



EPIISODE 1

# **Voices of adolescents in proposing policies for sexual and reproductive health and rights**

Good Practice



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# Introduction

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The ability of Thailand to develop the rights and voices of adolescents and to enable them to participate in policymaking is at the centre of social change. The development and scaling of sexual and reproductive health information and services for adolescents, one of the major issues that the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has always focused on, is the foundation for progress towards gender equality and alleviating the causes of gender-based violence. Engaging youth will ensure success in human resources development, which is a long-term goal for sustainable development, and promote well-being for all people at all ages by 2030.

A survey of 5 million Thai adolescents aged 15–19 assessed the current sexual and reproductive health situation in Thailand. The survey was conducted by the Thai Health Promotion Foundation in 2019. According to the survey, one of the major concerns in Thai society is unintended pregnancy among youth and adolescents, with 250,000 teenage pregnancies annually. Some 65 per cent of youth and adolescents lack knowledge on and understanding of prevention against pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Only one third

of youth and adolescents have knowledge and are able to implement their knowledge about contraception during sexual relations. This results in approximately 120,000 births annually among this age group, complicated by a lack of knowledge regarding pregnancy, childbirth and the situation raising a child.

UNFPA promotes access to rights-based voluntary family planning for all people, particularly youth and adolescents, in order to achieve people-centred sustainable development. To address unintended pregnancy in Thailand, UNFPA is committed to establishing cooperative programmes with the government and private sector partners, especially among the partnership network representing the rights and voices of the youth and adolescents. This work would advance the UNFPA Strategic Plan expressed as three transformative results: (a) end preventable maternal deaths, (b) end the unmet need for family planning, and (c) end gender-based violence and all harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation. Mechanisms are used to encourage the Children and Youth Council of Thailand to participate in national policymaking, to provide an opportunity to allow adolescents to exercise their legitimate right to voice their opinions on sexual and reproductive health. Efforts are also made to increase cooperation with various partners both from the government and private sector.

UNFPA's 11th Country Programme with the Government Thailand (2017–2021) has raised various issues over time. In

particular, the issue of the rights of youth and adolescents has moved forward through advocacy around a policy proposal on the right to sexual and reproductive health made during the meeting of the Committee for Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy.<sup>1</sup> Strategic partnerships have been made with mainstream media organizations, including the Thai Public Broadcasting Service (Thai PBS), as well as online media to provide adolescents with accurate information on reproductive health, how to prevent unintended pregnancy, the right to manage and obtain government assistance in case of unintended pregnancy and the right of teenage mothers to continue their education according to their own decision. Increased knowledge and understanding, cooperation with the government and private sector partners, and national policy participation from adolescents will help to bring about rights-based development of adolescents' sexual and reproductive health and well-being.

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1 <http://www.oic.go.th/FILEWEB/CABINFOCENTER17/DRAWER002/GENERAL/DATA0002/00002366.PDF> [BROKEN LINK – Please provide working link and complete citation]  
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# Chapter 1

Listening to the voices of adolescents



“Thailand gives an opportunity to male and female adolescents to be members of the National Committee to direct the approaches and policies in moving forward all dimensions of works relating to pregnancy in Thailand. In this matter, the availability of the National Committee comprising only adult members may not be able to cover the thoughts and feelings of children and youth, and may not be able to reflect various issues. Therefore, this Committee can be used as another platform for adolescents. Although there are only two representatives, these representatives will be able to give meaningful opinions on the laws relating to pregnancy in adolescents.”

*Mr. Yothin Thongpawa, a member of the National Committee and President of the Children and Youth Council of Thailand*

## **National-level support for youth participation**

The participation of youth and adolescent representatives ensures that their voices are heard regarding rights relating to sexual and reproductive health issues, in particular the rights exercised by young people under Article 5 of the Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy Problem Act A.D. 2016. The Act aims to improve the quality of sexual and reproductive health education, and to improve services for young mothers by increasing information-sharing across ministries. The Act focuses on the rights of adolescents to make their own decisions and to obtain reproductive health information and services, in addition to privacy and confidentiality, the distribution of social welfare in an equal and non-discriminatory manner, and other rights under this Act.

