etc.
ECP	Emergency Contraceptive Pills. It is a form of female contraception that can be used after unprotected sex. They work primarily by delaying ovulation. Emergency contraception does not protect against sexually transmitted diseases.
EMBRYO	An embryo develops from a zygote, the single cell resulting from the fertilization of the female egg cell by the male sperm cell. In humans the fertilized eggs until about eight weeks after fertilization are known as an embryo, after that it is known as a foetus.

TERM	Definition
EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION	<p>Emergency contraception is birth control that prevents pregnancy after sex which is why it is sometimes called the 'morning-after pill', or the 'day after pill' or the 'morning after contraception'. The emergency contraception has to be taken in the first 72hours of unprotected intercourse and contains high doses of estrogen that prevent the implantation of embryos. As the name suggests these are emergency options and should not be used regularly as these do have side effects like nausea, vomiting, irregular menstrual cycle, a hormonal disorder, etc.</p>
EMOC	<p>The acronym stands for Emergency Obstetric Care which refers to those health facilities which emphasize establishing emergency obstetric and newborn care available to all women who develop complications to reduce maternal mortality.</p> <p>The basic EmOC functions are performed in a Primary health center without the need for an operating theatre. The basic EMOC functions are: IV/IM antibiotics, IV/IM oxytocics, IV/IM anticonvulsants, Manual removal of placenta, Assisted vaginal delivery, Removal of retained products</p> <p>Comprehensive EmOC Functions Requires an operating theatre and is usually performed in District Hospitals. They perform all the six basic EMOC functions as well as Caesarian Sections and Blood Transfusion.</p>
ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION	<p>Erectile dysfunction (impotence) is the inability to achieve or maintain an erection sufficiently rigid for sexual intercourse. Sexual drive and the ability to have an orgasm are not necessarily affected.</p> <p>Having erection trouble from time to time isn't necessarily a cause for concern. If erectile dysfunction is an ongoing issue, however, it can cause stress, affect your self-confidence and contribute to relationship problems. Problems getting or keeping an erection can also be a sign of an underlying health condition that needs treatment and a risk factor for heart disease.</p>

TERM	Definition
FPIS	Family Planning Insurance/Indemnity Scheme The FPIS is a scheme to ensure a form of monetary recourse to those who suffer a failure or complication in sterilization operations.
FETUS	A fertilized egg in the womb that has grown beyond eight weeks. It is the embryo in its later stage of development when its body structures are in the recognizable form.
FETAL ABNORMALITIES	A fetal anomaly is a genetic or physical defect in the fetus that can affect pregnancy, complicate delivery and have serious adverse effects on the child. Fetal anomalies, often referred to as birth defects, are structural changes to one or more parts of the fetus' body that increase the chance of stillbirth and can cause deficiencies in the child's health, development, and quality of life. Fetal abnormalities are conditions that affect a fetus or embryo and may be fatal or cause disease after birth. Eg: Acardiac twin, Achondrogenesis, Coarctation of the aorta, Conjoined twins, etc...
FISTULA	Fistula is an abnormal connection or passageway between two epithelium-lined organs or vessels that normally do not connect. It is generally a disease condition, but a fistula may be surgically created for therapeutic reasons.
GENDER	Gender comprises a range of differences ranging from the economic, social and cultural attributes and opportunities associated with being located in a particular spot on the spectrum between male and female, at a particular point in time. Gender refers to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How societies view people within the binary of male and female • How they are distinguished • The roles assigned to them. • How individuals view themselves and claim their gender identity, which can be beyond the binary of male and female.

TERM	Definition
GENDER EQUALITY	<p>Measurable equal representation of all genders, including women, trans, etc. Gender equality does not imply that people of all genders are the same, but that they have equal value and should be accorded equal treatment.</p> <p>It refers to a social order in which everyone, regardless of their gender, shares the same opportunities for full participation in all the realms – social, political, economic and cultural.</p>
GENDER EQUITY	<p>The application of fairness or justice in all gender issues. This applies both to the composition of power structures and to social divisions of labor.</p> <p>Insisting on absolute equality of numbers may not always be equitable. In the area of reproductive health, where women bear the largest share of the costs, dangers, and burdens (physical, mental, social, economic), it is usually thought equitable and fair that women should have a greater share in the decision-making.</p> <p>Equal opportunities for women and men require that women and men start with equal status and access to knowledge and resources, so when this is not the case women may initially need special treatment.</p>
GENDER IDENTITY	<p>A person's internal, deeply felt sense of being female or male, neither, both, or something other than female and male. A person's gender identity does not necessarily correspond to their sex assigned at birth.</p>

TERM	Definition
GBV	<p>Gender-Based Violence</p> <p>Gender violence, also known as gender-based violence or gendered violence, is the term used to denote harm inflicted upon individuals and groups that are connected to normative understandings of their gender. It is widely used to denote violence against women in particular.</p> <p>The United Nations General Assembly in 1993 adopted the definition of violence against women as “any act that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. It encompasses, but is not limited to: physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation; physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere; trafficking in women and forced prostitution; and physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the state, wherever it occurs.”</p>
GRAVIDA	A gravida is a pregnant woman.
GYNECOLOGIST	A physician or surgeon qualified to practice in gynecology, the medical practice dealing with the health of the female reproductive systems and the breasts.
HAART	HAART is a customized combination of different classes of medications that a physician prescribes for treating HIV based on such factors as the patient's viral load (how much virus is in the blood), the particular strain of the virus, the CD4+ cell count, and other considerations (e.g., disease symptoms). HAART can control viral load, delaying or preventing the onset of symptoms or progression to AIDS, thereby prolonging survival in people infected with HIV.

TERM	Definition
HEMORRHAGE	A hemorrhage is a blood escaping from the circulatory system from damaged blood vessels. Exsanguinations, which is severe bleeding or bleeding to death, can occur without any visible external bleeding.
HETEROSEXISM	Discrimination or prejudice against homosexuals and people with other sexual orientations on the assumption that heterosexuality is the normal sexual orientation.
HIGH-RISK PREGNANCY	<p>A high-risk pregnancy is one that threatens the health or life of the mother or her fetus.</p> <p>Risk factors for a high-risk pregnancy can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing health conditions, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or being HIV-positive • Overweight and obesity. Obesity increases the risk for high blood pressure, preeclampsia, gestational diabetes, stillbirth, neural tube defects, and cesarean delivery. Researchers have found that obesity can raise infants' risk of heart problems at birth by 15%. • Multiple births. The risk of complications is higher in women carrying more than one fetus (twins and higher-order multiples). As many as 93% of triplets are born at less than 37 weeks' gestation. • Young or old maternal age. Pregnancy in teens and women age 35 or older increases the risk of preeclampsia and gestational high blood pressure.
HOMOPHOBIA	Homophobia is defined as an 'irrational fear, or discrimination against homosexuality or homosexual' which many a time leads to physical, sexual and psychological violence.

