

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 its vision of policy addressing to youth. It argues the cases for investing in young people. Opportunities, capabilities and second chances are three strategic directions of reform, so-called “youth lenses” are discussed in this report. Although adolescents are statistically healthier than other age groups, their behavior puts their health at risk later on. Smoking, consuming alcohol and illegal drugs, and engaging in sex affect their health in adulthood. Medical problems which teenagers more often face are obesity and sexually transmitted diseases; however the biggest concern is HIV among young people. To become healthy the next generation needs promoting and protecting their rights (including SRHR), equal and optimal opportunities for boys and girls to develop their potential, living free of poverty, discrimination and violence, and forming good health habits among adolescents. Investment in education will help to prevent risky behavior. The health sector has a crucial role to play in advocacy of adolescents’ needs through a range of motive forces, including government bodies, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector. Their work includes efforts to improve an understanding of adolescents’ needs and to advocate for greater attention to adolescents’ issues.

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

The main aim of this document is to explain UNFPA policy in advocacy adolescents and youth health and rights for governments, policymakers and programme managers. It advances the arguments of why investments in these issues are so urgent nowadays. The document reflects Fund’s vision on the main directions in youth policy which it will support. According to the Millennium Development Goals, UNFPA has formulated four keys on which it will focus on; they are reproductive health, gender, and population with adolescents and youth. These goals will be realized at the national, regional, state, and community levels. The instruments for guiding Fund’s work have been given too. In conclusion, it has been underlined that the main idea of UNFPA’s document is to eventually develop operational guidelines, monitoring framework, and tools for implementing the Four Key components of the Framework for Action.

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

This WHO document gives clear definition of the term “adolescence”. It has been shown that there are many reasons to invest in adolescents’ health and development. For clear understanding what should have been done to improve adolescents’ health, WHO Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development has worked out the framework including all adolescents’ health problems issues. Such items as HIV prevention and adolescent pregnancy are still in the sphere of WHO interests. Developing a framework draws health sector’s attention to other public

health issues, such as nutrition, mental health, substance abuse and intentional or unintentional violence. Each key element contains a plan of action for the health sector.