Cooperation between the government and representatives of male and female adolescents, as well as cooperation at the policy level, is encouraged through the collaboration of UNFPA and its networks.

Thailand has a **National Committee for Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy**, where at least one male and one female youth representative presents their ideas thoroughly at every meeting. The importance of inclusion on the National Committee is emphasized by Mr. Yothin Thongpawa, a member of the National Committee and President of the Children and Youth Council of Thailand, another platform for youth participation:



*“Thailand gives an opportunity to male and female adolescents to be members of the National Committee to direct the approaches and policies in moving forward all dimensions of works relating to pregnancy in Thailand. In this matter, the availability of the National Committee comprising only adult members may not be able to cover the thoughts and feelings of children and youth, and may not be able to reflect various issues. Therefore, this Committee can be used as another platform for adolescents. Although there are only two representatives, these representatives will be able to give meaningful opinions on the laws relating to pregnancy in adolescents.”*

The **Children and Youth Council of Thailand** is a platform where adolescents and youth can voice their opinions, and where concerns are developed into policy recommendations. In this regard, UNFPA coordinated a survey with the Council, with support from Thai PBS, titled “The voice of Thai youth and adolescents on the right to sexual and reproductive health under the Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy Problem Act A.D. 2016.” This activity encouraged adolescents to be aware of and to make policy proposals that support access to their rights under Article 5 of the Act.

### **Survey of opinions and needs**

The survey on the voice of Thai youth and adolescents utilized a digital tool through Thai PBS, the C-Site Application, which was in line with the target group’s way of life. Adolescents were able to participate in this activity through the Internet and mobile phone to respond to questions about the right to sexual and reproductive health. The questionnaire was a joint effort between Thai PBS’s

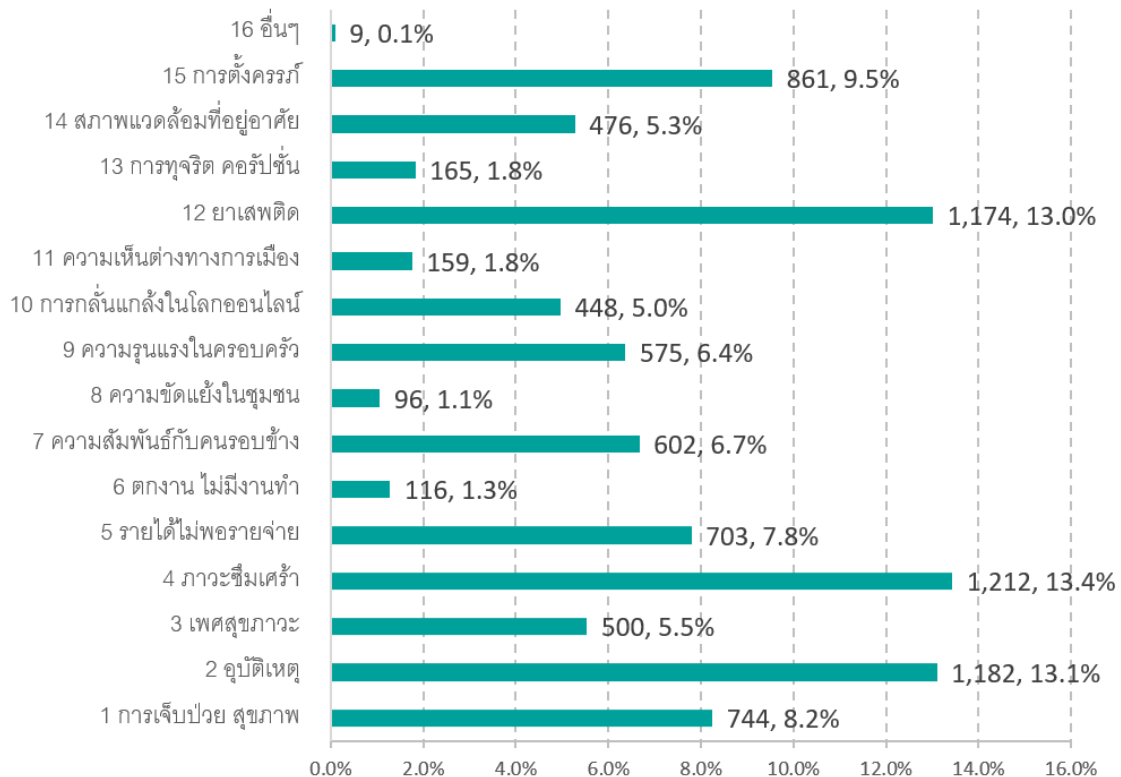
Citizen Reporters Office and the Children and Youth Council of Thailand, serving as a representative for Thai adolescents. The survey focused on children, youth and adolescents aged 10–25 and was carried out from July to October 2019. The voices of nearly 3,000 adolescents nationwide highlighted problems and needs regarding sexual and reproductive rights. The findings can be summarized into five key issues:

