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EDITORIAL

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Challenges in Obstetrics and Gynaecology Practice in Bangladesh: A Call for Collaborative Solutions

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Obstetrics and Gynecology is a critical specialty in safeguarding the health of women, mothers, and newborns. In Bangladesh, significant progress has been made in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality rates, yet several persistent challenges continue to hinder optimal outcomes. These challenges require not only clinical expertise but also systemic, policy-level, and community-driven interventions.

One of the foremost concerns is **limited access to quality maternal healthcare** in rural and underserved areas. Despite the availability of healthcare facilities, many women face barriers due to geographic distance, lack of transportation, inadequate staffing, and socio-cultural constraints. This leads to delays in seeking care, reaching care, and receiving adequate care – the well-known "three delays" that contribute to preventable complications and deaths.

Another pressing challenge is the **shortage of skilled healthcare professionals**, especially midwives and trained obstetricians, in peripheral areas. Overburdened facilities and inadequate human resources often compromise the quality of antenatal, intrapartum, and postnatal care.

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The rising rates of **unnecessary caesarean sections** pose yet another concern. While caesarean delivery is life-saving when medically indicated, the increasing trend of elective procedures without clinical justification burdens healthcare systems and exposes mothers to unnecessary risks.

We must also address **public awareness and education** on maternal health. Many women still lack accurate knowledge about antenatal visits, danger signs during pregnancy, and the importance

of institutional delivery. Cultural myths and stigma further delay timely interventions.

In the context of **public health**, maternal health is intricately linked to nutrition, adolescent health, family planning, and the prevention of early marriage. Tackling these interconnected issues demands a multi-sectoral approach involving healthcare providers, policymakers, community leaders, and civil society.



Moving Forward:

Strengthening primary healthcare, training more skilled birth attendants, ensuring essential resources, promoting rational use of caesarean section, and implementing robust community education programs are essential. The challenges we face are complex, but with collaborative efforts, sustainable policies, and community engagement, we can continue to improve maternal and newborn outcomes in Bangladesh.

As clinicians, researchers, and policymakers, we must commit to **evidence-based practice** and **innovative solutions** to overcome these barriers. The health and dignity of women – and by extension, the wellbeing of our society – depend on it.

Author Contribution

Anjuman Ara participated in writing and revising this paper. Both authors approved the final version of the paper for submission.

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