

Gender Approach: Family Health Empowerment

Using the “gender approach” for family health empowerment creates a gender-responsive awareness, by reviewing the older concept that generates gender inequity and unfairness and introducing another concept and methodology that makes use of the synergy of gender equality and fairness as well as respecting the rights of female, male and LGBTIQN for better health, security and peace for individuals, family and society.

The 12th National Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on Gender Approach: Family Health Empowerment,¹

Aware that today there are many types of Thai family consisting of members of different generations playing roles differently than those formerly recognized and that the family is the first institution that plays an essential role in the structuring of gender, different family types, ethnicity, religion, and generations of family members, affecting the gender concept, upbringing and family relationship, thus leading to the introduction of the gender approach as the framework and principle of family health action,

Concerned that most Thai people are not aware of the influence of gender on the health of family members and family relationship, while some maintain that a change in gender will break up the family unit, that the action taken by the State today, e.g. policy, measures or activities, is not gender-responsive enough and lacks continuity, that government workers need better knowledge and skills on gender analysis in their preparation of work plans and direction, and that the law enforcement is not effective enough, resulting in most family members experiencing gender inequity and unfairness, thus affecting the health of the family members and family health,

Acknowledging that government agencies have set up various Gender Focal Points (GFP) since 2001 but there is little action and continuity in passing gender-responsive policy, measures and work, while the civil society and private sector undertaking to solve and remedy gender-related problems of violence, stigmatization and discrimination still need serious and continuous support from the government sector,

Appreciate that many agencies from the civil society and academic sectors have taken gender-responsive action to solve health problems of individuals and family caused by gender inequity and unfairness faced by women, men and LGBTIQN and possess knowledge and practice that can form part of the lesson learned,

Concerned that government agencies, especially in health and social welfare, do not have a comprehensive database on gender classification and types of families in an up-to-date fashion and government workers concerned do not have enough knowledge how to apply the gender approach to family health empowerment and that they need better knowledge and understanding about gender in providing gender-responsive health and social services,

Deems that efforts to make the society aware of the issue of sexual equity and fairness are the task of every sector that needs to work actively and continuously and that, for the family to adopt the gender approach in the upbringing of family members and make them more flexible in their roles in viewing and valuing people of every gender with equity and fairness, the family needs to adjust itself while agencies/organizations concerned need to adopt gender-responsive action designed to create family health, reduce discrepancy, eliminate gender-related discrimination and inequity, and promote social fairness, all geared toward sustainable family health empowerment,

¹ Health Assembly 12/Main 2 document

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2 Hereby passes the following resolutions:

3 1. Requesting the following agencies to encourage the family to adjust its concept and
4 methods regarding the upbringing of children and young people:

5 1.1 The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security by way of
6 Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development and Department of Children and
7 Youth, the Ministry of Public Health by way of Department of Mental Health and Department of
8 Health, and the Ministry of Culture by way of Department of Cultural Promotion and Moral
9 Centre Thailand (public organization), the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher
10 Education, Science, Research and Innovation, other agencies concerned, and the community, to
11 manage knowledge and change attitude and skills of parents and those concerned with the
12 upbringing of children and youth on the issue of gender and health of family members, using a
13 new approach to generate a gender-responsive child and youth care, including organizing family
14 activities and public space designed to promote value to every gender with regard to gender
15 equity and fairness,

16 1.2 The Ministry of Interior by way of Department of Local Administration,
17 Provincial Administrative Organizations, Municipalities, Subdistrict (Tambon) Administrative
18 Organizations, Bangkok Municipality Administration, Pattaya City Administration, the Ministry
19 of Culture by way of Department of Religious Affairs and Department of Cultural Promotion,
20 and other agencies concerned to support the movement to create awareness and understanding
21 among administrators of Provincial Administrative Organizations, Municipalities, Subdistrict
22 (Tambon) Administrative Organizations, Bangkok Municipality Administration, Pattaya City
23 Administration, religious leaders, community leaders, community leadership and community
24 organization leaders, to bring to light the effects of gender inequity and unfairness on family
25 health, and to create projects designed to encourage the community to organize creative activities
26 that promote family values of gender equity, flexibility, and recognition of the changing role of
27 female, male and LGBTIQN;

28 2. Requesting the following agencies to take action to promote knowledge and
29 understanding to the society:

30 2.1 The Ministry of Education by way of Office of the Permanent Secretary for
31 Education, Office of the Basic Education Commission, Office of the Vocational Education
32 Commission, Office of the Private Education Commission. Office of Non-Formal and Informal
33 Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation by way of
34 government and private institutes of higher education, Provincial Administrative Organizations,
35 Municipalities, Subdistrict (Tambon) Administrative Organizations, Bangkok Municipality
36 Administration, Pattaya City Administration, and other agencies concerned to manage education
37 of every level, to integrate gender knowledge through such a new approach into the curriculum
38 and pedagogical material, and to create the climate in the institutes to promote sexual equity and
39 fairness,

40 2.2 The Ministry of Justice by way of Rights and Liberties Protection Department,
41 the Ministry of Culture, the Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth), the National Health
42 Security Office, and other agencies concerned, to empower communication and create public
43 media geared toward sexual equity and fairness,

44 2.3 The National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission, the Office of
45 the Prime Minister by way of Department of Public Relations and Thai Public Broadcasting
46 Service (TBPS), the Ministry of Culture by way of the Thai Media Fund, media professional
47 associations, and various media organizations to advocate for the production of gender-sensitive
48 material, to not produce stigma-related material, to not engage in gender-related discrimination
49 and to promote social awareness in respect of gender diversity, prevention and continuous
50 surveillance of media that may cause gender inequity and unfairness,

1 2.4 The Ministry of Labour, by way of Department of Labour Protection and
2 Welfare, to promote and support the effort of enterprises to have a policy and conduct gender-
3 responsive activities in an equitable and fair manner;

4 3. Requesting the following agencies to develop the database, knowledge and knowledge
5 management:

6 3.1 The Ministry of Public Health by way of Office of the Permanent Secretary for
7 Public Health, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security by way of Department of
8 Women's Affairs and Family Development and Department of Children and Youth, the Ministry
9 of Education by way of Office of the Permanent Secretary for Education, Office of the Basic
10 Education Commission, Office of the Vocational Education Commission and Office of Non-
11 Formal and Informal Education, Ministry of Interior by way of Department of Provincial
12 Administration, and other agencies concerned to work together to develop the database,
13 knowledge, and knowledge management and ensure a proper classification of female, male and
14 LGBTIQN, including various types of the Thai family, while taking in consideration privacy,
15 honour, reputation and family, as well as knowledge management aimed to promote family health
16 in a gender-responsive manner,

17 3.2 The Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation by way
18 of government and private institutes of higher education, the National Research of Thailand, and
19 other agencies concerned to set conditions for funding various projects of social, community,
20 family and health-related interests to ensure gender-responsiveness in their research process;

21 4. Requesting the following agencies to develop skills of government personnel:

22 4.1 The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security by way of Office of
23 the Permanent Secretary for Social Development and Human Security, Department of Women's
24 Affairs and Family Development and Department of Children and Youth, the Ministry of Labour,
25 and the Ministry of Education to develop their personnel to have greater awareness of the gender
26 issue, have analytical skills, and integrate the gender dimension in their policies, strategies, plans
27 and projects,

28 4.2 Every ministry with a GFP to set clear gender-responsive indicators on the
29 basis of which to set plans to promote gender equity of every agency and to ensure the integration
30 of the gender dimension for the target groups within and outside the ministry, including the
31 public. In this regard, committees should be appointed to supervise, monitor and assess the work
32 done and reports should be made to the public on a regular continual basis at least once a year,

33 4.3 Agencies concerned with health service at primary, secondary and tertiary
34 levels, i.e. the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of
35 Justice, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, Royal Thai Police,
36 Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and other agencies concerned, such as One Stop Crisis
37 Centre (OSCC), to have databases classifying male, female and LGBTIQN on the basis of which
38 to analyze the gender issue, design gender-responsive health services and to set service
39 indicators, to encourage their personnel at every level and of every profession to have proper
40 knowledge, understanding and attitude about gender, sexuality and gender approach, as well as
41 providing gender-responsive services, conducting assessment at every level, and promoting
42 access to service in a comprehensive and equitable manner, especially in the area of counseling,
43 psychotherapy, psycho-social therapy, family therapy, reproductive health service,;

44 5. Requesting the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and government
45 agencies to increase their cooperation and support to the civil society network, such as
46 community family development centres, foundations, associations, groups of organizations and
47 clubs, to use the gender approach as a means to create gender equity and fairness in the family
48 and society in an active and continuous manner;

1 6. Requesting the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to encourage
2 gender-responsive legal review, improvement and development as well as law enforcement to
3 cover male, female and LGBTIQN;

4 6. Requesting every political party to announce its policy to guarantee gender equity and
5 fairness to every gender in every dimension, including supervising and monitoring the
6 implementation of the policy in an effective manner;

7 7. Requesting the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission to report
8 progress to the 14th National Health Assembly.