TERM	Definition
HORMONAL CONTRACEPTION	<p>Systemic methods of contraception based on either a progestagen combined with oestrogen or progestagen alone. The methods of delivery include pills (oral contraceptives), injectables and implants. All are reversible. Pills (two types): Combined oral contraceptives (COCs) contain synthetic estrogen and progestagen.</p> <p>Injectables are longer lasting than oral contraceptives. The newer monthly injectables contain both estrogen and progestagen.</p> <p>Subdermal implants are even longer acting (approximately five years) and contain low doses of progestagen. Six thin silicone rubber capsules are inserted in the woman's arm by a minor surgical procedure under local anesthesia. The implants may be removed at any time.</p>
HIV	<p>HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. Two types of HIV are currently known: HIV-1 and HIV-2. Worldwide, the predominant virus is HIV-1.</p> <p>Both types of the virus may be transmitted by sexual contact, through blood, and from mother to child (either before or during birth, or through breastfeeding), and they appear to cause clinically indistinguishable AIDS. As the virus gradually damages their immune system, they begin to develop opportunistic infections of increasing severity, including diarrhea, fever, tuberculosis, pneumonia, lymphoma and Kaposi's sarcoma.</p>
HYDRAMNIOS	<p>A condition in which excess amniotic fluid accumulates during pregnancy.</p> <p>Severe hydramnios may mean there is a problem with the fetus. If you have severe hydramnios, it might cause these problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth defects of the brain and spinal column • Blockages in the digestive system • A genetic problem (a problem with the chromosomes that is inherited)
HYSTERECTOMIES	A surgical operation to remove all or part of the uterus from the female body.

TERM	Definition
ICCPR	<p>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</p> <p>A multilateral treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly recognizing the inherent dignity of human people and all equal and inalienable civil and political rights.</p> <p>Article 6 recognizes that every human being has the inherent legal right to life. Along with the ICESCR and UDHR, it is considered part of the international bill of human rights.</p>
ICESCR	<p>International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.</p> <p>A multilateral treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly recognizing the inherent dignity of human people and all equal and inalienable economic, social, and cultural rights.</p> <p>India ratified the ICESCR in 1979. Article 10 recognizes that special protection should be given to mothers before and after childbirth. Article 12 of the ICESCR recognizes the right of everyone to enjoy the highest possible standard of physical and mental health, including by reducing infant mortality rates.</p>
ICPD	<p>In the International Conference on Population and Development, diverse views on human rights, population, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and sustainable development merged into a remarkable global consensus that placed individual dignity and human rights, including the right to plan one's family, at the very heart of development.</p> <p>It calls attention to the ways in which investing in women and youth, especially in their sexual and reproductive health, can impact environmental sustainability and population dynamics.</p>

TERM	Definition
ICTC	<p>ICTC stands for Integrated Counseling and Testing Centre. ICT is now seen as a key entry point for a range of interventions in HIV prevention and care. It provides people with an opportunity to learn and accept their HIV serostatus in a confidential and enabling environment and to cope with the stress arising out of HIV infection. ICT should become an integral part of HIV prevention programs, as it is a relatively cost-effective intervention in preventing HIV transmission.</p> <p>ICTC is not a place just for testing a sample for HIV, but much more than that. One of the basic elements involved is a confidential discussion between the client and the trained Counselor and the focus is on emotional and social issues related to possible or actual HIV infection. The aim of the ICTC is to reduce psychosocial stress and provide the client with information & support necessary to make decisions; therefore it needs a private and peaceful setting.</p>
IDU	<p>Injecting Drug Use; Injecting Drug User</p> <p>Sharing needles, syringes, or other drug-injection puts people at risk of getting or transmitting HIV and other infections.</p>
IFA	<p>Iron and Folic Acid Tablets for anemic patients. It is used to treat or prevent low iron in the body.</p>
IGMSY	<p>Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) is a Conditional Maternity Benefit (CMB) Scheme of the Government of India launched in 2010.</p> <p>It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for the first two live births. It provides partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare and to provide conditions for safe delivery and good nutrition and feeding.</p>

TERM	Definition
IMMUNODEFICIENCY	A breakdown or inability of certain parts of the immune system to function, thus making a person susceptible to certain diseases that they would not ordinarily develop.
IMMUNE SYSTEM	The body's complicated natural defense against disruption caused by invading foreign agents (e.g. microbes, viruses).
IMMUNOTHERAPY	Immunotherapy is the treatment of disease by activating or suppressing the immune system.
IMPOTENCE	Impotence (Erectile dysfunction) is the inability to achieve or maintain an erection sufficiently rigid for sexual intercourse. Sexual drive and the ability to have an orgasm are not necessarily affected. Having erection trouble from time to time isn't necessarily a cause for concern. If erectile dysfunction is an ongoing issue, however, it can cause stress, affect your self-confidence and contribute to relationship problems. Problems getting or keeping an erection can also be a sign of an underlying health condition that needs treatment and a risk factor for heart disease.
INFANT MORTALITY	The death of young children, usually those of less than one year of age. Infant mortality is an indicator of the health status not only of infants but also of the whole population and of their poverty-ridden social and economic status in the country. They face excessive vulnerability, as underprivileged, to a hostile environment and suffer malnutrition and serious health problems; All this leads to high rates of infant mortality and morbidity.

TERM	Definition
INFERTILITY	Strictly, infertility means not fertile - that is, childless. However, infertility is often defined and usually understood as the inability of couples of reproductive age, who are having sexual intercourse without contraception, to establish pregnancy within a specified period of time. This can be due to disorders of either the male or female reproductive systems. The major causes in men are abnormal spermatogenesis, disorders of the secretory function of accessory organs, obstruction of the genital tract and abnormal sperm function; and in women, adulatory disorders, tubal occlusion, peritoneal factors such as pelvic inflammatory disease or endometriosis, cervical factors and failure of implantation. Reproductive tract infections are an important cause of infertility in women but can be prevented. Childlessness may also be caused by pregnancy wastage or early child loss, or it may be voluntary.
INFORMED CHOICE	A voluntary decision by a client to use, or not to use, a contraceptive method (or accept a sexual and reproductive health service) after receiving adequate information regarding options, risks, advantages and disadvantages of all available methods. The exercise of both the right of access to family planning and the right to make informed and responsible decisions about childbearing requires full knowledge of the benefits, purposes, and practice of family planning, access to services and the personal, familial and societal consequences of individual reproductive behavior.
INCEST	Incest is a human sexual activity between family members or close relatives. The incest taboo is any cultural rule or norm that prohibits sexual relations between closely related persons.
INTEGRATION/ INTEGRATED SERVICES	Combining family planning services with maternal and child health, nutrition, immunization, and other reproductive health services, such as control and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

TERM	Definition
INTRAUTERINE FETAL DEMISE	Intrauterine fetal demise is the clinical term for stillbirth used to describe the death of a baby in the uterus. The term is usually applied to losses at or after the 20th week of gestation.
IPC	<p>Interpersonal Communication is usually defined by communication scholars as participants who are dependent upon one another and communicate with one another. The mediums that carry messages from sender to receiver, take two distinct forms: direct and indirect.</p> <p>Direct channels are obvious and easily recognized by the receiver. Both verbal and non-verbal information is completely controlled by the sender. Verbal channels rely on words, as in written or spoken communication. Non-verbal channels encompass facial expressions, controlled body movements (police present hand gestures to control traffic), color (red signals 'stop', green signals 'go'), and sound (warning sirens).</p> <p>Indirect channels are usually recognized subconsciously by the receiver and are not always under the direct control of the sender. Body language, comprising most of the indirect channel, may inadvertently reveal one's true emotions, and thereby either unintentionally taint or bolster the believability of any intended verbal message. Subconscious reception and interpretation of these signals are often described with arbitrary terms like gut-feeling, hunch, or premonition.</p>
IPHS GUIDELINES	Indian Public Health Standards. The IPHS Guidelines serve as the benchmark for assessing the functional status of health facilities and aim to ensure that quality healthcare is provided in all district hospitals, PHCs, CHCs, etc. The guidelines detail various requirements for infrastructure, manpower, drugs, transport facilities, dietary and laundry services, among others. The guidelines also require medical professionals to provide proper antenatal care, intra-natal care, and postnatal care.

