

INTRODUCTION

Never before have there been so many young people. Never again is there likely to be such potential for economic and social progress. How we meet the needs and aspirations of young people will define our common future. Education is critical. The skills and knowledge young people acquire must be relevant to the current economy and enable them to become innovators, thinkers and problem-solvers. Investments in health, including sexual and reproductive health, are also central. When young people can make a healthy transition from adolescence into adulthood, options expand for the future. Yet today, more than 2 million 10 to 19-year-olds are living with HIV: about one in seven of all new HIV infections occur during adolescence. Strategic investments can allow young people to claim their rights—to education, health, development, and to live free from violence and discrimination.

Yet today one in three girls in developing countries is married before the age of 18, threatening her health, education and future prospects. Up to half of sexual assaults are committed against girls below the age of 16. Rule of law and security institutions must be strengthened to protect the rights of all, including young people. Realizing these changes will require that young people are counted and have a voice—meaningful participation—in governance and policymaking. With the right policies and investments, countries can realize a “demographic dividend,” made possible by falling mortality and fertility rates. With a larger working population and fewer dependents, a country has a one-time opportunity for rapid economic growth and stability. To realize this dividend, investments are needed to build institutional capacity, strengthen human capital, pursue economic models that improve employment prospects, and promote inclusive governance and the enjoyment of human rights. International support can unlock the potential of the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, change agents and leaders.

Twenty years ago, 179 governments at the International Conference on Population and Development endorsed a ground breaking. Programme of Action, which recognized the important role of young people in development. Today, we have an opportunity to define a post-2015 sustainable development framework, built on lessons learned, that empowers youth and includes specific indicators and targets on education, skills development and employment, health,

especially sexual and reproductive health, youth participation and leadership. Young people must be at the centre of the post-2015 vision for sustainable development to drive the future we want.

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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of collecting all important data and information required to be processed for establishment of this report content, secondary data collection is chosen to gather all available information regarding youth and human right. Different sources from different web sites were used to extract and gather all factual information regarding youth and human right. A similar method were also used to gather all responses from the various stakeholders. The sources were carefully chosen in order to ensure the quality of the content, relevance, and ease of comprehension. The main reason for choosing secondary data collection method is based on a fact that varieties of sources are largely available in the internet.

FACT SHEET

- ✚ Our world is home to 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24, and the youth population is growing fastest in the poorest nations.
- ✚ Within this generation are 600 million adolescent girls with specific needs, challenges and aspirations for the future.
- ✚ The challenges are most acute for less developed countries, where 89% of the world's young people reside.
- ✚ A swell in the global population of young people has the potential to transform economies for better or worse, depending on the decisions of today's policy makers, according to a new United Nations report.
- ✚ In a report released Tuesday, the UN Population Fund estimates that the global population of young people between the ages of 10 and 24 has hit 1.8 billion, a historic high.
- ✚ Never again is there likely to be such potential for economic and social progress," the report states. But the authors warn that this demographic surge could also have the potential to

destabilize nations unless young people can secure access to health services, education and jobs.

- ✚ India alone has a youth population of 356 million. The report’s authors called on governments and donors to invest in this population’s education, employment and health, particularly sexual and reproductive health.
- ✚ International support can unlock the potential of the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, change agents and leaders,” write the report’s authors.
- ✚ The Asian region has the largest number of young people: 754 million. That number has nearly tripled since 1950.
- ✚ In 2012, India and China had the youngest population. According to the United Nations (UN), India's total population is forecast to overtake China's by 2025
- ✚ Countries in sub-Saharan Africa had the youngest proportion of population in the world with over 70% of the region's population aged below 30.
- ✚ The group, called “NEET” (not in education, employment or training), often constitutes at least 10% of the youth population, and disproportionately includes youth with a low level of education in developed economies.
- ✚ Nearly 75 million youth are unemployed around the world, an increase of more than 4 million since 2007. By 2016, the youth unemployment rate is projected to remain at the same high level.
- ✚ There are at least 100 million street children globally, an estimated 18 million of these live in India, which has the largest numbers of street children of any country in the world.

RESPONSES FROM VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

Under the Obama Administration, improving health outcomes in the world’s poorest countries has been a key priority. Focus areas include expanding efforts to make pregnancy and childbirth safer by increasing access to voluntary family planning and reproductive health care and strengthening health systems to provide women and girls with integrated health services. The Administration’s efforts also support the following maternal and reproductive health goals and

targets: reducing maternal mortality by 30 percent and preventing 54 million unintended pregnancies across assisted countries.

2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the ICPD and provides an opportunity to further shape the trajectory of population and development discussions worldwide. In twenty years since the ICPD, governments have made significant progress to reaching goals set forth in the ICPD Program of Action and the later Millennium Development Goals. One billion people have been lifted out of extreme poverty, the average global life expectancy has increased from 65 to 70, the number of maternal deaths has been reduced by nearly half, child mortality has declined by 40 percent and many more children, especially girls, now complete their primary education.

