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WORLD HEALTH DAY 2020

Theme of this year's World Health Day: Support Nurses and Midwives

In honour of the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the World Health Organization (WHO) has designated the year 2020 as the "*Year of the Nurse and Midwife: a Catalyst for a brighter future for health around the globe.*" This title signifies the culmination of a three-year campaign effort to improve health by raising the status of nursing globally. This day is to celebrate the vital role of the nurses and other health workers in providing healthcare services and call for strengthening their workforce. It reminds the world leaders of the critical role they play in keeping the world healthy.

Aligned with the WHO designation is the Nursing campaign is aimed "to improve health by raising the profile and status of nursing worldwide." This empowering crusade has focused on five core areas: (i) They have a voice in health-related policies, (ii) Investment to the nursing workforce, (iii) Recruiting them to leadership positions, (iv) Identifying, through research, where nurses can make the most significant impact, and (v) Sharing of best nursing practices.

One way to invest in the nursing workforce is to expose and highlight the variety of roles that they can pursue to attract and retain them to the profession. These are the people who devote their lives to caring for mothers and children; giving lifesaving immunizations and health advice; looking after older people and generally meeting everyday essential healthcare needs. They are often the first and only point of care in their communities. *They are at the forefront of COVID19 response-providing high quality, respectful treatment and care, leading community dialogue to address fears and questions and collecting data for critical studies while putting their health at risk to protect the community. They are everyday health heroes.*

They are vital to the achievement of **WHO's goal of Universal Health Coverage** because they play a critical role in health promotion, disease prevention, and the delivery of care in all settings. They are with patients from birth to death and share in their saddest and most joyful times, most traumatic of situations and also sometimes, they sit with patients while they are dying, providing comfort and solace in the last moments of life.

We enjoy the active support of our honorable Vice-Chancellor, University officers and officials in ensuring that nurses and midwifery workforce is strong enough to ensure that everyone, everywhere, gets healthcare needs.

Sd/-
Dr. Sunil,
CMO, WUS Health Centre