
Obstetric Journey Around the Globe: over the Period of Time

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Now that we have gone around the globe digging into prehistory and ancient history covering the plight of women and girls (mothers to be) along with birthing practices and rituals of the past from various parts of the world with sufficient back drop of those areas, in the last 13 issues of this journal, starting from China moving westwards and then towards and till Australia, it is only pertinent that we should touch upon the remaining bits or so of the Far East, in this issue.

There after this section of JSOGP is hoped to cover such topics from anywhere in the world as and when encountered, to fill in the gaps left or to further highlight such history of the days gone by.

The importance of such inclusions is based on the fact that it is essential for us to know as to how the human births took place in the detectable history and where has the process reached now. Is there any difference and if so WHAT and HOW!

SUMATRA and Human Placenta¹

In Sumatra local mythology held that placenta possess lots of powers, therefore great care was taken for the way it was handled.

For Hunga women it was customary to burn the placenta and place the ashes respectfully.

Japanese Culture and Human Placenta

In Japanese culture it was believed that eating the placenta would increase a woman's fertility. Also that the blood of fresh placenta could remove birth mark and cure epilepsy.¹ Not too strange, as currently various components of the placenta and the membranes are scientifically known to possess many medical properties.

Acknowledgements

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Reference

1. <http://www.pregnancy.com.au/birth-choices/birth-information/birth-articles/birthing-rituals.shtml>



Sumatra's Mount Sinabung, an 8,070 feet high volcano still erupts, blanketing nearby homes and road with ashes.