- Children, youth and adolescents are concerned about four major issues that affect them the most, namely: depression, accidents, drugs and pregnancy in adolescents.
- Children, youth and adolescents in general are satisfied with sexuality education in academic institutions. However, it is still necessary to improve the overall content with more consideration of the reproductive rights of adolescents. The focus should not be on the negative impact of sexual activity only. The capacity of personnel and teachers must be enhanced regarding counselling and the confidentiality of personal information.
- Parenting and attitudes of parents and communities are not conducive to learning or to adjusting attitudes regarding sexuality education for children, youth and adolescents, although young people need to develop necessary skills for the next generation.
- In answering the question, “If I am pregnant...”, or “If my girlfriend is pregnant...”, half of the youth and adolescents are of opinion that “mother” is the first person from whom they will seek advice. Two thirds of the respondents are confident that they have sufficient knowledge to give advice to their pregnant friends, particularly information on the rights of pregnant adolescents.

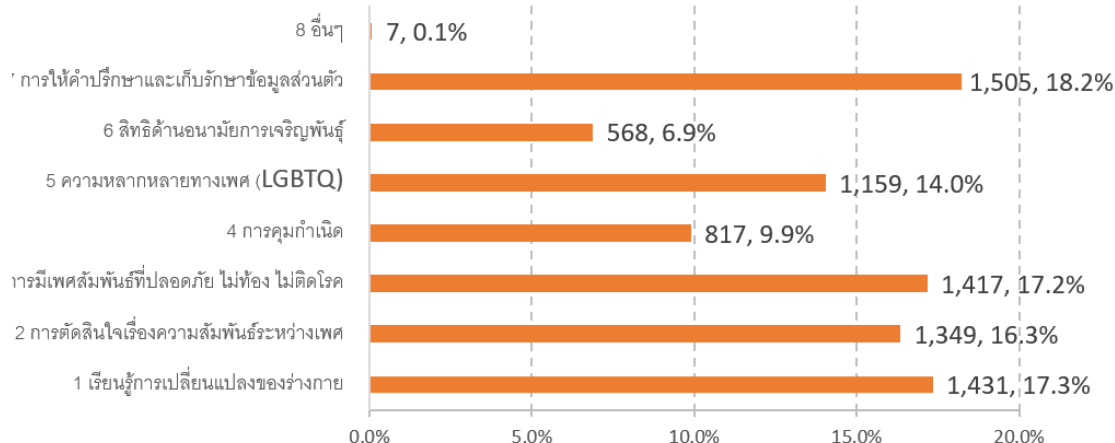


- According to the survey, half of the youth and adolescents are satisfied with reproductive health in their residential areas. However, further improvement should be made to be more responsive to their needs, especially in increasing communication channels for counselling and suitable social media information, as well as more youth-friendly access to condoms.

**Figure 1: Results of the survey of nearly 3,000 children, youth and adolescents, reflecting the problems with highest impacts on their lives**



**Figure 2: Questionnaire responses to: “I would like to learn more about these topics to have comprehensive knowledge on sexuality education”**



