

YOUTH FACT SHEET...

GET INFORMED!

- ◇ Pregnancy is the leading cause of death for 15 to 19-year-old girls worldwide
- ◇ Child marriage is the major cause worldwide of pregnancies before age 15
- ◇ In most of the developing world, 90 percent of girls who give birth before age 18 are married
- ◇ 14 million women and girls between the ages of 14-19 give birth each year (married or not)
- ◇ Youth produce 10% of the world's births
- ◇ Young women aged 15 to 19 are twice as likely as those in their twenties to die from childbirth; girls under 15 are five times as likely to die

9TH YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS' CONFERENCE (YWLC)

SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

MIRIAM COLLEGE, WOMEN & GENDER INSTITUTE
QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

WHO ARE THE YOUTH?

CHILDREN:	Under 18
ADOLESCENTS:	10-19
YOUTH:	15-24
YOUNG PEOPLE:	15-35

*THERE ARE 2.2 BILLION CHILDREN IN THE WORLD.
1 BILLION OF WHICH ARE LIVING IN POVERTY*

CONSEQUENCES OF EARLY MARRIAGE TO YOUNG GIRLS

- ◇ Increased likelihood that she will experience domestic violence and sexual abuse
- ◇ Little if any schooling and little possibility of pursuing educational opportunities
- ◇ Limited capacity to enter the paid labour force and earn an independent outcome
- ◇ Greater personal insecurity in the face divorce or early widowhood
- ◇ Social isolation from her own family, friends, and other social networks
- ◇ Greater control over the young bride by her husband and his family, including restrictions on her movement and her capacity to seek health care and family planning services

Virtually all developing countries permit early marriages with the consent of parents, legal guardians, or judicial or religious authorities, however, without specifying any minimum age or requiring the consent of the underage bride or groom. Notably, marriages before age 15 or 16 violate the laws setting a minimum age for a young person's consent to sex in most countries.

COUNTRY	% CHILD MARRIAGE
Philippines	14
Thailand	20
Vietnam	10
Cambodia	23
Afghanistan	43
India	47
Bangladesh	64
Central Africa	61
Nepal	51
Indonesia	24
Kenya	25
Ghana	22

CHILDREN IN THE PHILIPPINES

- 60,000 are prostituted
- 17,929 Million are abused
- 5 Million are child labourers
- 1.5 Million are living on the streets
- 33.9 % of total population are under the age of 15

Although the legal age of marriage for young men and women with parental consent is 18-20, 11% of young Filipinas are married between the ages of 10-14

82 MILLION GIRLS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10-17 WILL BE MARRIED BEFORE THEIR 18TH BIRTHDAY

ONLY 9% OF MARRIED GIRLS IN THE PHILIPPINES KNOW, WITHOUT PROMPTING, THAT CONDOMS PREVENT HIV

EDUCATION

- * 110 Million of the world's children, two thirds of them girls, are not in school
- * Progress in education also slowed during the period of globalization



Child and early marriage are expected to claim the futures of some 100 million girls in the next decade

SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

Due to widespread sexual taboos and the high value on premarital virginity, sexual education is often not passed on from mothers to daughters until necessary or "needed" in which case it is often too late.

- Millions of girls, married or not, lack the most basic information and services to protect themselves, and have little or no ability to negotiate use of condoms and other contraceptives
- Youth are more susceptible to contracting Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's), 5 young people are infected with HIV every minute
- Only 12% of young women have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS
- Approximately 25% of all youth become sexually active before the age of 15, often involuntarily
- Much of young girl's sexual activity is motivated by poverty, and often it is coerced and violent
- Comprehensive sexual education programs enable adolescents to make safe and responsible decisions about sex

Youth need to be educated. Youth need to be protected.

Issues of empowerment, sexual health, pregnancy, STI's, gender, rights and responsibilities must be addressed in order to protect this generation's development and enable them to make informed decisions regarding their present and future. Get Informed.



Globally, the largest share of adolescents and young people come from Asia

For more information visit:

www.unicef.org
www.iwhc.org
www.youthrights.org
www.unfpa.org

GENDER VIOLENCE

- Data shows that at least one in every three women are survivors of some form of gender-based violence, most often inflicted by family
- Girls aged 13 – 18 constitute the largest group in the sex industry; an estimated 500,000 are trafficked each year
- Girls from poor families are susceptible to being recruited or sold into prostitution by their families
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) affects 130 Million girls and women worldwide and places 2 Million at risk each year

REFERENCES:

International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC). Factsheet: The reality of adolescent girls' lives.
International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC). Child Marriage: Girls 14 and Younger at Risk
<http://www.iwhc.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=3487>.
World Youth Report 2007 - Young People's Transition to Adulthood: Progress and Challenges
UN Statistics on Marriage 2007
UNICEF – The State of the World's Children 2009
UNICEF EAPRO, February 2008. Young People's Civic Engagement in East Asia and the Pacific.