

Raising Awareness of Birth Defects – A social event

Dr.Alka, Dr. Bharti Sharma & Dr. Neelam Aggarwal

PGIMER, Chandigarh

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The event was organized with the objective of spreading awareness on birth defects and World birth defect day (WBDD). Approximately 20 participants including doctors, nurses, and public health professionals, data entry operators from various centres participated in the program. The event started with a welcome address by Dr. Neelam Aggarwal. She gave an introduction about WBDD, celebrated every year on 3rd of March & briefed about birth defects & their prevention. This year, 5th WBDD will be celebrated globally with a hash tag **#WorldBDday #ManyBirthDefects1Voice**. For this a global platform as a WBDD site is available with an aim to provide one global voice and a platform to all organizations engaged in birth defects related surveillance, research, prevention and care activities. She stressed upon the intake of pre-conceptional folic acid intake by females who are planning for pregnancy. It is a low cost prevention measure.

A talk was delivered by Dr.Alka in which she shared her experience about the various problems faced by the parents who already have a child with birth defect. She also told about the various myths and beliefs of parents regarding birth defects that need to be addressed. She stressed upon the role of educational material regarding birth defects in local languages which public can easily understand.

After this Dr. Bharti shrama spoke about some basic tests that every health provider should be aware of for early diagnosis and timely management of birth defect.

The event ended with a vote of thanks and a small interactive discussion session by Dr. Neelam Aggarwal in which participants asked various questions.

This event is expected to spread awareness on and on to many more.