TERM	Definition
IUD	Intrauterine (contraceptive) device A long-term, reversible method of contraception, involving the insertion into the uterus of a small flexible device of metal/plastic/hormonal materials. IUDs are effective for at least four years, and many for much longer.
JSSK	Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram, launched on June 1, 2011, is an initiative to assure free services to all pregnant women and sick neonates accessing public health institutions. The scheme envisages free and cashless services to pregnant women including normal deliveries, caesarian section operations and also the treatment of sick newborns (up to 30 days after birth) in all government health institutions across States/UTs. This initiative supplements the cash assistance given to pregnant women under the JSY and is aimed at mitigating the burden of out of pocket expenditure incurred by pregnant women and sick newborns.
JSY	Janani Suraksha Yojana is a safe motherhood intervention being implemented under the NRHM, with the objective of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among the poor pregnant women. This scheme integrates cash assistance with delivery and post-delivery care. This Yojana has identified an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) as an effective link between the government and pregnant women.
KAPOSI'S SARCOMA	Kaposi's sarcoma is a type of cancer that forms in the lining of blood and lymph vessels. The tumors (lesions) of Kaposi's sarcoma typically appear as painless purplish spots on the legs, feet or face. Lesions can also appear in the genital area, mouth or lymph nodes.

TERM	Definition
KARYOTYPING	<p>Karyotyping is the process of pairing and ordering all the chromosomes of an organism, thus providing a genome-wide snapshot of an individual's chromosomes</p> <p>Couples with recurrent miscarriage (RM) have an increased risk of one of the partners carrying a structural chromosome abnormality. On the basis of four independent risk factors, an evidence-based model was developed, which allows limiting karyotyping to high-risk couples.</p>
LAM	Lactational amenorrhea, also called postpartum infertility, is the temporary postnatal infertility that occurs when a woman is amenorrheic (not menstruating) and fully breastfeeding. It thus encourages breast-feeding and introduces mothers to the concept of planning births.
LATENCY PERIOD	The period of disease between the onset of infection and clinical symptoms. In the HIV disease, this period can be from a few months to over ten years. The period from infection to development of AIDS is known as the incubation period.
MALE INVOLVEMENT IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH	<p>The word 'Reproductive Health' implies both men and women. Men are partners in reproduction and sexuality. Men's reproductive health and their behaviors impact on women's reproductive health and children's well being and society as well. Comprehensive male involvement includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encouraging men to become involved and supportive of women's needs, choices, and rights in sexual and reproductive health; and 2. Addressing men's own sexual reproductive health needs and behavior through the provision of information, education, and services.
MATERNAL DEATH	When the direct cause of death of a woman is due to pregnancy, usually in the case of a woman who is currently pregnant or who has been pregnant in the last six weeks it is referred to as Maternal Death. The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) extends the period of consideration to include up to 1 year within the end of a pregnancy regardless of the outcome.

TERM	Definition
MATERNAL HEALTH	The health of women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period.
MATERNAL MORTALITY	The death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes.
MENARCHE	The first occurrence of menstruation.
MENSTRUATION	The process is a woman of discharging blood and other material from the lining of the uterus at intervals of about one lunar month from puberty until the menopause, except during pregnancy.
MENSTRUAL REGULATION	Evacuation of the uterus of a woman who has missed her menstrual period by 14 days or fewer, who previously had regular periods and who has been at risk of conception. It may be performed before proof of pregnancy. A procedure commonly used is that of uterine evacuation using a small flexible plastic cannula in association with a hand-held gynecological syringe (manual vacuum evacuation). It can be carried out by a range of trained personnel, from gynecologists to paramedics. In some countries, menstrual regulation is legal, even though therapeutic abortion is not.
MICROBICIDES	A microbicide is any biocidal compound or substance whose purpose is to reduce the infectivity of microbes, such as viruses or bacteria. The word 'Microbicides' refers to a range of different products that share one common characteristic: the ability to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) when applied topically. A microbicide could be produced in many forms, including gels, creams, suppositories, films, or as a sponge or ring that releases the active ingredient over time. Some of the Microbicides being investigated prevent pregnancy and some do not. It is important to have both non-contraceptive Microbicides as well as 'dual-action' Microbicides that prevent pregnancy so that women and couples can protect their health and still have children. This is not possible with condoms.

TERM	Definition
MDG	<p>MDG stands for Millennium Development Goals an agenda for reducing poverty and improving lives that world leaders agreed on at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. For each goal one or more targets have been set, most for 2015, using 1990 as a benchmark: The MDGs are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger 2. Achieve universal primary education 3. Promote gender equality and empower women. 4. Reduce child mortality 5. Improve maternal health 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases 7. Ensure environmental sustainability 8. Develop a global partnership for development
MMR	<p>Maternal Mortality Ratio</p> <p>It is the annual number of female deaths per 100,000 live births from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management (excluding accidental or incidental causes).</p>
MOHALLA CLINICS	<p>Mohalla Clinics are primary health centers in the state of New Delhi in India, that offer a basic package of essential health services including medicines, diagnostics, and consultation free of cost.</p>
MTCT	<p>Mother to child transmission is the transmission of HIV infection from the mother to their infants during pregnancy, delivery and/or breastfeeding.</p>
MTP ACT	<p>Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.</p> <p>A law enacted by the Indian Parliament in 1971 intending to provide legal clarity for the termination of certain pregnancies by medical practitioners. Under the MTPA, pregnancies up to 20 weeks can be terminated. When the pregnancy exceeds 20 weeks, an abortion is allowed when "immediately necessary" to save the life of the pregnant woman.</p>

TERM	Definition
MSM	The acronym stands for 'Men who have sex with men or males who have sex with males' which refers to men who engage in sexual activity with other men. 'Men who have sex with men' has been used in HIV literature since at least 1990.
MULTIGRAVIDA	A Multigravida or more specifically a gravida 2, also otherwise known as secundigravida or, gravid 3 and so on is a woman who has been pregnant more than one time.
MVA	Manual Vacuum Aspiration or Vacuum Aspiration is a method of pregnancy termination in which the contents of the uterus are removed by suction, using either a hand-held syringe or an electric pump. It may be used as a method of induced abortion, a therapeutic procedure used after a miscarriage, or a procedure to obtain a sample for endometrial biopsy.
NAHS	National Adolescence Health Strategy Aimed at addressing the critical health concerns of adolescents in the country, this strategy will provide health, information, and services to fulfill the needs of adolescents, including girls and marginalized groups.
NEW USER	Someone who chooses to use a contraceptive method for the first time. Some programs include only those people using contraception for the first time; others include those using a particular method for the first time.
NEO-NATAL	Neo-natal refers to babies that were born recently.
NFBS	National Family Benefit Scheme This scheme provides social assistance and benefits to eligible families. The scheme aims to provide a lump sum family benefit of Rs 10,000/- to the bereaved households in case of the death of the primary breadwinner irrespective of the cause of death. The scheme is applicable to people in the age bracket of 18-64 years.

