

Menstrual Health and Hygiene Online Learning Exchange Advancing Women's Rights: Menstrual Health & Hygiene and Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights

30th March 2023







CHA

EXCHANGE













Advancing Girls' Rights through Improved Menstrual Health and Hygiene



MHM within WASH in Schools

Fit for School supports Ministries of Education in implementing MHMrelated activities as part of WASH in Schools to ensure that menstruation will not be a barrier to education

MHM embedded within WASH in Schools (WinS) provides opportunity to:

- Transform schools into places where facilities comply with girls' needs;
- Provide access to information about menstruation to address taboos and misconceptions in a culturally sensitive manner and without direct parental interference; and
- Contribute to increased public awareness and appropriate action



Crucial MHM indicators







Sanitation facilities

Availability of sanitary pads



Access to information

Continuous improvements in the status of MHM-related indicators in schools since the baseline monitoring in SY 2017/18

WINS MONITORING RESULTS

SCHOOL YEAR 2017/18 TO SCHOOL YEAR 2019/2020



The WinS Network www.winsnetwork.org

Who we are?

Global inter-agency network winsnetwork@giz.de

Objectives:

- \checkmark To harmonize efforts in WinS
- To support ministries of Education to improve WinS services by aligning efforts among development partners and NGOs

Working streams:

- •Advocacy, policy, and system strengthening
- Monitoring and reporting
- •Research and evidence-building
- •Gender including MHH
- •WinS programming
- •Knowledge management, capacity development, learning and exchange

Our core group members: UNICEF, GIZ, Save the Children, WaterAid, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Emory University, UNESCO









Sove the Children





Belinda Abraham

An international development specialist with over 20 years experience in the WASH and education sectors in Sub-saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. Worked with UNICEF, GIZ, and a number of international NGOs in seven countries

- American national
- MSc. International Development Planning, University of Guelph, Canada
- BA (International Development) and BSc.(Biology), Dalhousie University, Canada

Presently:

- Supporting the global WinS (WASH in Schools) Secretariat
- Working with German-based NGO Viva Con Agua Sankt Pauli on Institutional Fundraising.
- Consulting with M4E German based consultancy firm undertake Global Three Star Approach Study



Session objectives

- to showcase the interface between MHH and SRHR;
- to present avenues for programmatic integration, as demonstrated in Nepal;
- to learn about the initiatives of different countries on MHH; and
- to provide a platform to discuss strategies that can be implemented in different countries

Agenda

- Menstruation and child marriage
- Menstrual health and hygiene and sexual and reproductive health and rights interface: UNFPA Nepal program activities
- MHH and SRHR program integration: Support to the Health Sector Strategy Programme Initiatives
- Reactions from Pakistan and Philippines
- Open forum

Presenters

Ms. Radha Paudel

Co-founder, Global South Coalition for Dignified Menstruation, Nepal

Mr. Abhiram Roy

Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Project Coordinator, United Nations Population Fund Nepal

Ms. Sami Pande Technical Advisor, Support to the Health Sector Strategy Programme, GIZ Nepal

Reactors

Mr. Kamran Naeem

WASH, Climate, and Environment Specialist, UNICEF Pakistan

Dr. Ma. Corazon Dumlao Chief, School Health Division, Bureau of Learner Support Services, DepEd Philippines

Radha Paudel

Radha Paudel is a life-long rebellion for Dignified Menstruation from Nepal. She trained as an Anesthetic Assistant Nurse, worked for 24 hours for 4 years and converted as Author and Activist. By quitting all privileges, she founded a global network named 'Global South Coalition for Dignified Menstruation' for changing narratives around menstruation globally. Despite experiencing so many threats/challenges including funding, she also initiated an International Day of Dignified Menstruation for 8th December since 2019 which is marked over 56 countries in 2022. She writes books around dignified menstruation in Nepali and English. She received national and international recognitions/awards for her activism and literary work. She believes that dignified menstruation is an innovative and holistic approach for changing the landscape of gender equality globally.







