



Policy Round Up

Asia-Pacific Population and Development News

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



The forms of violence to which girls with disabilities are subjected to in rural Nepal are many. (Image and caption: My Republica)

Forgotten girls

NEPAL: The forms of violence to which girls with disabilities are subjected to in rural Nepal are many. The advocacy movement of persons with disabilities around the world, as well as in Nepal, has consistently highlighted the plight of the girls with disabilities belonging to indigenous or minority groups. Through passionate defense of equal rights and opportunities by disabled people organizations and persons with disabilities themselves, the general public has been acquainted about the difficulties girls with disabilities face in everyday life, as well as with the barriers that the society puts before them, from inaccessibility of services to social exclusion, to discrimination and stigmatization. ([Read More](#))

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Bruised brides: 78% of child marriage victims face health risk due to assault

Nearly 78% of child marriage victims in Hyderabad and elsewhere in the districts develop serious health issues after marriage due to physical assault by their husbands and relatives, revealed a study. MV Foundation, a child rights organization, interviewed 46 girls who were married for the past two to three years and 26 girls whose marriages were annulled in Nalgonda, Rangareddy, Mahbubnagar and Hyderabad. Based on the interviews, the organisation released the study on Thursday. The study was conducted with girls, in the age group of 16-20 years. According to the study, 89% of the girls were subjected to physical assault by their husbands on a daily basis, while 71% of the girls faced physical violence after marriage from their in-laws. ([Read More](#))

AGEING

Easier EPF access for over 55s

MALAYSIA: Those aged 55 to 60 will have easier access to their Employees Provident Fund (EPF) savings – and in smaller amounts – from January. The current policy only allows partial withdrawals of a minimum of RM2,000 once every 30 days. Those who opt for the monthly retirement scheme have to withdraw a minimum of RM250 a month. EPF chief executive officer Datuk Shahril Ridza Ridzuan said the new schemes are made possible thanks to the upgrades in the system. “Under the old (current) EPF scheme, there are a number of restrictions on technology in terms of processing. ([Read More](#))

YOUTH

Launching of the "Youth Wiki" - Europe's online encyclopaedia of national youth policies

GLOBAL: The Youth Wiki is a comprehensive database on national structures, policies and actions supporting young people in Europe. It aims to promote European cooperation in the field of youth and to support evidence-based decision making. It is the outcome of joint effort by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) and DG Education Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC). ([Read More](#))

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG goals must be achieved in order to mainstream persons with disabilities

Stakeholders have said that support of government and the private sector was necessary to achieve Sustainable Development Goals related to the rights of persons with disabilities. The two-day national conference on ‘Disabilities and Sustainable Development Goals’ was organised by Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, National Federation of Disabled-Nepal and UNDP in Kathmandu today on the occasion of the 26th International Day on Persons with Disabilities. The speakers said the goals adopted by SDGs should be fulfilled to bring persons with disabilities in the mainstream. The United Nations in 2015 had issued the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. ([Read More](#))

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Global Fund: Kenya secures \$380m to fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria, TB

GLOBAL: Kenya on Friday said that the country had secured 380 million dollars from the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis that are leading cause of deaths in the East African Nation. Henry Rotich, Cabinet Secretary for National Treasury, lauded the new funding that would covers a three year period terming it a giant step towards elimination of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis in Kenya. "With this new grant, we will continue to support prevention, diagnosis and treatment interventions for HIV, TB and Malaria," said Rotich. He added that the Global Fund had in the past approved 19 grants to Kenya worth 1 billion dollars since its inception in 2002. Kenya's ministry of health and partners in the civil society will utilise the new grant to implement a host of projects geared towards reducing deaths linked to HIV, Malaria and TB. ([Read More](#))

FEATURE AND ANALYSES

Innovative Big Data Approaches for Capturing and Analyzing Data to Monitor and Achieve the SDGs

This report showcases around 140 big data approaches to potentially assist traditional statistics methods in capturing and analysing data to support the calculation of SDG indicators and the achievement of SDG targets. The presented approaches also aim to replace costly occasional surveys of traditional statistics with cheaper real-time information. The structure of the report is as follows: First, the SDGs are introduced with a focus on current challenges regarding lacking data as well as methodologies. Then an overview of big data, IoT and AI is given with a focus on categorization, opportunities and challenges. The main section is dedicated to describing, classifying and linking the aforementioned approaches to suitable SDG indicators and targets. ([Read More](#))

Health for All: The benefits of universal health coverage

GLOBAL: In much of the world today, the notion of equitable, universal access to health care remains a distant dream. But universal health coverage is not unattainable--and Japan is among the inspiring countries that have proved it. For many years, Japan has been a leader in the movement to provide everyone with access to quality health care. Every human being, everywhere, deserves this, and every society benefits from it. Having achieved universal health coverage for its own citizens in 1961, Japan now provides financing and support to help extend coverage to the world's most underserved communities. The Universal Health Coverage Forum, an international event hosted by the government of Japan on Dec. 13 and 14 in Tokyo, is just the latest proof of this commitment to leave no one behind. ([Read More](#))

DISCLAIMER: This policy round-up is a collection of news and feature articles related to population and development from media organizations around Asia and the Pacific. Any views or opinions expressed in these articles are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of AFPPD.