

Adolescents: Opinions and recommendations on the rights to sexual and reproductive health needed by adolescents in Thailand

The Children and Youth Council of Thailand, Thai PBS and UNFPA

Conducted the survey on opinions and needs of young people regarding rights to sexual and reproductive health under the Act for the Prevention and the Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Problem, through C-Site Application during July-October 2019.

Profiles of 2,859 adolescents and youth responding to the surveys

Age	The average age of the respondents is 17, the minimum age is 11 and the maximum age is 25.
Gender	Female: 69%; Male: 28%; Alternative gender: 3%
Marriage status/ children	Single: 93.3%; having children: 0.2%, aged between 14-18 years old.
Nationality	Most of the respondents are Thais, only 0.4% of them have other nationalities.
Province of residence	Respondents are from 77 provinces: 37% of the respondents are from the Northeast; 31% from Central Region; 20% from Northern Region, and; 12% from Southern Region.
Education	Higher secondary level: 79%; Lower secondary level: 17%
Work	Three (3)% of the respondents are pursuing higher education degree or are graduated, while 0.6% are pursuing vocational certificate/ higher vocational certificate. Only 5 respondents are in primary school, and 2% earn their income from work. Most of respondents are attending school.

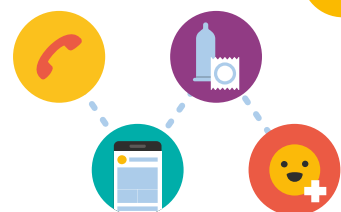
Opinions and recommendations from adolescents

1

Adolescents should be allowed to participate in planning and evaluation

Youth and adolescents in each area should be promoted to participate in planning and evaluation for friendly sexual and reproductive health service by:

- 1.1 Adding communication channel for providing consultations and information regarding comprehensive sexual wellbeing and comprehensive sexuality education through social media which is appropriate and suitable for their age and needs, particularly for those who do not have access to information and services, such as ethnic groups;
- 1.2. Friendlier access to condoms should be provided for youth and adolescents in a manner that prevent prejudice or stigmatization from adults and society at large;
- 1.3. In case of pregnancy, youth and adolescents should have essential knowledge and understanding on accessing friendly channels for consultations and assistance according to the rights to sexual and reproductive health.



2

Providing knowledge to youth and adolescents

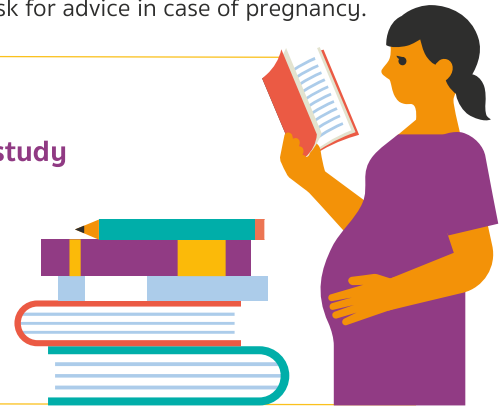
Youth and adolescents need to be assured that they have essential knowledge to give advice to friends who are pregnant, particularly the knowledge on rights each young person is entitled when she is pregnant:

- 2.1. Develop knowledge and capability of youth and adolescents through the mechanism of the Children and Youth Council of Thailand, as well as student councils at all levels in order to create essential knowledge and understanding on adolescents' rights under Article 5 of the Act for the Prevention and the Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Problem. This will enable all youth and adolescents to protect their rights on reproductive health, while being aware of the rights to reproductive health of their own and of other youth through life skills and comprehensive sexuality education;
- 2.2. Gather information and promote knowledge provision to youth and adolescents, as well as general public, to create awareness on the rights to sexual and reproductive health for youth and adolescents;
- 2.3. Promote family's roles in communication to create understanding on sexual wellbeing, which has broader meaning than sexual relationship. Focus will be made on enhancing youth and adolescents to have understanding of sexuality on the basis of their rights to reproductive health, respect for their privacy and confidentiality, as well as the provision of information and choices for youth and adolescents. Mothers should play an important role as the first person from whom youth and adolescents can ask for advice in case of pregnancy.

3

Pregnant adolescents must be able to continue their study

Pregnant adolescents and youth must be able to continue their study. That is, they must be allowed to attend the same school. Systems should be arranged to assist pregnant adolescents and youth at schools, particularly support and assistance from teachers and classmates.



4

Youth and adolescents with disability and their access to the rights to sexual and reproductive health

- 4.1. This group of adolescents still lack sufficient knowledge on safe sex, birth control, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and prevention of STDs. More importantly, youth and adolescents with disability also lack appropriate learning media in accordance with their disability;
- 4.2. Parents or teachers still perceive that the need for sexual education or attention to sexuality is not appropriate and not necessary for youth and adolescents with disability;
- 4.3. Female youth with disability have very little or almost nonexistent participation in making decisions about their own rights to sexual and reproductive health. In certain cases, parents make decision on sterilization of their female children with disability to end problems from sexual harassment.

