Course Guide

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1. Introduction

These training courses advance your knowledge and research skills in the field of sexual and reproductive health.

The program is designed to address a wide range of contemporary reproductive and sexual health problems and is especially relevant for developing countries. Its development is the result of collaboration between experts from the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Department of Reproductive Health and Research/Human Reproduction Programme, GFMER, and other national and international health training and research institutes.

Participants can make direct contact with WHO (Department of Reproductive Health and Research/Human Reproduction Programme) and other research institutes. This enhances their professional network and offers new opportunities for their career.

2. Organizers

- Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research

- World Health Organisation's (WHO) Department of Reproductive Health and Research/Human Reproduction Programme

3. Course period

The study time required for each course is 8 weeks.

4. Course structure

Course	Schedule
Adolescent Sexual and reproductive health	8 weeks (9 September – 4 November 2019)
Research methodology and research protocol development	8 weeks (11 November 2019 – 05 January 2020)

Presentations and study materials are provided in electronic format. You can access the courses by clicking on the following link:
https://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2019/index.htm

5. Study materials

To compensate for live meetings and instructions, the reading and writing requirements in online courses are typically more substantive than in traditional courses. The advantage is that you not only acquire knowledge through course materials, through your personal time management, but also learn how to communicate in an online learning environment. In order to complete the courses, you need self-discipline and time management skills.

6. Presentations

Each course contains a number of presentations and where applicable other audio-visual materials. They are available on the related sites and can be accessed whenever the participant wishes.

The presentations and audio-visual materials can also be accessed by smartphone and tablets. They are also available in PDF format.

7. Integrated key readings

We have selected reference documents from a wide range of sources. You can find these required readings by following the links in each course. We also provide suggestions for further reading.

8. Study support

The course coordinators have specific research interests and actively collaborate in the management of the courses. They are responsible for the academic quality of the course materials and they are involved in course development, teaching, and assessment. A personal coach is assigned to each participant. The role of personal coach is to facilitate the learning process to the participants, review her /his assignment and other paper works. Personal coach is the primary contact of the participant.

With extensive international experience in research and postgraduate education, specialist tutors support the lecturers by offering technical assistance to the participants.

During the time allocated for each course, participants have the opportunity to get training from tutors and course organizers.

9. Assignments

Below are the assignment requirements for the different courses:

9.1 Adolescent sexual and reproductive health module

This module is comprised of 9 presentations (also called modules). For each presentation /module, participants should:

- Study the slides and talking points.
- Read all accompanying documents.
- Complete the short assignment, after going through the slide set and documents.
- Review the feedback provided by the coach

9.2 Research methodology and research protocol development

For each module, participants must:

- Study the slides and talking points.

- Read all accompanying documents.

- Answer to the multiple-choice questions.

- Complete the short assignment or interactive exercise, after going through the slide set and documents.

At the end of the course, participants are required to produce a research protocol using the knowledge acquired from this course. The topic chosen for the research should be relevant to the participant's professional occupation and based on a real issue in his/her country. Students will receive advice from their personal coach, course coordinators and concerned teachers on their research project.

<u>Note:</u>

Timely completion of assignment is taken into consideration for the final evaluation and certification of participants.

10. Final evaluation and certification
In order to validate each course and obtain the certificate, participants are required to:

- Successfully answer to the multiple-choice questions. To provide the correct answers to the multiple-choice questions, participants need to study the module presentations and documents. The pass mark is 75%.

- Complete the written assignments which should be based on a literature search and relevant professional experiences of the course participant. We will provide specific guide and instructions for paperwork assignment.

11. Participant's ID
Each participant will be assigned a unique number as a participant's ID. Participants are asked to use this ID in all communications with GFMER.

12. Assignment's code
Each assignment will get a unique number as an assignment's code. When participants submit their assignments, both their participant's and the assignment's code should be used as part of the file name and in the content. An assignment template will be provided during the course.

13. The online learning environment
Below are the information about the learning mode:

13.1 List of participants
A list of names of all participants and their affiliations will be published on the course web page on GFMER website.

13.2 Online communication
Online communication not only gives you administrative and technical support, but also offers the opportunity to broaden your education. Course-specific discussion rooms offer you the chance to bring both academic and relevant non-academic issues under the attention of course coordinators, coaches as well as other participants. You will find electronic documentation to

download, links to other relevant resources, and information about important events. The diversity within the community of participants and the network facilitated by the program provides a wonderful opportunity to learn from and share experiences with people from different countries.

13.3 Google Groups

Google Groups is a Google product allowing internet users to create online and email groups about a specific subject. Through the group for each course as listed below course coordinators will post their information.

- Adolescent sexual and reproductive health (https://groups.google.com/d/forum/ah2019)

- Research methodology and research protocol development (https://groups.google.com/d/forum/gfmer-rm2019)

You will receive an invitation from the coordinator to join the group. Once you become the group members, you can create new topic for discussion or response to any topics through email or direct access to the group website. Google has clear online instructions on how to access the group. Only participants can view the group content and its member list, upload files, and post topics.

13.4 Facebook

Facebook is a social utility that connects people with friends and others. On Facebook, you can easily find instructions to sign up and create your personal profile. You can then become friends of GFMER on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/gfmer) and get updated about upcoming events.

13.5 Skype, WhatsApp, Viber

These applications (computer and phones) allow you to make free calls to people (Internet charges may however apply). The applications can be downloaded for free. Once an account has been created, you can add contacts, chat, call and send files. Skype even allows you to make conference calls.

14. Contact

Course email:

- Adolescent sexual and reproductive health (adolescenthealth@gfmer.org)

- Research methodology and research protocol development (researchmethodology@gfmer.org)

For any question and instruction please contact:

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