Link Between Menstrual Discrimination & Child Marriage



Radha Paudel Nurse, Author, Activist and Founder of Global South Coalition for Dignified Menstruation <u>www.dignifiedmenstruation.org</u> <u>rpaudel456@gmail.com</u> GIZ, Philippines Thursday, 30 March, 2023





Introduction

Survivor led, a global Network, based on global south

□ For changing the narrative around menstruation

from hygiene to dignity &

from five days bleeding to life cycle

approach

- □ Founded in 2019
- Initiation of Radha Paudel Foundation <u>www.radhapaudelfoundation.org</u>
- Secretariat office-Nepal
- Steering committee: Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Malawi, USA
- □ Membership:

https://dignifiedmenstruation.org/membership/



Recalling the Definitions

Menstrual Discrimination

Refers to <u>taboos</u>, <u>shyness</u>, <u>stigma</u>, <u>restrictions</u>, <u>abuses violence</u>, <u>deprivation from services &</u> <u>resources</u> associated with menstruation throughout the <u>life cycle of menstruators</u> (girls, women transmen, & queer). It is a forms of <u>sexual</u> <u>and gender based violence</u> and <u>violation of human</u> <u>right</u>.

It is <u>everywhere across the globe</u> with different <u>name</u>, forms and magnitude. It is <u>complex</u> and <u>multifaceted</u>.

Global South Coalition for Dignified Menstruation 2019

Child Marriage

- Is defined as a formal or informal union before the age of 18.
- Marriage before the age of 18 is considered a human rights violation,
- Mostly affecting girls, & can lead to a lifetime of disadvantage and deprivation.



Countries:

Reviewed Policies and Practices Related with Child Marriage



Networks:

Reviewed Policies and Practices Related with Child Marriage



Drivers for Child Marriage:

- \succ The absence of or low education,
- ≻ Poverty,
- Harmful practices e.g.female genital mutilation (FGM),
- ≻ Traditions of family honor,
- ➤ Trafficking, and
- Displacement.
- Inequitable social/gender norms
- Disasters including wars
- Pandemics e.g.COVID-19

Key interventions for ending child marriage:

- Focused on engaging communities, families, policy makers, faith healers, etc.,
- Enhancing the purchasing power of parents/incentives e.g. livelihood activities
- Developing the skills of girls, scholarships, bags, cycles, insurance
- \succ CSE at school, reducing the violence
- Fostering the legal and policy framework on child marriage

Missing Dignified Menstruation on intervention



Menstrual Discrimination: Bangladesh, India and Niger

Bangladesh	India	Niger			
 Ignorance and silence regards to menstruation, misconceptions towards menstruation, 	 Ignorance and silence regards to menstruation, misconceptions towards menstruation, 	 Ignorance and silence regards to menstruation, Menstruation is unmentionable, considered as a woman's sole and private affair 			
Avoid physical exercise during menstruation,	Avoid physical exercise during menstruation	(UNICEF, 2019).			
 Avoid religious activities Avoid being near men and boys; 	 Avoid religious activities Avoid being near men and boys 	Prohibition on religious activities			
		Restricted from sexual activities			
 Miss approximately three school days during menstruation, perceive that menstrual problems interfere with their school performance, menstruating girls do not use the toilet at school Avoid 'white' foods such as banana, 	 Miss approximately three school days during menstruation, perceive that menstrual problems interfere with their school performance, menstruating girls do not use the toilet at school Avoid 'white' foods such as banana, 	Women are deprived from participation in agricultural activities			
egg, milk, avoid sour foods;	egg, milk, avoid sour foods;	➢ Restricted from nutritional,			
Nominal interventions initiated to address menstrual discrimination, priority to hygiene or pads	Most of the programs focused on products and hygiene.	Very few organizations have started to address menstruation, focused on products			







Not allowed to cross the river or communal water source



Not allowed to participate religious activities



Restrict to wash/bathe

??????? Right to dignity? Right to food ? Right to Participation? Right to freedom ?