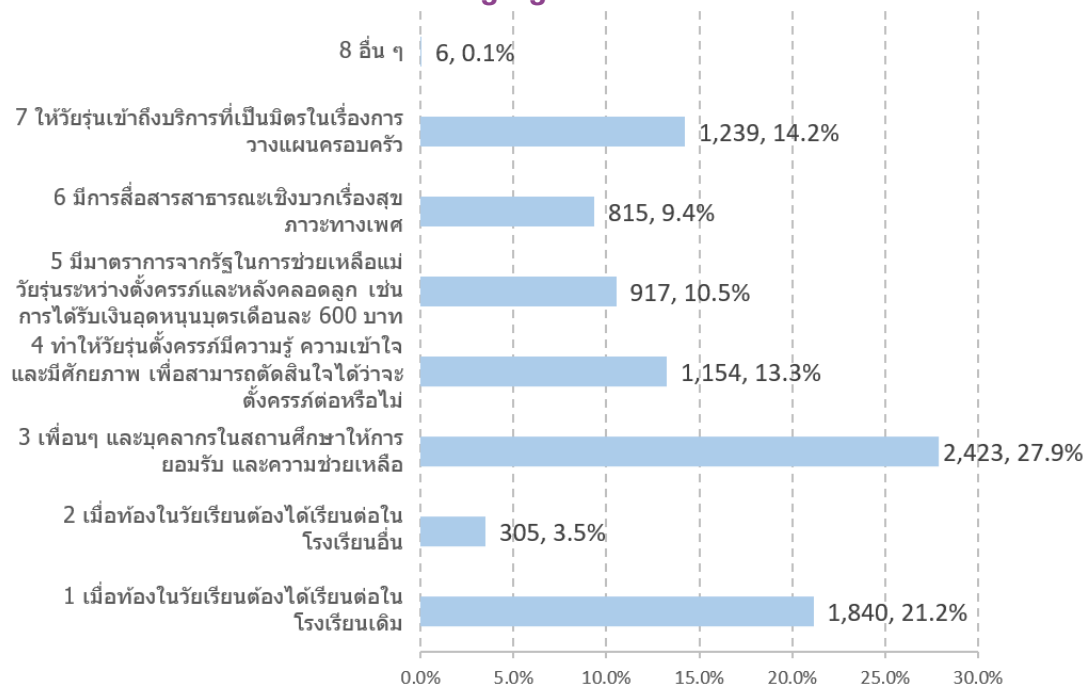
## Policy recommendations

The survey results were analysed and proposed as policy recommendations to the meeting of the National Committee for Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy Problems. The survey identified four major issues for action:<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> <https://thailand.unfpa.org/th/youth-voice>



**Figure 3: Questionnaire responses to: “In my opinion, pregnant adolescents should obtain the following rights”**



The accuracy and quality of the data in this survey results has been assured. The data collected by members of the Children and Youth Council from children and youth networks across the country was verified by experts from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. In addition, 40 representatives selected by the Children and Youth Council double-checked the accuracy and completeness of the data prior to dissemination.

The survey and resulting policy recommendations have been well received. Mr. Thongpawa expressed his opinion regarding the benefits to be obtained from this activity, in particular as a contribution to 2016 law, the Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy Problem Act:

*“After the law is generated, it is necessary to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of implementation from various agencies or government sectors through various monitoring and evaluation methods, such as the survey of adolescents’ voice. We use technology in this stage, such as applications for the survey of adolescents’ voice. A simple example is to see whether or not pregnant adolescents can pursue their study. Has anyone got expelled from school? Or how is the service? What is the extent of counselling and keeping confidentiality of personal data? The reflection received can help recheck and give feedback to the government sector and policymakers so that they will be more able to solve problems. After having the law, it is necessary to recheck, and it is necessary to have children, youth and adolescent engagement process. Since they are the ones who face the problems, they have to reflect these problems. Therefore, surveys of adolescents’ voice have been made to reflect the problems, and to further make them national policies and agenda.”*

The survey of adolescents’ voice was an important step towards engaging those who are most affected by the law and who stand to benefit most from the solutions it brings about.

1.

**Promote and support the participation of adolescents in the planning and evaluation of youth-friendly reproductive health services.**

The way forward included related actions in key areas:

- Increase and improve channels of communication to provide counselling and information on comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and comprehensive sexuality education through social media that is appropriate and suitable for the age and needs of children, youth and adolescents, particularly those who do not have access to information and services, such as ethnic groups.
- Increase youth-friendly access to condoms for adolescents, ensuring that such access and service should not lead to bias or stigma from adults or society as a whole.
- In case of pregnancy, youth and adolescents should have knowledge and understanding about youth-friendly channels that provide counselling and assistance in accordance with their rights to sexual and reproductive health, including access to modern methods of contraception.