TERM	Definition
NFHS	National Family Health Survey The survey provides state and national information for India on fertility, infant and child mortality, the practice of family planning, maternal and child health, reproductive health, nutrition, anemia, utilization and quality of health and family planning services.
NHM	National Health Mission It has been passed for Strengthening the health aspect in rural and urban areas- Reproductive-Maternal-Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A), and Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases. The NHM envisages the achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.
NRHM SCHEME	National Rural Health Mission First launched in 2005, the mission's purpose is to "improve the availability of access to quality healthcare by people, especially for those residing in rural areas, the poor, women, and children through equitable, affordable, accountable, and effective primary health care." Cities and towns with populations below 50,000 are covered by the NRHM. The NRHM is a sub-mission of the overarching National Health Mission.
NUHM SCHEME	National Urban Health Mission. Launched in 2013, and similar to the NRHM, the NUHM seeks to improve the health status of urban populations and facilitate the access of individuals to quality primary healthcare in cities or towns with a population exceeding 50,000. The NUHM is a sub-mission of the overarching National Health Mission.

TERM	Definition
NSAP	National Social Assistance Programme The program introduced a National Policy for Social Assistance for the poor and aims at ensuring a minimum national standard for social assistance in addition to the benefits that states are currently providing or might provide in the future. NSAP at present comprises of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurna.
NSEP	The acronym stands for the Needle and syringe exchange program. Harm reduction outreach with needle and syringe exchange attracts injecting drug users to risk reduction, increases referral to treatment, and results in less HIV transmission. Needle and syringe exchange programs significantly decrease the number of discarded syringes in a community. The NSEP is based on the philosophy of harm reduction where injection drug users can obtain needles and syringes and associated injection equipment at little or no cost to prevent the spread of HIV infection through multiple uses of needles and syringes.
NULLIGRVIDA	A Nulligravida is a woman who has never been pregnant.
NULIPARA	A woman who has never borne a child.
OBSTETRIC FISTULAE	An obstetric fistula is a hole between the vagina and rectum or bladder that is caused by prolonged obstructed labor, leaving a woman unable to voluntarily control the passing of urine or feces or both. For women with obstructed labor, labor that goes unattended, the labor can last up to six or seven days.
OB-GYN	A commonly used abbreviation for Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Obstetricians are medical professionals who specialize in pregnancy and birth. Gynecologists are medical professionals who specialize in treating the disease of the female reproductive organs.

TERM	Definition
OCPS	Oral contraceptive pills are medications taken by mouth for the purpose of birth control.
OIS	Opportunistic infections (OIs) are infections that occur more frequently and are more severe in people with weakened immune systems, including people with HIV.
ORAL CONTRACEPTION	Otherwise referred to as hormonal contraception, oral contraception involves medications taken by mouth for the purpose of birth control.
ORT	ORT stands for Oral Rehydration Therapy which is an increased intake of acceptable fluids, including plain fluids found at home and oral rehydration solutions.
OVC	The acronym OVC refers to Orphans and Vulnerable Children which means those children affected by HIV and AIDS who suffer trauma and hardship especially through the illness and death of a parent; those children infected by the HIV virus in need of appropriate treatment and support; those children and their families in need of urgent support overcome the economic, social, health and security challenges posed by HIV&AIDS.
PARTNER RAPE	Sexual assault within a relationship. Any time someone forces himself/ herself on you sexually without your consent; this can be sexual assault or rape.
PCPNDT ACT	<p>Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to stop female foeticides and arrest the declining sex ratio in India. The act banned prenatal sex determination. The main purpose of enacting the act is to ban the use of sex selection techniques after conception and prevent the misuse of a prenatal diagnostic technique for sex-selective abortions.</p> <p>Every genetic counseling center, genetic laboratory or genetic clinic engaged in counseling or conducting pre-natal diagnostics techniques, like In vitro fertilization (IVF) with the potential of sex selection (Preimplantation genetic diagnosis) before and after conception comes under the purview of the PCPNDT Act and are banned.</p>

TERM	Definition
PID	<p>Pelvic Inflammatory Diseases (PID) is the inflammation of the pelvic organs, especially the uterus and fallopian tubes.</p> <p>It usually occurs when sexually transmitted bacteria spread from your vagina to your uterus, fallopian tubes or ovaries. The pelvic inflammatory disease often causes no signs or symptoms. The condition might be detected later if you have trouble getting pregnant or if you develop chronic pelvic pain.</p> <p>PID is a major complication of women with Chlamydia and gonococci infections and is associated with long-term morbidities such as chronic abdominal pain, menstrual disturbances, tubal pregnancy, and infertility.</p>
PERINATAL DEATH	Death of a fetus after 28 weeks of pregnancy or of a child within the first week of life. The World Health Organization defines perinatal mortality as the "number of stillbirths and deaths in the first week of life per 1,000 total births."
PERIODIC ABSTINENCE	A method of contraception in which couples avoid sexual intercourse during the fertile phase of the menstrual cycle. This method depends on the ability of the couple to identify the fertile phase (sometimes called fertility awareness), and the couple's motivation and discipline to practice abstinence when required. There are a number of techniques for detecting the fertile period: including the basal body temperature (BBT) method, the cervical mucus or ovulation method (also known as the Billings method). The calendar or rhythm method, the symptom-thermal method (STM). All these methods of detecting the fertile phase are also helpful for couples who wish to use barrier methods on those days estimated to be fertile, and for couples who are trying to improve their chances of conception.

TERM	Definition
PHC	<p>Primary Health Centre</p> <p>Primary Health Centre (PHCs), sometimes referred to as public health centers, are state-owned rural health care facilities in India. They are essentially single-physician clinics usually with facilities for minor surgeries, too. They are part of the government-funded public health system in India and are the most basic units of this system.</p> <p>Apart from the regular medical treatments, PHCs in India have some special focuses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant immunization programs: Immunization for newborns under the national immunization program is dispensed through the PHCs. This program is fully subsidized • Anti-epidemic programs: The PHCs act as the primary epidemic diagnostic and control centers for rural India. Whenever a local epidemic breaks out, the system's doctors are trained for diagnosis. They identify suspected cases and refer for further treatment. • Birth control programs: Services under the national birth control programs are dispensed through the PHCs. Sterilization surgeries such as vasectomy and tubectomy are done here. These services, too, are fully subsidized. • Pregnancy and related care: A major focus of the PHC system is medical care for pregnancy and childbirth in rural India. This is because people from rural India resist approaching doctors for pregnancy care which increases neonatal death. Hence, pregnancy care is a major focus area for the PHCs. • Emergencies: All the PHCs store drugs for medical emergencies which could be expected in rural areas. For example antivenoms for snake bite, rabies vaccinations, etc.
PLHA	<p>PLHA is an acronym for People living with HIV/AIDS and refers to those already infected with the virus or leading to AIDS-related Opportunistic Infections.</p>