Afraid to go outdoor activities, including school



Forbidden to cook/eat cassava bread



Food restrictions such as avocado, citrus fruits, milk, pork



Menstrual Discrimination violates the Human Rights as Multiplier Effects



Menstrual Practice	Human Rights							
	Dignity	Equality	Freedom	Non- Discrimination	Shelter	Food	Health	Education
Silence & Ignorance on Menstruation (fear, shame)	Х	х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
No Fruit/food-avocado, fruits, milk	Х	Х	Х	х			х	
Hiding the menstrual products/cloths	Х	х	Х	Х	Х	Х	х	Х
Prohibited to participate in religious activities	х	Х	х	Х		Х	х	Х
Avoid School Activities	Х	Х	Х	х		х	Х	Х

Socialization of Menstrual Discrimination among menstruators & non-menstruators



- ✓ Menstrual Discrimination constructs and shapes the power systemically
- ✓ That power goes in a spiral way perpetuates the patriarchy
- The systemic power and patriarchy further deteriorates symptomatically (menstruation, perimenopause & menopause)



Menstrual Discrimination is root cause for violence against menstruators









Construct the Power and Patriarchy (systematically) that the menstrual discrimination perpetuates the sexual and gender based violence



Menstruator: considered herself as an impure, dirty, powerless, inferior Non-menstruator: considered himself pure, powerful, privileged, superior



6-9 years,

Both menstruators and non-menstruator know something about menstrual discrimination from their mother, news, movie etc.

Influence of Menstrual Discrimination



As like nerves in the bodyfrom womb to tomb, throughout the life cycle

Menstruation, peri-menopause and menopause





Global South Coalition for Dignified Menstruation





Holistic Approach: Dignified Menstruation (Solution)

A state free from any forms of menstrual discrimination including taboos, stigma, shyness, abuse, restrictions, violence, deprivation from resources and services associated with menstruation throughout the life cycle of menstruators.



Global South Coalition for Dignified Menstruation, 2019

WHAT: Free from any forms of discrimination
 WHO: Those who born with uterus and ovaries
 WHERE:24/7 hours including pandemic and humanitarian settings
 WHEN: From birth to death
 HOW: At individual, school, community, policy

None of Human Rights Instruments speaks about menstrual discrimination is a form of violence of human rights and driver for child marriage.



Human Right Declarationw-1948

Convention for Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women-1979

Convention of Child Right-1989

Sustainable Development Goals-2015





Menstrual Discrimination is missing CSE

Concept	Торіс
Relationships	Families, love, romantic relationships, tolerance, inclusion, respect, long term commitment and parenting
Values, Rights, culture & Sexuality	Values & Sexuality, Human Rights and Sexuality, Culture, Society & Sexuality
Understanding the Gender	The social construction of gender & gender norms, gender equality, stereotypes & bias, gender-based violence
Violence & staying safe	Violence, consent, privacy, bodily integrity, safe use of information & communication technologies
Skills for Health & well being	Norms & peer influence on sexual behavior, decision making, communication, refusal, negotiation skills, media literacy, sexuality, finding help & support
The human body & sexual behavior	Sex, sexuality, sexual life cycle, sexual behavior & sexual response
Sexual & reproductive health	Pregnancy & Pregnancy prevention, HIV & Aids stigma, treatment and support, understanding, recognizing and reducing the risk of STIs, including HIV



4th International Dignified Menstruation Day, 8th December-marked Dignified Menstruation for Ending child Marriage'









Global South Coalition for Dignified Menstruation

Challenges

Survivor Phobic Syndrome-

donors preaching for the survivor centered approach but yet to acknowledge the stories and leadership of survivors particularly from global south

Colonized Mindset-

Global South actors colonized with the thoughts and ideas of donors, yet to challenge by themselves to unpack their deeds

Zero Funding-

the quality of research, publications, interventions etc. compromised, excluded by survivor phobic syndrome and colonized mindsets locally and globally



Global South Coalition For Dignified Menstruation

Home Affairs

www.dignifiedmenstruation.org/

Dignified Menstruation: Urgency to Incorporate

- ✓ Is not just about the 5 days of bleeding or issues related to poverty or illiteracy.
- ✓ Is also not about confronting any religion, ethnicity, country or region.
- As an innovative and holistic approach to dismantle all forms of menstrual discrimination, we strive to challenge patriarchy.
- ✓ We believe dignified menstruation is everyone's business because it is matter of human rights for over 50 % of the population in this planet in all settings.