2.

**Provide knowledge to youth and adolescents.** This

recommendation is to ensure that adolescents are confident in their knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and rights, and are prepared to provide accurate information to their pregnant friends, particularly about the rights to which youth and adolescents are entitled when pregnant. Too many lack the knowledge required to make decisions responsibly about their sexual and reproductive health, leaving them vulnerable to coercion, gender-based violence, sexually transmitted infections including HIV and unintended pregnancy. Providing knowledge also means empowering young people to know and exercise their rights – including the right to delay marriage and the right to refuse unwanted sexual advances.

- Develop the knowledge, capacity and potential of youth and adolescents using the mechanism of the Children and Youth Council of Thailand as well as student councils at all levels. This will enhance knowledge and understanding on the rights under Article 5 of the Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy Act.



- Raise awareness on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights through life skills and comprehensive sexuality education. Knowledge enhancement also means the accumulation and attempts to create knowledge for youth, adolescents and society as a whole to generate awareness.



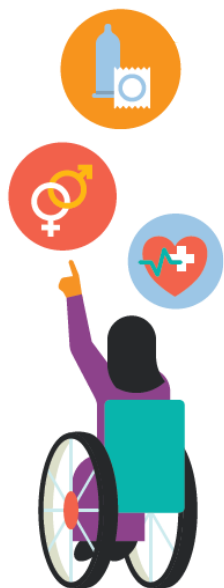
- Promote the role of the family in terms of communication, to create understanding of sexual health and its broader meaning than sexual relationships. In this regard, youth and adolescents should be provided information and nurtured to understand sexuality based on the concepts of the right to reproductive health and respect for privacy and confidentiality. Adolescents should be provided with accurate information and choices. Mothers play an important role as the first person whom adolescents will ask for advice in case of pregnancy.

### **3. Pregnant adolescents must be allowed to continue their study.**

The third recommendation is that education must be possible despite pregnancy.



- Ensure that pregnant adolescents are allowed to continue their education under the forms or institutions they want, either in their same school or at a new school. Systems should be in place to enable young mothers to continue their education at school, particularly support and assistance from teachers and classmates. Stigmatization must be prohibited.



4.

#### **Youth and adolescents with disability need access to their rights to sexual and reproductive health.**

- Increase access to information. This group of adolescents lack knowledge about contraception, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, their own bodily autonomy and their rights to a life free from violence and discrimination. Youth and adolescents with disabilities lack educational materials on sexual health appropriate specific to their situation.
- Address harmful attitudes. At present, parents or teachers perceive that the need for sexual knowledge or sexual interest is indecent and is not necessary for disabled children, yet the lack of knowledge places them at risk.
- Increase voice and participation. Very few female adolescents with disability participate in decision-making about their own sexual and reproductive health and rights. In some cases, parents decide to force sterilization on girls or female adolescents with disabilities; however, this may increase the risk of sexual abuse because perpetrators aware of this fact may exploit the infertility status of disabled female adolescents.







# Chapter 2

Participation of adolescents  
in policy advocacy



UNFPA is committed to collaboration with various sectors and empowering adolescents to exercise their rights to sexual and reproductive health, including their participation in policymaking. As noted in Chapter 1, this work is in line with Article 5 of the Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy Problem Act A.D. 2016. It includes working with media partners such as Thai PBS, with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, and with youth and adolescent networks such as the Children and Youth Council of Thailand and student councils in various levels. Such cooperation results in the obtainment of their needs in general and advance the policy proposals regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights that emerged from the 2019 survey on the voices of youth and adolescents.

## **Survey recommendations become policy proposals**

The proposals were integrated in the 2019/2 meeting agenda of the National Committee for Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy Problems and became three concrete policy proposals in the Committee's resolutions:<sup>4</sup>

1. Encourage children and adolescents in the areas to participate in planning and evaluating youth-friendly reproductive health service provision by increasing communication channels, access to condoms without bias from adults, as well as access to the rights and assistance;
2. Knowledge for children and youth should be improved through mechanisms of the Children and Youth Council of Thailand. Campaigns should be made to provide knowledge, promote the family's roles in creative communication regarding sexuality, as well as promote knowledge for mothers so that they can give further advice;
3. Pregnant adolescents must be able to continue their study at the former school with an appropriate care and assistance system.