TERM	Definition
PCMA ACT	<p>The prohibition of child marriage act, 2006; prohibits solemnization of child marriage and connected and incidental matters. The age of attaining the majority for a male is 21 years while for a female is 18 years.</p>
PMSMA	<p>Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan Launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India, the program aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month. PMSMA guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their 2nd / 3rd trimesters of pregnancy at designated government health facilities and follows a systematic approach for engagement with private sector which includes motivating private practitioners to volunteer for the campaign developing strategies for generating awareness and appealing to the private sector to participate in the Abhiyan at government health facilities.</p> <p>Key Features of PMSMA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antenatal checkup services would be provided by OBGY specialists / Radiologist/physicians • A minimum package of antenatal care services (including investigations and drugs) would be provided to the beneficiaries on the 9th day of every month at identified public health facilities (PHCs/ CHCs, DHs/ urban health facilities etc) in both urban and rural areas in addition to the routine ANC at the health facility/ outreach. • Using the principles of a single-window system, it is envisaged that a minimum package of investigations (including one ultrasound during the 2nd trimester of pregnancy) and medicines such as IFA supplements, calcium supplements, etc would be provided to all pregnant women attending the PMSMA clinics. • Pregnant women would be given Mother and Child Protection Cards and safe motherhood booklets. • One of the critical components of the Abhiyan is the identification and follows up of high-risk pregnancies. A sticker indicating the condition and risk factor of the pregnant women would be added onto the MCP card for each visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Sticker- for women with no risk factor detected Red Sticker – for women with a high-risk pregnancy

TERM	Definition
POST-ABORTUM	The period following an abortion
POST-NATAL CARE	Postnatal care (PNC) is the care given to the mother and her newborn baby immediately after the birth and for the first six to eight weeks of life.
POST-PARTUM	Occurring in the period immediately after childbirth. Often used to describe temporary conditions that start and occur as a result of childbirth.
PREGNANCY	The state of carrying a developing embryo or fetus within the female body. This condition can be indicated by positive results on an over-the-counter urine test and confirmed through a blood test, ultrasound, detection of a fetal heartbeat, or an X-ray. Pregnancy lasts for about nine months, measured from the date of the woman's last menstrual period (LMP). It is conventionally divided into three trimesters, each roughly three months long.
PRENATAL-SEX SELECTION	The decision to abort a fetus having discovered its sex in early pregnancy. This practice usually occurs in societies with a strong son preference where female fetuses are aborted if a son or more sons are desired.
PROGESTERONE/PROGESTOGEN	Progesterone, also referred to as "the pregnancy hormone," is the hormone which is released in the period of time after ovulation and before menstruation, and also during the early stages of pregnancy. Progesterone causes the uterine lining or endometrium to thicken. The overall goal is to have a thick lining that will help create an ideal supportive environment in your uterus for a fertilized egg/embryo. The "traditional" progestogen-only pill (POP) prevents pregnancy by thickening the mucus in the cervix to stop sperm reaching an egg.
PROPHYLAXIS	Treatment is given or action is taken to prevent disease.
RAPE	To force someone to have sex when they are unwilling , using violence or threatening behavior .

TERM	Definition
RBA	<p>"A Rights-Based Approach (RBA) to development describes situations not simply in terms of human needs, or of development requirements, but in terms of society's obligations to respond to the inalienable rights of individuals, empowers people to demand justice as a right, not as charity, and gives communities a moral basis from which to claim international assistance when needed." (UN 1998)</p> <p>The protection and realization of human rights are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By claiming these human rights, individuals must refrain from violating the rights of others and have a responsibility to support those individuals whose rights are denied or abused. • Hence, a rights-based approach is essentially a framework of rights and obligations. • In addition, the approach is geared toward reducing discrimination, promoting equality and strengthening the capacity of marginalized groups to assert their rights.
REPRODUCTIVE AGE	<p>The span of ages at which individuals are capable of becoming parents. The phrase can be applied to men and women but most frequently refers to women. 'Couples in reproductive ages' nearly always means couples where the woman is of childbearing age. The age range of 15-49 years is most often taken, but occasionally.</p>
RKSK	<p>Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram</p> <p>The program expands the scope of adolescent health programming in India - from being limited to sexual and reproductive health, it now includes in its ambit nutrition, injuries, and violence (including gender-based violence), non-communicable diseases, mental health and substance misuse.</p> <p>Under this, a core package of services includes preventive, promotive, curative and counseling services, routine check-ups at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of care are provided regularly to adolescents, married and unmarried, girls and boys during the clinic sessions.</p>

TERM	Definition
RMNCH+A	<p>Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent The RMNCH+A strategy is built upon the continuum of care concept and is holistic in design, encompassing all interventions aimed at the reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health under a broad umbrella, and focusing on the strategic lifecycle approach.</p> <p>The RMNCH+A strategy provides a strong platform for delivery of services across the entire continuum of care, ranging from community to various levels of the health care system.</p>
RTIs	<p>Reproductive Tract Infections (RTIs) are infections that occur in the reproductive tract of both men and women. These are caused by bacteria, viruses or protozoa. The infection affects the genital tract and can affect female reproductive organs or male reproductive organs. They are three kinds of RTIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexually Transmitted Infections or Diseases (STIs or STDs): these infections include a group of communicable diseases that are transmitted mainly through sexual contact, sexual intercourse. • Endogenous Infections: Often they are considered minor infections. They are caused due to overgrowth of organisms normally present in the reproductive organs, and affect women through unhygienic practices, for example wearing unclean sanitary pads, they are responsible for significant morbidity among women. • Iatrogenic infections: These infections are usually associated with medical procedures such as the vaginal examination, IUD insertion, through improper sterilization of instruments and keeping aseptic technique.
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH	<p>Within the framework of WHO, the definition of health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Reproductive health implies that people are able to have a responsible and safer sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so. Implicit in this are the rights of people to be informed of and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of fertility regulation of their choice, and the right of access to appropriate health care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having healthy infant.</p>

TERM	Definition
REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS	Reproductive Rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. They also include the right of all to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion, and violence.
REPRODUCTIVE TRACT INFECTION	A general term for infections affecting the reproductive organs. RTIs include three types of infection: sexually transmitted infections (STIs), infections that are caused by an overgrowth of organisms naturally present in the genital tract, such as bacterial vaginosis and vulvovaginal candidiasis, and infections that are a consequence of medical treatment.
SAFE ABORTION	<p>Unsafe abortion is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a procedure for terminating an unintended pregnancy, carried out either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment that does not conform to minimal medical standards or both.</p> <p>A safe abortion would then be carried out by trained professionals in an environment that is conducive and has adequate facilities to medically terminate an unwanted pregnancy.</p>
SAFE MOTHERHOOD	<p>Pregnancy and childbirth with low risk of death or ill health. Safe motherhood means ensuring that all women receive the care they need to be safe and healthy throughout pregnancy and childbirth.</p> <p>In order to make motherhood safer, women need regular antenatal advice and care, a good diet during pregnancy, to be attended by trained personnel at delivery, and to have access to treatment for obstetric emergencies. Reducing high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity also depends on reducing the likelihood of women experiencing an unwanted high-risk pregnancy, which necessitates the availability of family planning and safe abortion services.</p>