Thank You

- □ Website: <u>www.dignifiedmenstruation.org</u>
- □ YouTube: <u>https://www.youtube.com/@dignifiedmenstruation690</u>
- □ Facebook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/DignifiedMenstruation</u>
- □ Twitter: <u>https://twitter.com/GlobalSouthDM</u>
- □ Instagram: <u>https://www.instagram.com/dignified_menstruation/</u>



Abhiram Roy

A public health professional with more than twelve years of working experience in health and development sectors particularly on socio and economic development, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRH), maternal and child health, menstrual health and hygiene, gender equality and women empowerment, gender-based violence (GBV) and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). He currently works at the UNFPA Nepal Office taking lead in planning, managing, implementing, monitoring and reporting youth and CSE program.



UNFPA Nepal Initiatives on MH and SRHR/CSE: Interface of MH and SRHR



Ensuring reproductive rights for all

GOALS

UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022-2025: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfilling the ICPD PoA





What does UNFPA do?

Among many harmful practices in Nepal, UN working group on ending harmful practices identified five major practices with the highest prevalence in Nepal:

- Caste-based discrimination;
- Menstrual restrictions, including chhaupadi;
- Child marriage;
- Dowry;
- Witchcraft accusations and persecutions.
- Gender-biased Sex Selection
Intersection between MH and SRHR

- A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity in relation to the menstrual cycle, in which women, girls and all people who menstruate experience a positive and respectful environment, free from stigma and psychological distress, with the resources and support they need to confidently care for their bodies and make informed decisions about self-care throughout the life course; (ICPDPoA)
- MH and SRHR intersect in various ways, all of which influence the experience and expression of sexuality, bodily autonomy, and health-related decision-making
 - Socio-cultural linkages between MH and SRHR: dismantling menstrual stigma and transforming harmful social and cultural norms is pivotal for the achievement of SRHR and gender equality
 - **Menstrual knowledge and SRHR**: Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and puberty education can be effective channels to share accurate, age-appropriate education on MH and SRHR and address stigma among peers.
 - **Biological Linkages Between MH and SRHR**: several intersections between MH and contraception

TECHNICAL BRIEF ON THE INTEGRATION OF MENSTRUAL HEALTH INTO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES



Legal Context

The **Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act** 2075/2018 safeguards young people's rights to comprehensive SRHR information, education and services.

Nepal is a **signatory to several international human rights** treaties which guarantee women and girls rights to equality and non-discrimination.

SDG 3 on health and well-being, SDG 4 on quality education and SDG 5 on gender equality and women empowerment

National Adolescent Health and Development Strategy 2018

School Education Sector Plan 2022 -2031

National Curriculum Framework 2020 – chapters on Menstrual health and hygiene are explicitly integrated in school curriculum including other CSE components.







What does UNFPA do?

Policy Advocacy and Technical Support to the Government –

MoHP, MoEST, MoWCSC for integration of MH into SRHR/CSE relevant policies and program, and to recognize and address GBV/Harmful Practices:

Build Institutional Capacity and Strengthen Service Delivery and Quality of Care:

AFHS certification, Service providers training, Commodities supply, supply chain management, prevention and treatment of RH morbidities, support develop cadre of Midwives, Teacher training on CSE.

SRHR/CSE in Humanitarian Setting:

Prepositioning and supplies of RH kits, **Dignity and Kishori Kits**, Counseling



What does UNFPA do?

Strengthen coordination mechanism:

Health Cluster and Protection cluster, RH and GBV sub-cluster, Intercluster, CSE Technical Working Group, National CSE Advocacy Coalition.

Creating an enabling environment to increase demand for CSE, SRHR services and improving MH.

Raising awareness and Empowering women and girls:

Roll-out Rupantaran: Adolescent social and Financial Skill Package, CSE out of school

Social Media and communications for impact:

Young people's engagement through social media and innovative community out reach program





BEST PRACTICES

- Use of ICT materials such as smart projectors and replenish of IEC/BCC and edutainment materials to AFICs improved access for young students to sexuality/SRHR/MH information and education materials.
- Use of Digital platforms and innovative community outreach during the time of COVID19 crisis – such as mobilization of PEER educators, formulation of girls circle, youth initiated web-series, social media ambassadors etc.
- Formulation of Technical Working Groups (TWGs), advocacy coalitions and Youth Advocates have strengthened partnerships, especially with MOEST, MoHP and youth-led organization to advocate for integration of CSE and MH/SRHR agendas into policies and plans.

