

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 document offers a framework and policies to address the youth as the adolescent stage is full of risks yet having many opportunities of modelling the adolescent into useful human capital as they are the next generation of leader, parents and workers. The policies addressed here are:

- Improving on access and quality of education and health services
- Develop the young people's capabilities and let them make the best choices
- 2nd Chance, the youth who may have had bad choice are given an opportunity through targeted programs for catch up

Investing in the youth is a sure way of eliminating poverty, with the economic development in the world the dependency syndrome is going down because of decrease in fertility, many youth are surviving several diseases and completing primary education but this needs to be coupled with skills. The majority of the adolescents are in the developing countries; these are countries that having an opportunity to seize in building human capital from the youth who will have a low dependency rate, youths if unemployed can lead to social unrest hence affecting the investment climate.

The policies that enhance the capabilities of the adolescents like: information to the youth as they need it in decision making and building human capital, improving the curricula and convey the value of school, examining options outside school for drop outs, help young people command resources and enhancing proper decision making by the youth through. Policies to offer second chance, there is need to address the young who could have made a bad first choice but because of costs this should address mainly the neediest like orphans and there should be youth rehabilitation centres to mitigate effects of bad first choice.

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

This population information illustrates that the young people are at the centre of all health burdens yet they are the majority of the population and they are in the developing countries that are poor hence the international concern to address these concerns. UNFPA framework addresses a comprehensive approach to the development of the adolescents and youth by targeting education, health livelihood and citizenship, the UN reform involves several agencies hence the need to have a framework to guide the actors. This framework by UNFPA tries to address MDGs 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6. Some of the key areas include empowering the youth and adolescents, increasing access to health, connect young people to livelihood, uphold rights of the young people, but these calls for multisectoral approach for its implementation along a supportive environment by the policymakers and program managers.

The policies needed should address:

1. Public policy on young people and incorporate their issues in MDG road map
2. SRH education, Gender sensitive, life skills based
3. Sexual and reproductive health services
4. Young people's leadership and participation

There will be intergeneration relationship to enhance development

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

Adolescence which is the second decade of life of a person is an important period in the lifetime of an individual in which the future is determined. The adolescents are 20% of the population and during the adolescence stage there are both immediate and future problem these people face due to behaviour practices like early sexual debut and indulgence, drug addiction, early marriages, drop out of school, ill health etc, but the Public health concern, economic benefit and the UN convention on human right, all these warrant the sector response support. The adolescence outcomes are often directed by the social, economic and cultural background.

WHO developed the 4-S framework to address the adolescent health and development, this is premised on the advantage WHO has over others, as a core mandate WHO recommends comprehensive, multi-sectoral and evidence informed adolescent health approaches in addressing the millennium goal 6 of HIV/AIDS and Goal 5 Maternal mortality, the entry points are through the country programs, strategies to address the adolescents problems. The national ministries should therefore do the following in addressing SRH and HIV among the adolescents:

- Draw strategies of having reliable information on adolescents by having data bases
- The countries should make good policies to address adolescents
- The country should improve on access to health services especially the adolescents
- The governments should ensure linkage between the health ministry and other ministries and NGO's

The systematic response involves dealing at 3 levels namely: National level involves the carrying out of situation analysis, drawing strategies to strengthen the health sector response to adolescent health, quality standard and having scale up plan. The Districts should orientate the district leaders, engage the district health teams and map the district services and orientate the staff while at the Health facility the following should be done: staff training, quality assessment by national team, quality improvement strategies.