

Solving the Problem of Unplanned Pregnancy in Thai Teenagers

The Third National Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on Solving the Problem of Unplanned Pregnancy in Thai Teenagers¹,

Informed that unprepared pregnancy among teenagers is occurring at a rising trend due to many inter-related causes and factors_which are preventable, such as in the case of consumption of alcohol,

Aware that unprepared teenage pregnancy creates a multitude of impacts, both on the teenager and infant born from the teenage mother and on the family, the community and the social and economic setting of the country as a whole,

Informed that many agencies in the public, private and civil society sectors as well as other relevant organizations including the First National Health Assembly, which issued a resolution on Sexual Well-being in Unprepared Pregnancy, have shown interest in working to prevent and address unprepared teenage pregnancy,

Commending the efforts of various sectors in seriously implementing and furthering the commitment to prevent and address sexual well-being issues and unprepared teenage pregnancy as well as to provide advocacy bringing unprepared teenage pregnancy into the public sphere, putting the issue under consideration from the Third National Health Assembly,

Concerned that efforts undertaken to manage unprepared teenage pregnancy implemented by national level mechanisms of state agencies will commence in late 2010 and will require the translation of policies into concrete practices in target areas while linking together state mechanisms and other sectors; that many items in the First National Health Assembly resolution on sexual well-being are still too broad; and that there are obstacles in the implementation process, preventing the complete success of the resolutions' implementation,

¹ National Health Assembly 3/ Main 4

Hereby issues the following resolutions:

1. The National Committee on Reproductive Health Development is requested to function as mechanism in conjunction with the National Child Protection Committee and other relevant partner networks such as the Thai Health Promotion Foundation's Sexual Well-being Development Network to set up implementation mechanisms by:
 - 1.1 Translating national reproductive health development policies and strategies and strategies to prevent and address unprepared child and youth pregnancy into explicit and comprehensive action plans as well as prepare urgent measures to address the issue of teenage pregnancy in an integrated manner by 2011.
 - 1.2 Having provincial level advocacy committees to prepare provincial level teenage reproductive health development strategic plans at all levels and to monitor progress under the First National Policy and Strategy to Develop Work on Reproductive Health and the Strategy to Prevent and Address Unwanted Pregnancy in Children and Youth.
 - 1.3 Performing dedicated and on-going coordination, supervision, follow up and assessment functions.
2. The Ministry of Education and agencies with educational institutions under their supervision, in conjunction with state, local administration, academic, civil society and private sector organizations are requested to take action in developing sexuality education² as well as morals and ethics instruction and providing a system to assist students who become pregnant while still in school by:
 - 2.1 Empowering and building correct attitudes among education institution administrators, teachers and staff members as well as creating a network of sex education teachers to cover within and without the educational system.
 - 2.2 Providing quality and evenly distributed comprehensive sexuality education and life skills education both within and outside education institutions, offering sex education, morals and ethics as foundation or requisite elective courses to provide sufficient opportunity for students to gain knowledge, understanding and comprehensive sexuality education skills for at least 20 sessions per academic year and providing a system for continuous sexuality education teacher guidance and monitoring as well as providing a suitable

² Sexuality education refers to the learning process at each age stage regarding sexual attitudes, knowledge and behavior as well as gender and sexual lifestyles in order to foster responsibility, favorable relations between the sexes and life skills.

sexuality education learning system for children and youth outside the education system.

- 2.3 Having education institutions provide flexible learning for pregnant students in line with Sections 15 and 24(6) of the National Education Act, B.E. 2545 to allow pregnant students to continue finish their educational program.
3. Local administration organizations at every level are requested to support sexual well-being development efforts in conjunction with state agencies, the academic sector and the people's sector by:
 - 3.1 Supporting child and youth sexual well-being and reproductive health promotion efforts by including it in their 3-year-plan and making it the local administration organization's public policy.
 - 3.2 Supporting the community to devise social measures that are in line with religious, traditional and local context practices to prevent and address teen pregnancy.
 - 3.3 Expanding the local or area health security fund by allotting budget for sexual well-being activities related to teenagers and families.
 - 3.4 The National Health Security Office is requested to provide support for all local administration organizations to undertake actions relating to sexual well-being through the efforts of the local or area health security funds.
4. Members of the National Health Assembly will provide the following support:
 - 4.1 In conjunction with the Ministry of Culture and other relevant agencies, accelerate the creation of positive social attitudes towards sexuality, including instilling in children and youth, families and the community a sense of sexual responsibility, respect for gender, morals and ethics and seriously monitoring and supervising media which presents sexual content as well as supporting more safe and creative media in society.
 - 4.2 In conjunction with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and relevant agencies, support the efforts of sub-district family development centers to concretely foster strong families within the community.
 - 4.3 In conjunction with parents' networks within and outside educational institutions, family and community networks, and children and youth councils, NGO networks and related networks; participate in the development of sexuality, morals and ethics knowledge and attitudes among children, youth and parents; and prepare guidelines to promote appropriate communication with teenage off springs about sexuality and possible scenarios.

- 4.4 In conjunction with the Ministry of Public Health and relevant agencies, support the efforts of the One Stop Crisis Center and 24 hour hotline centers, and gather information about agencies providing assistance for unprepared pregnancy cases.
 - 4.5 In conjunction with the National Alcohol Policy Committee, exercise strict control in addressing youth alcohol consumption behavior in line with the National Alcohol Policy by i.e., enforcing the law prohibiting the sale of alcohol to youth, controlling the number and density of alcohol shops in areas easily accessible by youth and controlling the marketing of alcohol.
 - 4.6 Support, accelerate and advocate for the enactment of the (Draft) Act on Protecting Reproductive Health, B.E. ... by 2011.
5. The Secretary-General of the National Health Commission is requested to present a progress report on this matter to the 4th National Health Assembly.
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