



PAN BULLETIN

A Quarterly Bulletin

Publication of Population Association of Nepal (PAN)

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Editorial

Population Association of Nepal (PAN) extends its happiness to all its members and concerned stakeholders on the special occasion of Quarterly Bulletin publication "PAN BULLETIN" for the first time in the history of PAN. The bulletin will specially be focused to documents and share the activities in the area of population and development. It will be a quarterly publication. The editorial board requests all members and stakeholders to support the bulletin by providing information on activities including research, training, programmes and activities in the area of population and development.

Seminar organized by PAN

On the occasion of World Population Day 2012, PAN organized one day seminar in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Nepal entitled "Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services: Meeting the Needs of Adolescents and Youth in Nepal" on 9 July 2012 at Nepal Administration Staff College, Jawalakhel. The main objective of the seminar was to share the evidences related to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) behaviours of adolescents and youth among the stakeholders to take initiatives in meeting the young people's SRH needs in Nepal.

The seminar was conducted in two sessions: Inaugural and Technical. The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Dr. Ram Sharan Pathak, President, PAN; Chief Guest was Prof. Dr. Shiba Kumar Rai, Hon'ble Member, NPC; Special Guest, Prof. Gunanidhi Neupane, Rector, Tribhuvan University; Guest, Dr. Pushpa Lal Joshi, Founder President, PAN; Guest, Prof. Dr. Prem Singh Bisht, Head, CDPS; Guest, Mr. Padam Raj Bhatta, Chief, Population Division, MoHP; Guest, Mr. Bijay Thapa, Asst. Representative, UNFPA and facilitated by Mr. Trilochan Pokharel, General Secretary, PAN.

After welcome speech by Dr. Kushum Shakya, Vice-President, PAN, Honorable member of National Planning Commission, Prof. Dr. Shiba Kumar Rai inaugurated the seminar by lightening the lamp. The seminar provided an environment for discussion to explore the issues in relation to universal access to reproductive health services to meet the needs of adolescents and youth in Nepal. It was attended by University Professors, bureaucrats, adolescents and youth from colleges, Journalists, young people representing youth organizations and population professionals. More than 200 participants attended the seminar.



PAN Executives with Guests of the Seminar

Addressing the opening Session, Prof. Dr. Shiba Kumar Rai highlighted the diverse needs of diversified youth and adolescents in the context to socioeconomic and geographical diversity. He reminded that if a community is left out, achieving the target was difficult. Earlier, addressing the inaugural ceremony Prof. Gunanidhi Neupane, Rector, Tribhuvan University, highlighted the situation of health services in Nepal referring to urban-rural and private public differentials and also stressed the need of proper implementation of health policy. Prof. Neupane showed willingness to contribute to evidence based research for policy inputs and asked reproductive health from right perspective.

Dr. Pushpa Lal Joshi, Founder President of PAN, overviewed the history of PAN and urged incumbent PAN EC to encourage publishing research based articles about the contemporary population and health issues in Nepal. Prof. Dr. Prem Singh Bisht, Head, CDPS, TU., in his remarks focused on safe sexual life and women's health and rights. He emphasized girls' education to empower them in Nepal and showed willingness of CDPS in collaboration with stakeholders to promote SRH education, advocacy and research. Mr. Padam Raj Bhatta, Chief, Population Division, MoHP opined adolescents as a high risky population. Discussing the behavior of adolescents, he stated that adolescents are reluctant to share their problems with parents and elder members of the family due to our traditional practices and socio-cultural values. Mr. Bhatta also expressed the need of the coordination among GOs, I/NGOs, and other stakeholders in providing comprehensive SRH knowledge and services to the adolescents and youth.



PAN EC members with volunteers and UNFPA officials

Presenting background of this seminar Mr. Bijay Thapa Assistant Representative, UNFPA, shared how the concept of seminar was materialized. Mr. Thapa giving justification of the programme, summarized the main aspects of messages delivered by Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin UNFPA Executive Director on the occasion of World Population Day 2012.

Sharing the UNFPA policy, he stressed that adolescents, young people, women and marginalized people are the institution's targeted population. He also urged on boarder alliance among the stakeholders to meet the needs of adolescents and youth in Nepal.