In addition to the three proposals, there were also comments and remarks from both UNFPA and representatives of adolescents in the National Committee's meeting. For example, Dr. Wasana

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.oic.go.th/FILEWEB/CABINFOCENTER17/DRAWER002/GENERAL/DATA0002/00002366.PDF>



Aim-im, UNFPA Representative, proposed that the 1663 Hotline ask for information on birth control from persons seeking advice. Mr. Yothin Thongpawa, President, Children and Youth Council of Thailand, proposed that assistance should be provided to adolescents in the case requiring safe and timely abortion. Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul, Deputy Prime Minister, acting Chair on behalf of the Prime Minister, presented the policy recommendations that emerged from the “voice of adolescents” survey.

The policy proposals issued by the National Committee led to the amendment of the law, with the aim to comprehensively respond to the needs of youth and adolescents, including vulnerable groups such as persons with disability or ethnic groups who have limited or no access to knowledge and resources.

UNFPA welcomed the progress particularly because it was achieved through the voice and participation of adolescents acting to improve their sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, under the International Conference of Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognized by the United Nations.

### **MOU allows pregnant girls to stay in school**

Implementation of the policies is ongoing. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed between partners. Opportunities have been provided to pregnant youth and adolescents so that they can continue their study at school. The Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry

of Social Development and Human Security have advanced implementation of the policy for prevention and solution of adolescent pregnancy problems. The Department of Health has provided free long-acting reversible contraceptive implants for female adolescents aged 10–20. Partnerships have formed among agencies from various sectors at the policy level, including the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and the Ministry of Education.

An MOU signed during mid-2020 between the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and the Ministry of Education was an important achievement. It allows pregnant adolescents to continue their study at their previous school. Further, they issued a statement indicating that agencies at the policy level must implement and enforce compliance with the Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy Problems Act A.D. 2016. The Act stipulates that pregnant youth and adolescents will be allowed to continue their study and will receive appropriate reproductive health care and social welfare, including continuous postnatal monitoring. If pregnant adolescents face problems concerning childcare, a replacement family must be arranged to solve the problems. This MOU also created an opportunity for the Children and Youth Council of Thailand to establish cooperation networks in the region, both at the provincial and district level, to enable adolescents in the networks to be leaders for the adolescent pregnancy issue and to become part of the mechanism of problem prevention, solution and surveillance.

## **Access to contraceptives**

The Department of Health, under the Ministry of Public Health, implements the policy on promoting contraception, as well as the policy on reproductive health planning in accordance with the rights of adolescents, starting from the concept of rights-based contraception. The effort is a collaboration between the Department of Health and the National Health Security Office (NHSO). The policy addresses youth and adolescents aged 10–20 who wish to use contraception without parental permission, particularly those with risk behaviours and those who have been through pregnancy and child delivery and wish to use this right to prevent repetitive pregnancy. These adolescents are able to receive contraceptive implants free of charge through the Social Security Scheme, 30 Baht Health Scheme or other medical benefits for government officials, among other options. This policy indicates that bodily autonomy for youth and adolescents has emerged from the policy level to the operational level.

## **Amendment of the law on abortion**

The Department of Health also implements the policy on provision of sexual and reproductive health rights in terms of planning for continuing pregnancy or termination of pregnancy. This is carried out through “Health Service” and consultation via Hotline 1663 and the online channel “TEEN CLUB Line Official” to enable the target groups to access knowledge, information and other practical guidance. Coordination takes place with 135 agencies to provide safe and thorough medical termination of



pregnancy. This policy complies with the Cabinet's attempts to issue a bill to amend the Criminal Code on Abortion in Articles 301 and 305. The code has been amended.