TERM	Definition
SAFE SEX	<p>Many use safe sex and safer sex as synonymous and interchange the terms but no type of sex is guaranteed and 100% safe. Safe sex is when there is no exchange of any infected body fluid: blood, semen, pre-ejaculatory fluid, breast milk and vaginal fluids (including menstrual blood).</p> <p>And, safer sex is the practice of sexual activity in a manner that lowers the risk of infection with sexually transmitted infection as well as the risk of pregnancy.</p> <p>Examples of safer sex are non-penetrative sex or vaginal intercourse with a condom.</p>
SEX	<p>The categories (mostly male and female, but also trans and intersex) into which humans and most other living things are divided on the basis of their reproductive functions.</p> <p>The biological difference between females and males present at birth. These include ANATOMICAL differences such as the presence of a vagina or penis; GENETIC differences present in a person's chromosomal makeup; or PHYSIOLOGICAL differences such as menstruation or sperm production.</p> <p>Sex can also be used to describe PHYSICAL ACTS or sexual intercourse that include, but are not limited to, penetrative penile, vaginal intercourse, oral sex, anal sex, masturbation, kissing, among others.</p>
SEX RATIO	<p>The ratio of males to females in the population usually expressed as the number of males per 100 females. This can be calculated for all age groups but the one most usually quoted is the sex ratio at birth. Worldwide about 105 male babies are born for every 100 females; higher mortality rates among males cause the ratio to decline consistently with age. Major deviations in the sex ratio at birth may indicate misreporting of births (for example, not registering the birth of a girl child), prenatal sex selection or excess mortality of new-born females.</p>

TERM	Definition
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS	<p>Sexual and reproductive health and rights or SRHR is the concept of human rights applied to sexuality and reproduction. It is a combination of four fields that in some contexts are more or less distinct from each other, but less so or not at all in other contexts. These four fields are sexual health, sexual rights, reproductive health, and reproductive rights. In the concept of SRHR, these four fields are treated as separate but inherently intertwined.</p> <p>Sexual and Reproductive health rights are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right to information • The right to sexual pleasure without fear of infection, disease, unwanted pregnancy or harm. • The right to sexual expression and to make sexual decisions that are consistent with one's personal, ethical and social values • The right to sexual and reproductive health care, information, education, and services. • The right to bodily integrity and the right to choose, if, when, how and with whom to be sexually active and engage in sexual relations with full consent. • The right to enter relationships, including marriage, with full and free consent and without coercion. • The right to privacy and confidentiality in seeking sexual and reproductive health care services. • The right to express one's sexuality without discrimination and independent of reproduction • The right to freely decide the number and spacing of children, and to have the information and means to do so; • The right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health; • The right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of coercion, discrimination or violence.

TERM	Definition
SEXUAL HEALTH	<p>According to the current working definition, sexual health is:</p> <p>"...a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity. Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination, and violence. For sexual health to be attained and maintained, the sexual rights of all persons must be respected, protected and fulfilled." (WHO, 2006)</p>
SEXUAL INTERCOURSE	<p>Penetrative sexual behaviors, including genital contact other than vaginal penetration by the penis. Sexual acts are of three kind's oral, anal and penile-vaginal sex.</p>
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	<p>Sexual orientation is an enduring pattern of romantic or sexual attraction to persons of the opposite sex or gender, the same sex or gender, or to both sexes and more than one gender. These orientations exist along a continuum that ranges from exclusive heterosexual to exclusive homosexual, including various forms of bisexuality and pan-sexuality in-between. The continuum between heterosexual and homosexual does not suit everyone, as some people identify themselves as 'asexual'.</p>

TERM	Definition
SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES	<p>Health services of particular interest include those concerned with HIV counseling, testing, and treatment; diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs); and counseling, provision, and referrals for contraceptives. They also include other SRH services, including prenatal care, male circumcision services, counseling and treatment for victims of rape or sexual assault, abortion or post-abortion care, treatment for obstetric fistula, etc.</p> <p>Sexual and reproductive health services are a comprehensive package of services which will allow all to access and avail at all times the following service package:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family planning/birth spacing services. • Antenatal care, skilled attendance at delivery and postnatal care. • Management of obstetric and neonatal complications and emergencies. • Prevention of abortion and management of complications resulting from unsafe abortion. • Prevention and treatment of Reproductive Tract Infections and Sexually Transmitted Infections. • Prevention, treatment, care, and support of HIV&AIDS. • Early diagnosis and treatment for breast and cervical cancer. • Promotion, education, and support for exclusive breastfeeding. • Prevention and appropriate treatment of subfertility and infertility. • Adolescent sexual reproductive health-friendly information, education, and services. • Prevention of Gender-Based Violence.

TERM	Definition
SEXUAL RIGHTS	<p>Sexual rights are a component of human rights; they are an evolving set of entitlements related to sexuality that contribute to the freedom, equality, and dignity of all people.</p> <p>The application of existing human rights to sexuality and sexual health constitutes sexual rights. Sexual rights protect all people's rights to fulfill and express their sexuality and enjoy sexual health, with due regard for the rights of others and within a framework of protection against discrimination." (WHO, 2006a, updated 2010)</p> <p>The rights of all people to decide freely and responsibly on all aspects of their sexuality, including protecting and promoting their sexual health, be free from discrimination, coercion or violence in their sexual lives and in all sexual decisions, expect and demand equality, full consent, mutual respect and shared responsibility in sexual relationships. We also have the right to say 'no' to sex if we do not want it.</p>
SEXUALITY	<p>The working definition of sexuality is:</p> <p>"...a central aspect of being human throughout life encompasses sex, gender identities, and roles, sexual orientation, eroticism, pleasure, intimacy, and reproduction. Sexuality is experienced and expressed in thoughts, fantasies, desires, beliefs, attitudes, values, behaviors, practices, roles and relationships. While sexuality can include all of these dimensions, not all of them are always experienced or expressed. Sexuality is influenced by the interaction of biological, psychological, social, economic, political, cultural, legal, historical, religious and spiritual factors." (WHO, 2006)</p>

TERM	Definition
SEXUALITY EDUCATION	Sex education is the instruction of issues relating to human sexuality, including emotional relations and responsibilities, human sexual anatomy, sexual activity, sexual reproduction, age of consent, reproductive health, reproductive rights, safe sex, birth control and sexual abstinence, plus information about one's sexuality i.e. body image, sexual orientation, sexual identity, pleasures, reproductive tract infection, sexual health services, sexual and reproductive health rights, and contraceptives.
SEXUAL IDENTITY	The overall sexual self-identity which how an individual identifies as male, female, masculine, feminine or a combination and the individual's sexual orientation. Sexual identity is constructed over time and allows a person to organize a self-image based upon their sex, gender, and sexual orientation and to perform socially in regards to their perceived sexual capabilities.
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION/DISEASE	Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) are two terms for the same thing. Sexually Transmitted Infection is more commonly used as the infection comes first and is what needs to be prevented. The disease starts after a person has been infected. STI has a significant probability of transmission between humans or s by means of sexual contact, including vaginal intercourse, oral sex, and anal sex. STIs are caused by bacteria (Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Pelvic Inflammatory Disease) and can be Viral (Genital Herpes, Hepatitis B, HPV) Parasitic (Trichomoniasis) and Fungal (while not technically STIs these infections can be passed through sexual contact, for example, Yeast Infections)