But progress has not been even and many of the most vulnerable people have been left behind, including many women and young people. At least 222 million women in the developing world would like to prevent or delay pregnancy but lack access to safe, effective contraception and each year an estimated 289,000 women still die from pregnancy-related causes, most of which are preventable. More than two million adolescents live with the scourge of HIV/AIDS, many without access to lifesaving treatment. The practices of early and forced marriage persist, despite near-universal commitment to eliminate them. One out of every three girls in developing countries will be married before reaching 18 and more than 15 million girls will give birth each year, robbing them of a chance to finish school and pursue their dreams.

The U.S. government will continue to partner with governments, the private sector, international and non-governmental organizations, and advocates to build on the progress we have made and advance the goals that empower women and young people to realize their full potential and help drive social and economic development.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

The goal of U.S. international population policy is to promote healthy populations by supporting sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, voluntary family planning, women's empowerment, development, and efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. The U.S. does not endorse population "stabilization" or "control." The "ideal" family size should be determined by the desires of couples, not governments. The U.S. strongly opposes coercive population programs.

And, in keeping with PRM's core mission to place protection of the world's most vulnerable at the centre of U.S. foreign policy, the Bureau also promotes the provision of essential reproductive health services, including voluntary family planning, in crisis settings.

The emergence of a large youth population of unprecedented size can have a profound effect on any country. Whether that effect is positive or negative depends largely on how well governments respond to young people's needs and enable them to engage fully and meaningfully in civic and economic affairs. Governments can choose to see their growing numbers of young people as a liability, a cohort that will place demands on strained resources, or as an opportunity. With the right policies and investments and the engagement of young people in nurturing their own potential, the largest generation of young people in human history can become the problem-solving producers, creators, entrepreneurs, change agents and leaders of the coming decades.

The United States strongly supports the Program of Action of the International Commission on Population and Development (ICPD), which was negotiated and accepted by 179 governments in 1994 in Cairo and set far-reaching goals linking global health, human rights, and development. A key principle of the ICPD is that couples and individuals have the right to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and the right to have the information, education, and means to do so. Reproductive health care programs should not include any form of coercion.

Enabling women to determine whether, when, and how often to have children is crucial to safe motherhood and healthy families. Increasing access to reproductive health services, including voluntary family planning, has profound health, economic, and social benefits. It reduces maternal and child death and disability, reduces recourse to abortion, and empowers women by creating opportunities for education, employment and full participation in society.

PRM has the lead in international fora on matters related to population policy, working collaboratively with the Bureau for International Organizations, the U.S. Mission to the UN (USUN), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department's Office of Global Women's Issues (S/GWI), and other U.S. government offices and agencies. PRM has the policy lead for, and represents the United States on, the governing bodies of relevant international and multilateral organizations, such as the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Commission

on Population and Development (CPD). The Bureau also works to increase national and international awareness of population issues and integrate these issues into broader economic growth and development strategies. PRM is also involved in negotiations on a wide array of reproductive health and rights issues including gender-based violence, child, early, and forced marriage, obstetric fistula, and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C).

NGO RESPONSES

The NGOs related with population issue had been functioning independently and in collaboration with the government to strengthen the small family norm, increase awareness about population issue and enhance family planning services. NGOs main contribution has been the evolution of replicable service models and the development of communication programmes on experimental basis. The service outlet model (Family Welfare Centres) tried by the NGOs and its adoption by the government programme is an evidence of the pioneering role of NGOs.

The innovativeness of NGOs today encompass broadening of scope of work in areas like male responsibility, integration of family planning in development efforts, community participation, women empowerment, reproductive rights, etc. has placed much greater responsibility in bringing real social change. The magnitude of work is such that tremendous collaboration with government and among NGOs would ensure its sustainability and possible replication in the future. Most collaborations in the past has been piecemeal and needed.

The success of NGOs in spreading family planning lies in innovativeness in devising and implementing projects. Almost all NGOs working with communities do not assume people to be ignorant of solutions to their problems or that they do not seek ways to enhance their quality of life. Rather, the eagerness to access right combination of resources to curtail reproductive risks and enhance productive capabilities were consistently found to boost the family planning activities that provided adequate privacy and catered to their needs. This could be done only by well-planned and framed programmes.

The success of NGO sector lies in their response to needs identified by local communities, especially of those neglected for a long time. Their commitment and hard work to provide basic services and linkage to the needy opened much greater avenues for their progress and participation in national development process. Enhancement in family planning through NGOs can be surely claimed as a responsible work to institutionalize social change. Their innovative programmes to suit local needs entitles them to be 'partners in national development' of a country.

Role of NGOs to Control Population Explosion in India. Success of any programme depends on its acceptance by the people. Unless the community is fully involved in the programme and it considers it to be its own programme, it may not be possible to achieve the desired results. This can be achieved in a better way by the non-government organizations as these have very intimate relations with the people. Their role in removing deep-rooted beliefs favouring large families and male children, improving female literacy, raising age at marriage of girls, essential new-born care, birth spacing, etc., can be very significant.