Thank you

Sami Pande

Sami Pande works as a Technical Advisor for GIZ-Support to the Health Sector Strategy since 2019. She has done Masters of Public Health from The University of Adelaide and has several years of experience working in Public Health field in Nepal especially in Adolescent Sexual reproductive Health, Comprehensive Sexuality Education, WASH in School and Menstrual Health and Hygiene areas.



Menstrual Health and Hygiene Online Learning Exchange

Sami Pande Technical Advisor Support to the Health Sector Strategy (S2HSS) 2023.03.30



Implemented by



Introduction to the Support to the Health Sector Strategy (S2HSS)

GIZ is supporting the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) to implement Nepal Health Sector Strategy 2015-2020 extended up to 2022 through S2HSS which runs from July 2021 to July 2024. With the aim to improve access to effective and high quality health care services in Nepal, particularly for disadvantaged populations.

The overall goal of S2HSS is to strengthen the capacities of the institutions responsible for the social health protection and healthcare provision of the population.

Four Major Working Areas



Social Health Protection



Sub-National Health Management



Improving access to digital data and information for health sector management



Institutionalization of selected approaches for the improvement of reproductive health services



SRH and MH can be delivered in following approaches below

- (1)Access to menstrual health and SRH commodities
- (2)Education and information
- (3)Access to health services and other allied services (e,g. WASH facilities)
- (4) Addressing and transforming gender norms, roles and power dynamics and creating enabling environment





GIZ's support to ASRH program-2016 and earlier







Education and Awareness





Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on MHM and ASRH



She had felt really

0:30 / 4:29

⁵¹ 25.09.2 Menstrual Health

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Digital Approach



School-based MHM Program











SHORT FILMS





#Nepals Menstrual

Movement

महिनावरी सम्बन्धि

नेपालको अभियान

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN NEPAL 2021/22

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INTERVIEW



WITH GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL https://bit.ly/3y2Uty0

ARTICLES/ GRAPHICS



TACKLING TABOOS

TEASERS

#WORLDTOILETDAY 2021 https://bit.ly/3bvor6W

SHORT **CLIPS**



FEATURES OF A FEMALE FRIENDLY TOILET https://bit.ly/30Wo9Ge







प्याड कसरी बनाउने?

#CHOICEISYOURS https://bit.ly/30Nhor4





गॅठ्यीलाको क्षमताको

गँड्यौलाहरूको क्षमता https://bit.ly/30s3h8s

बारेमा बुइन



ge or we will remain फ्रिकडीङ स्वल्फीकी ईस पी रा विरुद्ध हाली रावे एक होओं । अब तेन महनी अने हाली रावेंको हाली



"Lets stand together against all kinds of menstrual taboos. High

KEKI ADHIKARI, THE GOOD-WILL AMBASSADOR FOR MENSTRUAL HEALTH https://bit.ly/3noR6x3

YOUNG FEMALE INFLUENCERS ENERGISE THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST MENSTRUAL TABOOS https://bit.ly/3yA2JYL



Innovation on Menstrual Products

Support for Compostable Sanitary Pad Production

- Setting up of sanitary pad units to establish social business through women led cooperatives
- It is low-cost and can be operated by semi-skilled persons
- Women are empowered through job creation; and sanitary pads are made more accessible in remote areas without relying on importing them
- Awareness on Menstrual Health and openness towards the topic is increasing in communities
- Challenges due to need of importing raw materials from India









WASH in School (WinS) Intervention

Support for WASH Facilities/ services in schools









THANK YOU



Contact for queries



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Reactions

Open forum

Questions to reflect on

What are your thoughts on the presentations?

Which of the strategies presented can be adopted in your country?

What are the challenges you foresee in the implementation of the strategies presented?

WinS Network membership

You are invited to join the WinS Network by filling out the <u>member registration</u> form. You will receive updates on WinS Network activities and can contribute to the Network's activities.





Scan to access the member registration form



Thanks for your attention!

You may contact us at winsnetwork@giz.de