The original Criminal Code strictly forbid abortion for pregnancy beyond 12 weeks, and stated that the determination of gestational age for abortion must be in accordance with the opinions of the Medical Council of Thailand and the Royal Thai College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Failure to follow this rule would result in imprisonment of not over 6 months, or a fine of not over 10,000 baths, or both. The amendment of the Criminal Code clearly



indicates the promotion of the right to reproductive health. That is, the addition in Article 305 expands the scope of the right to terminate pregnancy and is more responsive to the context of human rights. For example, according to the previous law, the right to legitimately terminate pregnancy must be based on the health of such pregnant woman, or in case the woman is pregnant on account of the commission of criminal offence. Currently, this right is extended so that a woman with over 12 weeks but not over 20 weeks of pregnancy can legitimately terminate her pregnancy after going through a consultation process and obtaining approval from a medical practitioner or other professional practitioner.

### **Good practice**

The success reflected in policies relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights is directly linked to the participation of youth and adolescents in policymaking processes. This is a good practice. Its impact can be seen in progress in the right to receive continuous and proper education in case of pregnancy during school-age, access to contraceptive implants, a law protecting safe and legal abortion, and other measures upholding the sexual and reproductive health of youth and adolescents. UNFPA supports the implementation of such strategies, establishing partnerships with various agencies from the public and private sector and networks of youth and adolescents, encouraging adolescents to participate and reflect their needs concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights so that concrete policy outcomes and operational guidelines can be obtained in a manner responsive to the rights and needs of adolescents.





# Chapter 3

Knowledge against bias and  
social problems

## **Advocating bodily autonomy**

Mr. Yothin Thongpawa presented his opinions regarding the bodily autonomy of Thai adolescents at the launch of the State of World Population 2021 organized by the UNFPA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. He said that the country has pushed forward the issuance of the Prevention and Solution of Adolescent Pregnancy Problem Act to promote the right to sexual and reproductive health, including bodily autonomy for both female and male adolescents. In particular, Article 5 of the Act emphasizes the right of adolescents to receive reproductive health services and to make their own decisions, to receive comprehensive information on reproductive health, as well as the right to confidentiality of their personal information and to be provided with social welfare as their basic right.

Additionally, he said when the youth and adolescents face any problem, or if they are pregnant, they should have the right to make their own decision. Representatives of adolescents should be able to participate in amending the law on termination of pregnancy in order to promote the right to terminate pregnancy safely and in compliance with the law. Moreover, adolescents should have the

right to receive integrated assistance from six ministries, which are responsible for supporting and assisting adolescents in various dimensions. This includes educational institutions that have to provide comprehensive sexuality education from the basic level and to enhance teachers' capacity to enable them to understand the right to sexual and reproductive health and to give advice to students. Coordination should be made for referral to obtain appropriate social welfare and public health service.

Mr. Yothin also focused on adolescents in vulnerable groups, who have always received support from the Children and Youth Council of Thailand. "We also have a platform as a youth and adolescent assembly to allow the expression of opinions from the adolescents in LGBT groups or ethnic groups. The adolescents in vulnerable groups have also reflected their needs through the mechanism of the Children and Youth Council of Thailand. These activities are important in reflecting the voice of the youth to the government sector at various levels in order to solve problems."

### **Teen Club Line Official**

Knowledge enhancement examples have also come from the government sector, such as the Reproductive Health Office in the Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health. The innovative "Teen Club Line Official" online account has been used to provide a real-time channel for young people to seek immediate sexual and reproductive health consultations and services. Enhancement of knowledge and understanding on reproductive health through the "Teen Club" platform is a communication method on social media



that can be sent directly and efficiently to adolescents. At the same time, policies and strategies for family planning are implemented continuously. For example, the nationwide service network of the NHSO has increased access to unprepared pregnant adolescents and women by offering free contraceptive services, including IUDs, implants and contraceptive pills. These initiatives indicate that Thailand is acting in accordance with its commitment to support the ICPD Programme of Action, which the Thai government reaffirmed in 2019 at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25.<sup>5</sup>

### **I-D Sign Course**

The I-D Sign Course was established by UNFPA and was approved by the Children and Youth Council of Thailand to support adolescents and promote access to sexual and reproductive health and rights globally. As a result, these adolescents have more rights and more opportunities to express their opinions and to participate in various national and international partnerships.