Such organizations not only have the capacity to reach the remote areas but their activities are cost-effective also. The Department of Family Welfare has launched several schemes in the last five to six years to ensure better participation of the NGOs in the family welfare programme.

PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSES

What does Bill Gates mean when he says that we can "reduce" world population through vaccines, healthcare, and reproductive health services? In a nutshell, Mr. Gates thinks that vaccines and better healthcare have the net effect of reducing population growth because people have fewer children when they expect them to survive. This is supported by data linking increasing health with a decrease in birth rate. The most dramatic demonstration of this is in many European countries where standard of living is high and population growth has dropped below what is necessary to maintain the population. So by increasing worldwide health using vaccination and healthcare we can in the long term decrease population growth. Increased access to reproductive health care can also facilitate this.

YOUTH RESPONSES

The reproductive behaviour of the current youth will determine population growth in the next 2 decades. 56% of India's population is below 24 years; 16% is between 16-24 years old. The future of society, which depends on decreasing rapid population growth, lies with the education, particularly population education, of the young. In 1973-74 only 22% of the population was receiving secondary education; 4.4% university education. Population education is an investment in the future because it will promote an understanding of the relationship of population dynamics to economic and social development of the country and the implications of family size for the quality of life of the family. Illiteracy is widespread and a crippling burden throughout India. The student brings to the school the traditional thinking of his family. His values, attitudes, and behaviour are changed by the modernization of the schools.

Since 1967 various official and nonofficial agencies have organized seminars, workshops, conferences, and symposia in different parts of the country to consider the introduction of population education at various levels of education. Youth themselves should be consulted in designing population education programs.

Another method that has been adopted by different states in order to control the growing rate of population is the promoting of worldwide sex education among youth especially in schools. This is an effective and more sensitive way of controlling population. Here, youths are educated on how to prevent unwanted pregnancy through the use of contraceptives, they are also advised and encouraged on how to abstain from early sex, this to some extent, helps reduce unwanted babies thus controlling population.

MEDIA RESPONSES

The use of print media in campaign for population planning. Population planning is the only way to avoid the social, economic and large scale psychological hazards of over-population. The benefits of population planning touch all levels – individual, family, community, national and even globe. It enhances the quality of life by reducing infant mortality, improving maternal health and alleviating pressures on governments to meet social and economic needs. In addition, access

to family planning can be seen as a human right and as a means to enlarge women's life options. Government resources are stretched thin even to provide minimum levels of education, health care, housing, water and sanitation leaving alone the jobs to the ever-growing number of people in the country.

Print media are usually regarded as closely correlated with education. But this assumption carries little weight because print media like other mass media have secondary audience. The number of secondary audience may, in many cases, be far larger than the original audiences (Black and Whitney, 1988). Its impact may be direct as well as indirect, mediated through opinion leaders.

Abdul Hakim and Badar –ud-Din Tanweer in their study “effectiveness of media messages in promoting family planning program in Pakistan” 1996 found that 50.3% currently married women aged 15-49 have ever read newspapers as compared to 32.6% and 29.0% who ever watched television and ever listened radio respectively. The above facts strongly recommend the use of print media for family planning program in Pakistan.

CONCLUSION

There are more young people between the ages of 10 and 24 today than at any other time in human history. And in some parts of the world, not only do the numbers of youth grow, but so does their share of the population. In some countries, more than one in three is a young person. Why do these trends matter? In some countries, the growth of the youth population is outpacing the growth of the economy and outstripping the capacities of institutions charged with providing them basic services. Will schools and universities be able to meet the demand for education? Some 120 million young people reach working age every year. Will there be enough jobs to accommodate their need for decent work and a good income? Are health services strong enough? Will the young, including adolescents, have the information and services they need to avoid early, unintended and life-changing parenthood? Will the next generation be able to realize its full potential?

The world's population recently surpassed seven billion and, according to UN projections, the next milestone of eight billion will occur in 2025 and then reach 9.6 billion by 2050. These statistics, however, mask varying demographic trends across geographic regions. Almost all of

today's population growth is occurring in developing countries where approximately 90 percent of the world's youth reside. Today there are nearly 2.5 billion people under the age of 19 representing one third of the world's population. These young people will set the course of global health and population growth for many years to come. Yet, global fertility rates have begun to decline over the past few decades and in some countries, populations are aging rapidly placing increased pressure on public sector pension systems and social welfare programs. International migration may help mitigate the effects of population aging in some countries, but cannot completely compensate for it. These different circumstances result in sharply contrasting policy considerations.

RESPONSES OF WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH

In a world of 1.8 billion youth the world Assembly of Youth is working to assist in the challenges faced by youth especially towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The World Assembly of youth helps to educate youth on the practises which will help them to make good family planning decision.

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