Earlier, welcoming all the guests and participants, Dr. Kushum Shakya, Vice President, PAN, highlighted the objectives and context of the programme. Dr. Shakya stressed the need of quality family planning services in the developing countries particularly in achieving the MDGs and discussed the synergic effect of high population growth rate.

Prof. Dr. Ram Sharan Pathak, President, PAN giving chairperson remarks highlighted three days' programme of World Population Day celebration. He emphasized population as cross-cutting issue and reasoned out why it has to be in the center of development process. He discussed the relevancy of the theme of population day in the changing context of adolescents and youth's SRH behavior and the norms from family planning to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHRs). He also thanked to the chief guest, guests, organizations, volunteers and all the participants of the seminar on the behalf of the PAN and formally concluded the inaugural session. Before closing the inaugural ceremony, Prof. Pathak, President, PAN, graciously handed plaque of PAN to the distinguished guests as a memory.

Technical session

The technical session was chaired and moderated by Dr. Padam Bahadur Chanda, Chief, Policy, Planning and Foreign Aid Division, Ministry of Health and Population. Dr. Kushum Shakya, Vice-President, PAN facilitated the session.

Paper I

A joint paper entitled "**Sexual and Reproductive Health Status of Adolescents and Youth in Nepal**" was presented by Prof. Dr. Ram Sharan Pathak and Mr. Trilochan Pokharel. In the presentation the authors analysed the context of SRH status and behaviours of adolescents and youth in Nepal based on two recent surveys- NDHS, 2011 and NAYS, 2010/11. They showed that changing perceptions on marriage and sexual behaviours particularly the premarital sexual activities are emerging issues among adolescents and youth. The paper highlighted that all components of the reproductive health relevant to adolescents and youth are to be taken into consideration while designing service delivery system. As a conclusion, the authors presented a comprehensive collaborative model to strengthen the service delivery system including the need of research, communication and partnerships among stakeholders.

Discussant Mr. Padam Raj Bhatta acknowledged that the presentation was successful to visualize the existing SRH situation of adolescents and youth in Nepal. However, some of the SRH indicators were portrayed as problems and the trend was missed, he said. He suggested that the paper needs to consider the specific programmes to address the problems of adolescents and youth.

Paper II

Second paper was presented by Dr. Bal Krishna Suvedi, a senior Public Health Administrator and closely working in SRH area since more than two decades, on **“Response to Reproductive Health Needs of Young People”**. The paper analyzed the existing service delivery mechanism and potential reforms to address the SRH needs of young people in the changing context. The paper reflected the government response to the RH needs of the young people. He argued that all the components of RH were not addressed equally in the past as well as holistic approach was not adopted particularly in structure and co-ordination. In order to address the constraints of meeting the needs of young people, Dr. Suvedi suggested strengthening capacity building of service providers, infrastructure development, community participation and boarder alliance.



Participants of seminar

Discussant Dr. Senendra Raj Uprety, Director, Family Health Division, MoHP admired the paper as well organized and focused on theme. Illustrating the success story of maternal and child health sectors, he pointed out inadequacy of programmes related to adolescents and youth. He stressed on the quality services rather than only increasing the number of service centers. He argued the focused programmes on adolescents could have multiplier effects in all sectors not only in lowering fertility but also in combating HIV/AIDS and STIs.

Paper III

With an aim to draw attention on the partnership mechanism among stakeholders for expanding and improving the young people’s access to reproductive health services, Dr. Navin Thapa, FPAN, presented eloquently a paper entitled **"Partnering young people to promote universal access to reproductive health services"**. He urged to provide awareness to the adolescents and youth to provide universal access to reproductive health services for them. He further discussed prevalent of misconceptions in the society about adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) and comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). Giving more focus on advocacy, he shared different steps, strategies and tools for advocacy. In case of partnering, he emphasized on collaboration among Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and Population, donors, local policy makers, parents, teachers and schools.

Discussant Dr. Govind Subedi, Executive member, PAN admired the impressive presentation with adequate advocacy materials. He, however, expressed his reservation on the scope and coverage of paper in line with the seminar's theme. Moving beyond aggregate approach, he urged to address disadvantaged groups, their locality and targeted programmes for universal accessibility. He suggested disaggregating the problems of adolescents and youth into smaller areas so that programmes could be developed accordingly.

