

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH STATUS OF WOMEN AND YOUTH DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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The Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic has devastating social and economic consequences around the world. However, infection rates and deaths alone do not provide an accurate picture of the deep gender impact of the pandemic. While available evidence suggests higher mortality rates associated with Covid-19, men, women and girls bear a disproportionately heavy burden of the more complex impact of the pandemic and emergency response by states. Women and girls are not a homogeneous group. They face multiple forms of discrimination. While everyone is vulnerable to the coronavirus, the response to the pandemic is far from affecting people equally. The most marginalized segments of the population suffer the most from glaring gender disparities. Women and girls are at increased risk of domestic violence, lack adequate access to basic health services (both before and during a pandemic), are punished for non-compliance with anti-epidemic measures, suffer from economic insecurity and forced unpaid and unrewarding domestic work.

The available evidence suggests that human rights-based approaches are most effective in overcoming public health crises. The World Health Organization (WHO) notes that “in defining ways to respond to Covid-19, countries must integrate human rights-based approaches and the protection and safeguarding of human rights, which is not only a moral imperative, but also a necessary a condition for the successful solution of public health problems”. During a crisis such as the Covid-19 pandemic, states must fulfill certain basic human rights obligations. They must ensure the basic needs and rights of people, including access to food, clean water, sanitation and housing, and must refrain from discriminating against people directly or indirectly. In addition, States have an obligation to assess and respond to the needs of the most marginalized populations, in this case women and girls in all their diversity, who are disproportionately affected by the crisis. In particular, States should take into account that women and girls are differently affected by the response to the pandemic and, in this regard, include concrete steps to address gender inequality as a core human rights obligation and mandate in the response to this and the meaningful participation of women and girls in planning responses to the pandemic, especially for those most affected by Covid-19. States may restrict certain rights of citizens in order to protect public health in accordance with international law, but any restrictions must be necessary, proportionate, non-discriminatory and time-limited, and include key safeguards against overuse.

The severity of the problems associated with the health of the country's youth, with the current socio-demographic situation, in recent years has given rise to numerous speeches, publications,

discussions in which scientists and practitioners, journalists and politicians actively participate. Issues related to youth health have become the subject of discussion and search for solutions at the highest political level. The emphasis on the health of young people is largely due to the fact that the situation in the demographic sphere is largely associated with the health of this particular group.

Youth is a socio-demographic group that includes people aged 16 to 30-31, which has a number of characteristics. It was during this period that the main sociodemographic events in a person's life fall: getting an education, choosing a profession, starting work, getting married, having children. Today, the value orientations of young people, their work achievements, civil and moral character have a noticeable impact on social and economic processes. In this regard, the reproductive behavior of young people is of particular interest, since in adolescence, behavioral patterns are formed, many of which in the future have an impact on health and life expectancy. A person is in a state of complete well-being, when the physical, mental (intellectual), social, spiritual, emotional components of his life are harmoniously combined. As an indispensable condition, the criterion of health includes the ability to fully, actively, without any restrictions, to engage in labor and socially useful activities. Preservation and strengthening of health is one of the main tasks of the state, for an unhealthy nation has no future.

Considering the versatility of the concept of "health", individual and population health are distinguished. The components of the individual are: somatic, physical, mental, moral and reproductive health. The development of modern society makes new demands on health at the individual and social level. The social significance of the culture of reproductive health of the younger generation is due to the fact that young people are the closest reproductive, intellectual, economic, social, political and cultural reserve of society.

The long-term trend of deterioration in the health of young people entails a subsequent decline in health in all age groups. Young people are reluctant to visit medical institutions where they can meet adult acquaintances. Creation of a wide network of medical educational centers for young people, where it would be possible to receive medical care and where work is simultaneously carried out to protect the reproductive health of young people and a healthy lifestyle, psychological and social support is provided. This is not only promising, but also extremely necessary.

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