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Medhavi Skills University

POLICY ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES

W.e.f.: 13 November, 2024

Medhavi Skills University recognises sexual and reproductive health as an integral component of individual health, dignity, human rights, gender equality and overall well-being. The University is committed to creating a safe, inclusive, respectful and supportive campus environment in which students, faculty and staff have access to accurate information, appropriate healthcare, counselling and referral services relating to sexual and reproductive health.

The University seeks to promote awareness, prevent sexually transmitted infections, encourage responsible health practices and ensure access to appropriate reproductive healthcare services without discrimination or stigma.

The objectives of this policy are to:

1. Promote awareness and understanding of sexual and reproductive health among students, faculty and staff.
2. Facilitate access to reliable information, healthcare, counselling and referral services.
3. Promote menstrual health and hygiene, reproductive health and responsible sexual behaviour.
4. Create awareness about the prevention, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS.
5. Provide guidance on contraception, family planning and reproductive choices through qualified healthcare professionals.
6. Support individuals experiencing reproductive health concerns, pregnancy-related issues or sexual health complications.
7. Protect the privacy, dignity and confidentiality of individuals seeking healthcare services.
8. Prevent discrimination, harassment, stigma and social exclusion associated with sexual and reproductive health conditions.

Scope and Applicability

This policy shall apply to:

- All students enrolled in undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, certificate and skill-based programmes.
- Teaching and non-teaching employees of the University.
- Research scholars, interns and trainees.
- Other members of the University community, wherever applicable.

The policy shall be implemented in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and professional healthcare standards.

Key Areas of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Services

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The University shall facilitate the following services through its healthcare facilities, qualified medical professionals, awareness programmes and authorised external healthcare institutions.

Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness

- Organising awareness sessions, seminars, workshops and health campaigns.
- Providing scientifically accurate information on reproductive anatomy, sexual health and responsible behaviour.
- Promoting awareness of reproductive rights, informed decision-making and healthy relationships.
- Educating students about the prevention of sexually transmitted infections.

Menstrual Health and Hygiene

- Creating awareness about menstrual health, hygiene and menstrual disorders.
- Facilitating access to sanitary napkins and appropriate menstrual hygiene facilities.
- Providing medical consultation and referral support for menstrual irregularities and related health concerns.
- Promoting awareness to eliminate stigma and misconceptions surrounding menstruation.

Prevention and Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections

- Conducting awareness programmes on HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and reproductive tract infections (RTIs).
- Facilitating access to confidential counselling, diagnostic testing and medical referrals.
- Promoting preventive healthcare practices and early medical consultation.
- Establishing linkages with authorised hospitals, Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTCs) and other healthcare institutions.

Contraception and Family Planning

- Providing awareness and counselling on available contraceptive methods.
- Educating individuals about responsible family planning and reproductive choices.
- Facilitating referrals to qualified healthcare professionals for appropriate contraceptive advice and services.
- Promoting informed and voluntary decision-making.

Pregnancy and Maternal Reproductive Healthcare

- Facilitating counselling and referral support for pregnancy-related healthcare concerns.
- Creating awareness about antenatal care, postnatal care and maternal well-being.
- Providing information about legally available reproductive healthcare services through authorised medical institutions.



- Extending appropriate support to pregnant students and employees, subject to applicable University policies.

Reproductive Health Counselling

- Facilitating access to qualified medical professionals and trained counsellors.
- Providing guidance on reproductive health concerns, infertility-related queries and other reproductive health conditions.
- Ensuring sensitive and non-judgmental assistance to individuals seeking support.
- Referring individuals to specialists and authorised healthcare institutions whenever necessary.

Institutional Support and Healthcare Arrangements

The University shall facilitate implementation through the following mechanisms:

1. **University Health Centre/Medical Facilities:** Provision of basic medical consultation and initial healthcare assistance, subject to available facilities and qualified personnel.
2. **Health Awareness Programmes:** Regular health camps, workshops, expert lectures and awareness campaigns.
3. **Referral Services:** Linkages with government hospitals, specialised medical institutions, registered healthcare providers and authorised diagnostic centres.
4. **Counselling Support:** Facilitation of confidential counselling and guidance through qualified professionals.
5. **Information and Education:** Display and distribution of educational materials, awareness posters, brochures and digital resources.
6. **Emergency Assistance:** Facilitation of timely medical assistance and referral in cases requiring urgent healthcare intervention.

Privacy, Confidentiality and Non-Discrimination

The University shall ensure that:

- Individuals seeking sexual and reproductive healthcare are treated with dignity, respect and sensitivity.
- Personal health information and medical records are maintained confidentially and accessed only by authorised persons.
- No individual is subjected to discrimination, humiliation, stigma or adverse treatment on the basis of reproductive health conditions, HIV status or healthcare decisions.
- Healthcare services are provided without discrimination on the grounds of gender, marital status, socioeconomic background or disability, subject to applicable law.
- Informed consent and applicable legal requirements are followed before medical examinations, investigations or treatment.
- Confidentiality is maintained subject to statutory reporting obligations, safeguarding requirements and other applicable legal provisions.

Health Centre

- Provide appropriate medical consultation within professional competence.

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- Facilitate referrals to specialised healthcare institutions.
- Maintain medical confidentiality and appropriate health records.

Internal Committee and Other Relevant Committees

- Coordinate with the Internal Committee and other designated University bodies wherever matters involve sexual harassment, sexual violence, safeguarding or related grievances.
- Ensure that complaints are addressed under the applicable institutional policies and statutory provisions.

Awareness and Capacity-Building Activities

The University shall endeavour to organise the following activities periodically:

- Sexual and reproductive health awareness campaigns.
- Menstrual hygiene and women's health awareness programmes.
- HIV/AIDS and STI prevention awareness sessions.
- Health camps and medical consultation programmes.
- Workshops on contraception and family planning.
- Expert lectures by gynaecologists, medical practitioners and public health professionals.
- Awareness programmes on prevention of sexual violence, exploitation and abuse.
- Distribution of health education materials.

Documentation and Reporting

The Student Welfare Office, in coordination with the University Health Centre and relevant committees, shall monitor implementation of this policy.

The University shall maintain appropriate records of:

- Sexual and reproductive health awareness programmes conducted.
- Number of students and employees participating in awareness activities.
- Health camps and medical consultations facilitated.
- Menstrual hygiene awareness and support initiatives.
- STI/HIV awareness and preventive healthcare activities.
- Healthcare referral arrangements and institutional collaborations.
- Feedback and suggestions for improving healthcare services.

Review and Amendment

This policy shall be reviewed once every three years or earlier, if required, in response to changes in statutory provisions, government guidelines, healthcare requirements or institutional priorities.

