

Module 1: Introduction to adolescence and to adolescent health - Adolescent health and development with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health - Assignment

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World Bank. World Development Report 2007. Development and the next generation. Washington: World Bank; 2007.

Young people will greatly influence the future of their nations. They are faced with lots of challenges including education (primary, secondary and higher education), life style (smoking, alcohol), diseases (STI, HIV), injuries, occupation and violence.

Addressing these challenges will affect poverty reduction far into the future.

Policies should focus not only on youth's opportunities but also their capabilities and second chances.

Investment and focus on young generation should be done in multi dimension.

There are lots of necessities that should be done but the priorities are:

Since in most countries primary education are free so secondary and tertiary educations are important for youth's. Governments should pave the way for young people for secondary and tertiary education to improve their knowledge. In addition the improvement of education system for better education is important. Programs for poor students should be considered. For example in some countries there are private secondary and tertiary institutions that subsidize according to the number of low-income students.

Countries should try to increase job opportunities for young generation. It will help them for financial independence and help them for improvement of their live.

Attention should be paid for their health, their participation in society and other dimension.

Yet youth may lack the opportunities or self-confidence to represent themselves in public forums. Young people need to be encouraged to participate more fully in public life.

Governments and other agencies need to learn to communicate with them, make their programs attractive to them, and tap their immense talents as partners in service delivery.

UNFPA. UNFPA framework for action on adolescents and youth. Opening doors with 4 keys. New York: UNFPA; 2007.

Almost 1.5 billion people in the world are between 10 and 25 years old. Lots of problems threaten them e.g. Low economic status, low opportunity to attend in school, HIV infection, early pregnancy. A Framework for Action on Adolescents and Youth has been developed as a response to the needs that allows regional and country offices to speak a common language based on a common frame of reference.

UNFPA has extensive experience of working for more than thirty years in the area of adolescents and youth. UNFPA's vision on young people is: "A world fit for adolescents and youth is one in which that their rights are promoted and protected".

UNFPA has focused on SRH education and services. In order to fulfill this vision, UNFPA will position itself in four key areas.

The Four Keys can be summarized as:

KEY 1:

Supportive policy making that applies the lens of population structure and poverty dynamics analyses: The Fund will focus public policy on young people and incorporate their issues in national MDG-based development and poverty reduction strategies.

KEY2:

Gender-Sensitive, Life-Skills-Based Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)

Education: The Fund will take a lead in facilitating the provision of comprehensive, gender sensitive, life skills-based SRH education in schools and community settings.

KEY 3:

Sexual & Reproductive Health Services: will promote a core package of health and SRH services and commodities that will include, at a minimum, contraception, HIV prevention, and maternal health services.

KEY 4:

Young People's Leadership and Participation: The Fund will pay special attention to working "with" young people through youth-adult partnerships.

[WHO. Strengthening the health sector response to adolescent health & development. Geneva: WHO; 2009.](#)

Adolescence term is used for the second decade of life that represent one fifth of the global population.

It is a period of physical and psychological changes, period of opportunities but at the same time it is a period of risk.

Adolescents are faced with many problems like road traffic injuries, violence, suicide, HIV infection, depression. Investing in the health of adolescents help to prevent the estimated 1.4 million deaths that occur globally every year due to road traffic injuries, violence, suicide, HIV and pregnancy related causes, depression and other causes. So by investing on adolescent health, problems of the next generation can be prevented.

Many things need to be done by many sectors to improve adolescent health. The health sector has a main role, including government bodies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. Not investing in the health and development of adolescents contributes to the vicious cycle of ill-health and socioeconomic deprivation Consistent with WHO's aims and comparative advantage, the WHO Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development (WHO/CAH) contributes to the goal of improving adolescent health in two main ways: by recommending comprehensive, multisectoral and evidence-informed adolescent health approaches; and by supporting the critical contribution of the health sector, including the leadership role of health ministries. National SRH and HIV program should incorporate key elements of the 4-S framework for strengthening the health sector response to adolescent health by:

- **Gathering and using strategic information:** Ministries of health should facilitate the systematic collection, analysis, dissemination and use of data – disaggregated by age and sex –

on various aspects of adolescent health for the purposes of advocacy and informing relevant policy and programs development.

- **Developing supportive, evidence-informed policies:** National SRH and HIV strategies should include enabling and guiding policy statements on what programmatic actions need to be carried out and how they should be implemented in order to effectively address the specific needs and problems of adolescents.
- **Scaling up the provision and utilization of health services and commodities:** Ministries of health should play a leadership role in guiding the provision of health services to adolescents, both within and outside the government. They should put in place initiatives grounded in national HIV, SRH or other programs
- **Strengthening action and linkages with other government sectors:** The health sector should engage with other sectors and civil society bodies to actively contribute to addressing SRH and HIV in adolescents, and supporting them to do so using evidence-based approaches.