

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.

This is a report by the World Bank whose main message is the necessity of investing in young people in order to secure the next generation, especially in developing countries. It clearly stated that now is the best time to invest in youth in developing countries to maximize the potentials in them. It elucidated the opportunities which should be broadened by improving quality and access to education; the development of capabilities to choose among available opportunities by recognition of youth as decision making agents. It advocated for a system that gives young people a second chance through programmes to mitigate effects of previous bad choices. The window for intervention is still wide open as stated in the document for developing countries to take the demographic advantage of the youthful population.

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

The central theme of this document is to draw attention to the poor sexual and reproductive health of young people in most parts of the world and the key strategies to address them. The document first examined the concept of whom and what constitute young people. It drew attention to the demographic profile of young people who are said to constitute about 1.5 billion and more than half of them live below the poverty line. It went on to illustrate the realities of young people today by giving the economic, social and health challenges faced by the group. The high rate of teenage pregnancy, high HIV infection and the high number of young people out of school were the highlighted points. Broader national goals were advocated to guide and give support to young people.

The framework then went on to shed light on the 4-key strategy in addressing the needs of young people. These include supportive policy, gender-sensitive sexual and reproductive health services, appropriate SRH service packages that are affordable and accessible and young people's leadership and participation. Alliance with government and other stakeholders was strongly advocated and the document is said to be amenable to modifications to suit various settings.

WHO. Strengthening the health sector response to adolescent health & development. Geneva: WHO; 2009.

The document has as its main message, the importance of adolescence and why it is necessary to restructure the health sector in order to address the issues faced by adolescents for the proper development of the society. It started by defining adolescence as the second decade of life, time of opportunity, discoveries and also of risk that have consequences which may be immediate or later in life. Adolescents are more likely than any other group to face problems in all spheres of life hence the need for guidance.

The 4S strategy was then enunciated taking cognizance of 2 entry points; the HIV pregnancy, care and support and prevention of early pregnancy and pregnancy related morbidity and mortality. The 4 Strategies are; gathering and using strategic information, development of supportive, evidenced-informed policies, scaling up provision and utilization of health services and commodities and finally strengthening action and linkages with other government services.