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5 <https://www.prachachat.net/csr-hr/news-518559>



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# Chapter 4

Media to create the rights and  
participation of young people

## **My Body, My Right, My Choice**

Cooperation with strategic media and other media partners is considered a good practice approach from the 11th Country Programme of UNFPA in Thailand regarding the support for the rights of young people. The online media project called “My Body, My Right, My Choice” is an example of cooperation with Dek-D Interactive Company Limited to provide adolescents with rights-based knowledge on reproductive health, including the right to reproductive health information and services to prevent unintended pregnancy. This project is a communication to adolescents in the form of stories and scenarios through online social media, focusing on raising awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights, particularly among female adolescents. The project addresses prevention of gender-based violence, and prevention of unintended pregnancy and provides appropriate knowledge on sexuality; it also shares information on related guidelines with cooperation from the Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand.

In communicating with adolescents, the video-clip topics are designed with content and language responsive for the needs of adolescents. Examples include: "How many people have missed it with the word once is okay?," "Everybody does it.," "We can be friends no matter what gender we are.," and "Mistakes can happen even with prevention." The video clips are less than 6 minutes, with contents that raises awareness and understanding and fosters unbiased attitude towards sex. For example, one topic is "Just carry a condom. Why gossip?" In this scenario, a female adolescent happened to drop her bag in a public place, causing a package of condoms to fall out. The adults in that area felt that this young woman must have been engaged in inappropriate sexual behaviour. On the contrary, young students in the same situation had different opinions. They believed that nothing was wrong with this situation, and that a woman had the right to carry a condom to protect herself and to uphold her right to reproductive health.

The project "My Body, My Right, My Choice" also calls for the expansion of forums for dialogue concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights in order to create knowledge and understanding that can dispel myths. Celebrities and influencers popular among adolescents are invited to open forums through online social media to foster appropriate and open-minded attitudes around various issues. The topics being discussed include, "Is being too fat is not good and has to find ways to manage?," "A woman revealing her body is a freedom or just provocative?," or "Is imperfect body a restriction for dressing?" With effective and more inclusive communication for adolescents, UNFPA and its media partners expect that adolescents will be able to understand and learn more about sexual and reproduction health and rights,

to maintain their bodily autonomy and to create society with good sexual well-being.

### **Thai PBS TV channel**

Another media partner of UNFPA is Thai PBS TV channel. Thai PBS participates in strengthening capacity for public communication among networks of adolescents and in conducting surveys on the need for adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights. Thai PBS also continuously disseminates knowledge and understanding around this issue. Examples include the topics of “Teenage mothers must be able to study” in a news programme called “Plik-pom Khao,”<sup>6</sup> and “Are pregnant students can continue their study?”<sup>7</sup> in a programme called “Saman Chon Khon Thai (general Thai people).” These programmes present the problems of adolescents who are pregnant during their school terms and are pushed out from the education system, as well as the government policies to cope with these problems, particularly through the right of adolescents to sexual and reproductive health under the Prevention and Solution of Pregnant Problems Act.

The cooperation of media partners is valued for its wide outreach and influence on the perceptions of adults as well as youth and adolescents, and the public dissemination of accurate information on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

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6 UNFPA (2018). Youth Day video.

Available from: <https://thailand.unfpa.org/en/video/pregnant-students-must-be-school-thaipbs>

7 UNFPA (2018). Video on the Act for the Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Problem B.E.2559 stipulating that academic institutions must provide education for pregnant students. Available from: <https://thailand.unfpa.org/th/ed-opportunity>





As a result of collaboration with the media and a wide range of partners in government and civil society, the 11th Country Programme (2017–2021) of UNFPA with the Government of Thailand has yielded concrete results to support its work under the ICPD Programme of Action, which aims to provide all people with universal access to reproductive health, including access to rights-based family planning, and under the UNFPA Strategic Plan with its goal of

zero unmet need for family planning. These endeavours will directly benefit the youth and adolescents of Thailand, who represent their country's major group of human resources and who require support for basic skills, including knowledge and capacity in managing their sexual and reproductive health in order to live their life in accordance with their goals. Ultimately, with health, education and opportunity, youth and adolescents can be a driving force of Thai society for long-term sustainability that leaves no one behind.





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