TERM	Definition
SIDE-EFFECTS	Side effects otherwise known as an adverse effect is a harmful and undesired effect resulting from a medication or other intervention such as surgery. Most drugs have a large list of non-severe or mild adverse effects which do not rule out the interruption of usage. These effects have widely variable incidences according to individual sensitivity. They comprise of symptoms like nausea, dizziness, diarrhea, vomiting, headache, itching, dry mouth, etc, heaviness, water retention, menstrual irregularities, etc. Contraceptives too could have side effects, this makes it all the more imperative for guidance from specialists before one starts to use contraceptives.
SOCIAL MARKETING	Social Marketing is the application of marketing along with other concepts and techniques to achieve behavioral goals for social good. In Social marketing commercial marketing techniques are used with a social objective to ensure behavior change. However, the product that is available through social marketing emphasizes on being available at an accessible place, affordable price, available at all times, with appropriate promotion to one or more targeted audience. One of the best examples is the social marketing of condoms and contraceptives for behavior change towards safe sex and family health.
SON PREFERENCE	A strong desire to have male rather than female children in certain cultures. This is usually due to the perception that sons contribute more to families, through work, continuing the family line and carrying out family rites and rituals, and providing security to their parents in old age.
SPERMICIDES	As the name suggests spermicidal is a substance that kills sperms, it is inserted vaginally prior to intercourse to prevent pregnancy. As a contraceptive spermicidal can be used alone. Spermicidal are usually combined with other contraceptive barrier methods such as diaphragms, condoms, cervical caps, and sponges. Combined methods are believed to result in lower pregnancy rates than either method alone.

TERM	Definition
STATUTORY RAPE	Statutory rape refers to sexual relations involving someone below the “age of consent.” People who are underage cannot legally consent to have sex, so any form of sexual activity with them violates the law.
STERILIZE	Make (something) free from bacteria or other living microorganisms. Sterilize refers to heating types of equipment and instruments in hospitals and primary health centers to make it incapable of producing other microorganisms of its kind, as by removing the organs of reproduction or freeing the types of equipment from microorganisms by subjecting them to great heat or chemical action. Deprive (a person or animal) of the ability to produce offspring, typically by removing or blocking the sex organs. As in procedures of vasectomy, hysterectomy, etc...
STERILIZATION	Sterilization is a surgical technique leaving a male or female unable to reproduce. It is a method of birth control that can be undertaken for both men as well as women. For men it is known as vasectomy for women it is known as tubal ligation or tubectomy.
SUSTAINABILITY	Sustainability refers to the likelihood of continuation of benefits after the period of external support has ended. Key factors that impact on the likelihood of sustainability include: (i) ownership by beneficiaries; (ii) policy support/consistency; (iii) appropriate technology; (iv) environment; (v) socio-cultural issues; (vi) gender equity; (vii) institutional management capacity; and (viii) economic and financial viability. While decreasing dependence on funds derived from external donors a strong sustainability plan in projects increases promotes citizen's responsibility, solidarity, and democracy.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	Adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015, the UN Sustainable Development Goals set out 17 goals for countries to achieve by 2030. Sustainable Development Goal 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages for everyone, in particular by reducing the maternal and infant mortality rates, and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services.

TERM	Definition
TARGETS	<p>The desired outcomes quantified and specified in time towards the attainment of the ultimate strategic objectives.</p> <p>Aspirational targets are those to which the strategy aspires, for example, the complete elimination of unsafe abortion by 2010. Operational targets are those towards which practical action is to be undertaken immediately, for example, reduction of unsafe abortion by 20% within two years.</p> <p>The target group is a specific population group or groups intended as beneficiaries of a program. This will be either all, or a subset, of potential users such as adolescents, pregnant women, rural residents, or the residents of a particular geographic area.</p>
TARGETED INTERVENTION PROGRAM	<p>Targeted Intervention (TI) is a specific set of interventions in the AIDS Control Programme in the National AIDS Control Programme. All interventions have targets, which do not necessarily make them targeted intervention. TI specifically refers to interventions that are working with high-risk behavior groups.</p> <p>The Purpose of Target interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide services (STD Care and Management, Condom Programme, Information Education and Communication - IEC/ Behavior Change Communication - BCC) that target populations need to practice safe behaviors to reduce transmission of HIV. • For the target populations to access and utilize these services it is essential that a supportive and enabling environment is established which supports and promotes the practice of safe sexual behaviors and proactively supports the practice of safer behaviors (Enabling Environment). <p>The Targeted Intervention Programs are usually implemented amongst the following:</p> <p>Core Groups: These are groups that have the highest level of vulnerability to HIV infection and groups with whom Target Intervention (TI) has to be started on a priority basis. The core groups are a. Sex Workers; b. IDUs (Injecting Drug Users); c. MSM (Men who have sex with men)</p> <p>Non-Core Groups or the Bridge Group: These groups also have high levels of vulnerability to HIV infection but clearly have a lower risk than the core groups. They are a. Truckers and their helpers; b. Migrant Labor; c. Street Children.</p>

TERM	Definition
TFR	<p>The acronym stands for Total Fertility Rate (TFR) also called the fertility rate, the period total fertility rate (PTFR) or total period fertility rate (TPFR). TFR refers to an average number of children that would be born to a woman over her lifetime if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. She was to experience the exact current age-specific fertility rates throughout her lifetime. 2. If she were to survive from birth through the end of her reproductive life. <p>The TFR is obtained by summing the single-year age-specific rates at a given time.</p>
TBAS	<p>The acronym stands for the Traditional Birth Attendant who is the primary pregnancy and childbirth care provider. In India, the Traditional Birth Attendants are otherwise known as 'Dais' and generally acquire the skill by delivering baby themselves or through apprenticeship. However, due to high maternal and infant mortality in India TBAs are currently not being promoted and under the Janani Surakshya Yojana institutional delivery is being promoted. In this scheme, the incentive is given to the pregnant mother if she delivers her baby in a Government health institution through a trained skilled service provider.</p>
THELARCHE	<p>The beginning of the development of the breast at puberty</p>
TUBAL LIGATION/ TUBECTOMY	<p>Tubal ligation (otherwise known as getting one's tubes tied) is a permanent form of female sterilization in which the fallopian tubes are severed and sealed or pinched shut in order to prevent fertilization.</p>
UDHR	<p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Proclaimed in 1948, the UDHR set out fundamental human rights to be universally protected. Many of its provisions are reflected or codified in the Indian Constitution.</p> <p>Article 25 of the UDHR recognizes that everyone has the right to health and that mothers and children are entitled to special care and assistance.</p>

