



PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN SOLVING THEIR PROBLEM OF HEALTH

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INTRODUCTION

- Gender is one of the most important factors to consider in designing, managing, and delivering reproductive health services. Yet gender may also be the least understood characteristic in terms of how women's and men's health needs differ and how those differences can best be addressed.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

- The health of families and communities are tied to the health of women.
- The illness or death of a woman has serious and far-reaching consequences for the health of her children, family and community.

Dependence versus Self Reliance

- Women's economic and social dependency on men greatly affects their use of services and their ability to adhere to treatments.
- They are encouraged and sometimes forced to ask for permission from their husband or other family members to access services.
- They often put the health of their children and families first and do not seek medical attention until they are seriously ill. Often, women will choose not to ask or will be denied, making it less likely that they will use services.
- Further, even if women do access services they often must consult their husbands or others in order to act upon the recommendations of service providers, thereby creating a potential barrier to women's adherence to treatment and care.

SLOGAN

- “Healthy Women, Healthy World” embodies the fact that custodians of family health, women play a critical role in maintaining the health and well being of communities.

Developing a Gender-Sensitive Approach to Improving Reproductive Health Services

- Our health is affected by many different conditions, often called the determinants of health. The determinants may be biological (sex, genes), social (gender, education, family roles, community support), economic (poverty), environmental (pollution, workplace environment), and related to lifestyle (eating patterns, smoking, sexual behaviors).

Gender Terms and Concepts

Sex:

- The genetic, physiological, and biological characteristics that determine whether a person is female or male.

GENDER

The social roles that men and women play, because of the way their society is organized. Gender is expressed in the kinds of relations between sexes that arise from those roles, and in assumptions about “appropriate” behaviors. The gender “mindset” is learned and can change from generation to generation, from culture to culture, and from one social, ethnic, or racial group to another, within the same culture.

Sexuality

Feelings, desires, behavior, choices, and values pertaining to sexual relationships.

Gender sensitivity/awareness/perspective

- The understanding of socially determined differences between women and men that lead to inequities in their respective access to and control of resources. Gender sensitivity includes the willingness to address these inequities through strategies and actions for social and economic development.

Mainstreaming gender

- The incorporation of gender considerations into the analysis, formulation, and monitoring of strategies and activities that can address and help reduce inequities between women and men. Mainstreaming addresses gender issues in all aspects of development, including decision-making structures and planning processes such as policy making, budgeting, and programming.

Mainstreaming Gender-Sensitive Initiatives

- There are five steps your program can take to prepare for successful gender mainstreaming:
- Step 1. Introduce gender awareness and concepts at every level of the program.
- Step 2. Conduct a gender analysis of your working environment.
- Step 3. Assess your program's readiness for gender mainstreaming.
- Step 4. Determine the desired gender-related results: short- and long-term goals and objectives.
- Step 5. Identify the strategies and activities to help you meet those goals and objectives.

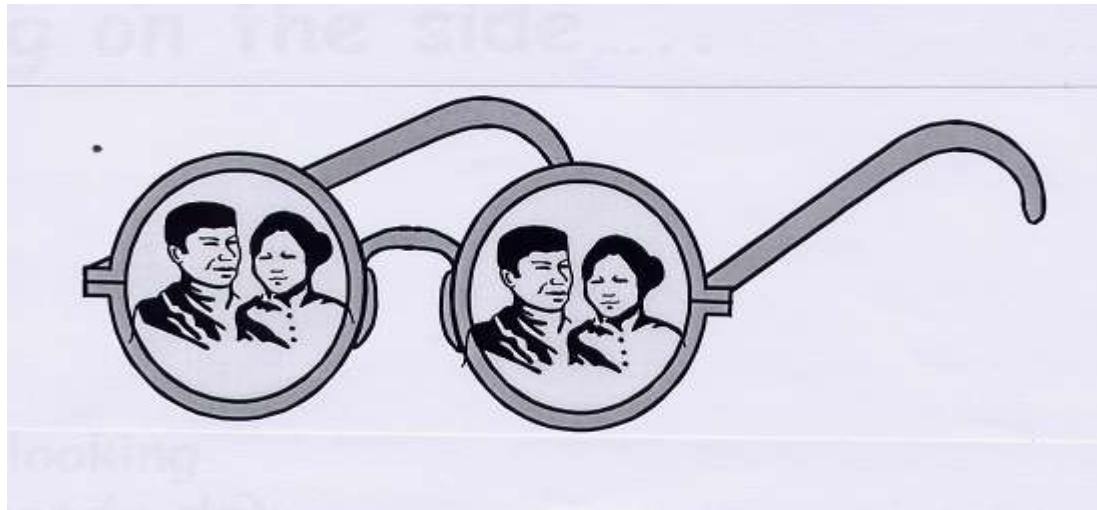
Collection and Use of Information

- Does your management information system allow you to disaggregate data—to collect separate data on services provided to women and men?
- Are staff trained to interpret and use gender-disaggregated data for planning and other management purposes?
- You will need separate data sets on female and male clients, in order to examine your progress in implementing gender mainstreaming and its impact. You can collect data on services provided to women and men while you are compiling information from your records.

Gender Glasses

- Considering gender issues is like putting on new glasses. You look at the same reality, but you see it differently. Reviewing the organization and delivery of your health services from a gender perspective is like seeing them through a special lens that highlights the gender-related aspects.

Gender Glasses



THANK YOU

