

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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Introduction

Many frameworks have been suggested for addressing the health and development of adolescents. In this assignment I will concentrate on three frameworks. World Bank framework for youth development, UNFPA framework for action on adolescents and youth, and WHO framework for strengthening the health sector response to adolescent health & development.

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

The main concept of this framework is that adolescents and their families should invest in themselves besides that governments should invest directly on them as well. This concept has been addressed through five fundamental transitional phases of the life of adolescence: learning, working, staying healthy, forming families, and exercising citizenship.

This framework was set to help youth to develop themselves and effectively contribute to their societies. In addition to that, it will help in evaluating policies and strategies of governments that deal with adolescence's life and their needs. In order to focus policies and magnify their impact to be youth friendly the framework adapts the 'three lenses concept' that concentrates on policies to expand and broaden the opportunities in education, health, and work so developing and deploying youth's human will take place. Furthermore, it focuses in empowering the youth, enhancing their capabilities and helping them to decide cleverly about the available opportunities. In addition to that, policies and strategies should take into consideration offering second chances to catch up from bad luck or bad choices.

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

UNFPA developed a Framework for Action on Adolescents and Youth to translate the Fund's commitment to action. The main argument for developing of such a framework is the need for comprehensive development of adolescents and youth, guide the Fund's support in the area of adolescents and youth to contribute to poverty reduction and the need for articulate the organization's corporate position.

Four keys have been strategically developed by UNFPA to present a unique opportunity for convergence of the Fund's critical programming areas related to reproductive health, gender, and population with adolescents and youth 1) Supportive policy making that applies the lens of population structure & poverty dynamics analyses, 2) Gender & life-skills based sexual & reproductive health education, 3) Sexual & reproductive health services, and 4) Young people's leadership and participation.

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

In order to strengthen the health sector response to adolescent health and development, WHO developed 4-S framework to be incorporated by National SRH and HIV programmes. The reason for that is the framework currently uses two programmatic “entry points” HIV prevention, care and support of those with HIV; and preventing early pregnancy and pregnancy-related mortality and morbidity. Through these entry points, the 4-S framework can be used to address other public health issues affecting adolescents such as nutrition, mental health, substance use and intentional or unintentional violence.

This strengthening of the health sector depend on four components; 1) Gathering and using strategic information, 2) Developing supportive evidence-informed policies, 3) Scaling up the provision of health services and commodities, and 4) Strengthening other sectors.

Conclusion

In conclusion, there is a growing need for these frameworks that help to focus policies and magnify their impact on adolescents, enhance comprehensive development of adolescents, and help to strengthen the health sector response to adolescent health and development.