TERM	Definition
UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY RATE	The under-5 mortality rate is a leading indicator of the level of child health and overall development in countries. It is also an MDG indicator. The probability of a child born in a specific year or period dying before reaching the age of five, if subject to age-specific mortality rates of that period is referred to as the under-five mortality rate.
UNDER-SERVED POPULATION/ GROUPS	Populations/Groups not normally or not well served by established service delivery programs. In family planning, some examples of underserved groups are adolescents, men, the urban poor and those who live in remote areas, and unmarried people.
UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING	<p>Unmet need for family planning is defined as the percentage of women of reproductive age, either married or in a union, who have an unmet need for family planning. Women with unmet needs are those who are want to stop or delay childbearing but are not using any method of contraception.</p> <p>An even wider definition of unmet need includes those who are not able to ensure childbearing when it is wanted, i.e. women with reproductive health problems such as infertility, especially when this is the result of untreated sexually transmitted infection.</p>
UNSAFE ABORTION	Unsafe abortion refers to induced abortion conducted either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment lacking the minimal medical and hygienic standards, or both. According to the global study conducted by WHO and Guttmacher Institute, most unsafe abortions occur where abortion is illegal. Unsafe abortion is a significant cause of maternal mortality and morbidity in the world. Approximately 95% of unsafe abortions take place in developing countries. Even in countries where abortion is legal, women may not be able to obtain abortions easily for reasons of bureaucracy, availability or accessibility. In these circumstances, women with unwanted pregnancies frequently resort to unsafe abortion.

TERM	Definition
UPHC	Urban Primary Health Center The services and services delivery mechanism of UPHCs is modified to address the unique health and livelihood challenges faced by the urban population.
USHA	Urban Statistics for HR and Assessments The Central Sector Scheme of "Urban Statistics for HR and Assessments (USHA)" aims at the development and maintenance of national a database, MIS and knowledge repository relating to urban poverty, slums, housing, construction, and other urbanization-related statistics.
UTERINE PERFORATION	Uterine perforation is a potential complication of all intrauterine procedures and may be associated with injury to surrounding blood vessels or viscera (bladder, bowel). In addition, uterine perforation and associated complications can result in hemorrhage or sepsis. The risk of uterine perforation is increased by factors that make access to the endometrial cavity difficult (e.g., cervical stenosis - narrowing of the passageway through the cervix) or alter the strength of the myometrial wall (e.g., pregnancy, lactation, and menopause or previous uterine disruption).
UTERINE SEPTUM	A septate uterus is a deformity of the uterus, which happens during fetal development before birth. A membrane called the septum divides the inner portion of the uterus, in its middle. This dividing septum is a fibrous and muscular band of tissue that can be thick or thin.
VACCINE	A vaccine is a biological preparation that improves immunity to a particular disease. A vaccine contains a small amount of an agent that resembles a microorganism. The agent stimulates the body's immune system to recognize the agent as foreign, destroy it and remember it so that the immune system can more easily recognize and destroy any of these microorganisms that it later encounters.

TERM	Definition
VACUUM ASPIRATION	Vacuum or suction aspiration uses aspiration to remove the contents of the uterus through the cervix. It may be used as a method of induced abortion, a therapeutic procedure used after a miscarriage, or a procedure to obtain a sample for endometrial biopsy. The rate of infection is lower than any other surgical abortion procedure at 0.5%.
VAGINA	The vagina is an elastic, muscular canal with a soft, flexible lining that provides lubrication and sensation. The vagina connects the uterus to the outside world. The vulva and labia form the entrance, and the cervix of the uterus protrudes into the vagina, forming the interior end.
VASECTOMY	Vasectomy is defined as a permanent method of birth control and is a minor surgical procedure where the vas deference of a man is severed and then tied or sealed in a manner such to prevent sperm from entering the seminal stream and thereby prevent fertilization of a female through sexual intercourse.
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	<p>Violence against women (VAW), also known as gender-based violence and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) are violent acts, the victims of which are primarily or exclusively women or girls. Such violence is often considered a form of hate crime, committed against women or girls specifically because they are female, and can take many forms.</p> <p>The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women states, "Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women" and "violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men."</p>
VITAL STATISTICS/ EVENTS	A vital statistic is demographic data on births, deaths, and stillbirths. Through events such as adoption, marriage, divorce, and migration, are not vital events, but are nevertheless often included as this is the basic source of information about a population's dynamics.

TERM	Definition
VCCTC	Voluntary Confidential Counseling Testing is a comprehensive range of measures for HIV prevention and care and is promoted globally promoted throughout the world. The potential benefits of VCCT for the individual include improved health status through good nutritional advice and earlier access to care and treatment/prevention for HIV-related illness; emotional support; better ability to cope with HIV- related anxiety; awareness of options for prevention of MTCT feeding; and motivation to initiate or maintain safer sexual and drug-related behaviors. Other benefits include safer blood donation. Currently, in India, the VCCT is known as ICTC or Integrated Counseling Testing Centre where a spectrum of services ranging from Pre-counseling/Post Counseling, voluntary testing, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT), management of Opportunistic Infections (OIs) and STI care management and support are available.
WINDOW PERIOD	This is the time between original infection with HIV and the appearance of detectable antibodies to the virus, normally a period of about 14-21 days. The window period in medicine refers to the time between the first infection and when the test can reliably be detected through tests. In HIV the 'window period' is the time it takes a person who has been infected with HIV to react to the virus by creating HIV antibodies. This is called SEROCONVERSION. During the window period, people infected with HIV have no antibodies in their blood that can be detected by an HIV test, even though the person may have high levels of HIV virus in their blood, sexual fluids or breast milk.
WITHDRAWAL METHOD	One of the oldest known methods of contraception in which the man withdraws his penis from the vagina before ejaculation. Also known as coitus interruptus.

TERM	Definition
WORLD FERTILITY SURVEY	An international program of research on human fertility carried out between 1974 and 1982. At the time, the World Fertility Survey was the largest social survey undertaking ever, with nationally representative, internationally comparable surveys carried out in 42 developing and 20 developed countries.
YOUTH/YOUNG PEOPLE	The World Health Organization refers to that individual in the 15-24 age range as youth.
YOUTH FRIENDLY SERVICES	Services that are provided in a manner that recognizes the special information and needs of young population that is those from the age group of 10-24 is otherwise known as youth friendly services. In Sexual Reproductive characteristics of Youth friendly services would be policies, programs, resources, services or activities that attract young people in the age group of 10-24 to meet their sexual and reproductive health needs and are acceptable and accessible to a diversity of young people.

The Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) is a collective of Indian lawyers and social activists who provide legal support to the vulnerable and disadvantaged section of society. It works on child rights, disability rights, rights of people living with HIV/AIDs, prisoners' rights, refugee rights, rights of indigenous people, workers' rights, and rights of the minorities and people who have faced or are subject to sexual violence, among others.

HRLN, also known as Socio-Legal Information Centre (SLIC), is a non-profit legal aid and education organization, which provides free legal assistance to people who lack the capacity to approach courts for redress. SLIC files more than 100 petitions each year to protect the health, dignity, and rights of India's citizens. SLIC is one of the country's largest, most active legal human rights programs and reproductive rights unit.