After presentation of all three papers the floor was opened for discussion. Participants raised some important issues to be addressed in the papers. They wanted to clarify on the major issues to be addressed by the policy and programmes. Participants also wanted to include some examples of best practices and reasons why service centers are unable to address the SRH needs of young people. In summary, they wished the full papers to be more comprehensive and address the issues raised in the discussion.

As the chair of technical session, Dr. Padam Bahadur Chanda, MoHP summarized the key messages of each paper and asked the respective authors to address the issues raised by the discussants and participants in their full papers. He acknowledged the PAN for organizing such an important event and wished such events to be continued in the future. Dr. Chanda also emphasized on the stronger partnerships among stakeholders to meet the SRH needs of adolescents and youth and prevent them from being vulnerable to unsafe sexual and reproductive behaviors.

Dr. Padma Raj Lammichhane, Executive Member, PAN expressed his gratitude to all paper presenters, discussants, chair and participants of the technical session on behalf of PAN and wished to work together in the future. Before closing the technical session, Prof. Dr. Ram Sharan Pathak, President, PAN presented

plaque of PAN for chair of the session as an honor.

World Population Day 2012 Celebrated

The World Population Day 2012 was celebrated in Nepal on 12 July 2012 with the theme "Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services". The programme was organized by Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in collaboration with Population Association of Nepal and UNFPA Nepal. The programme was attended by Hon'ble Minister, Rajendra Mahato, MoHP; Hon'ble Prof. Dr. Shiba Kumar Rai, Member, National Planning Commission; Dr. Praveen Mishra, Secretary, MoHP; Prof. Dr. Ram Sharan Pathak, President, PAN and Member National Population



Guests of the World Population Day 2012

Committee (NPC); Prof. Dr. Gajanand Agrawal, Member, NPC; Dr. Bal Gopal Baidhya, Member, NPC; Dr. Prabha Hamal, Member, NPC; Mr. Yogendra Gurung, Member, NPC; Mr. Padam Raj Bhatta, Chief, Population Division, MoHP and Mr. Bijay Thapa, Asst. Representative, UNFPA Nepal. Around 700 participants representing different organizations attended the programme. Addressing the programme, the speakers highlighted the key issues of reproductive health needs and urged for collaborative actions to meet the universal access to reproductive health services.

Discussion on National Population Policy of Nepal

Ministry of Health and Population, Population Division organized a discussion on National Population Policy of Nepal on 26 June 2012. The policy paper was prepared by Dr. Ram Hari Aryal, Member, Governing Council, PAN and ex-Secretary. Prof. Dr. Bal Kumar KC, Chairperson, Governing Council, PAN and Dr. Bal Gopal Baidhya, Life Member, PAN and former Hon'ble Member of NPC provided suggestions on the policy. In the programme Prof. Dr. Ram Sharan Pathak, President, PAN, Dr. Kushum Shakya, Vice-President, PAN and Mr. Trilochan Pokharel, General Secretary, PAN provided their opinions and urged the policy be comprehensive in line with the current and future population issues. The discussion was attended by the distinguished population scholars and facilitated by Mr. Padam Raj Bhatta, Chief, Population Division, MoHP. The policy includes wide ranges of issues related to population and development and aims at building stronger interlink with other development activities for population management.

PAN President and General Secretary attending 2nd Asian Population Conference (APA)

The President of PAN, Prof. Dr. Ram Sharan Pathak and General Secretary, Mr. Trilochan Pokharel are officially attending the 2nd APA Conference being held on 26-29 August 2012 at Bangkok, Thailand. During the visit Mr. Pokharel will present his paper entitled "Fertility Impact of Family Planning in Nepal: Evaluation of Family Planning Programme Using Prevalence Method" in the conference. The PAN team led by Prof. Pathak will hold bilateral discussions with APA, likeminded institutions and other population scholars for strengthening international networks of PAN. The visit is financially supported by UNFPA Nepal.

Editorial Board : Prof. Dr. Ram Sharan Pathak ; Dr. Govind Subedi ; Dr. Padma Raj Lamichhane ; Dr. Kushum Shakya ; and Mr. Trilochan Pokharel

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For further information:

Website: www.pan-nepal.org, email: info@pan-nepal.org, Po Box: 5654, Kathmandu, Nepal