The Youth: Our Responsibility & Our Hope

Why the youth are an important development concern?
Knowing & Understanding The Youth

Socio-demographic profile, Social Environment, Youth and Parental perception
Getting Concerned About Their Reproductive Health

Views, Knowledge and Attitudes

Sexual, Non-Sexual and Multiple Risk Behaviors
Rethinking and Enriching Our Youth Development Programs

The Voice of the Youth Must Be Heard in All Youth-Related Efforts
The Youth as an Important Development Concern

World Today

6,865,325,740 people
And EVERY DAY!

- 3 BILLION has 80 pesos in their wallet
- 1 BILLION has 40 pesos in their pockets
- 30,000 people are going to bed really hungry!

ONE IN EVERY 3 SECONDS

A child dies because there’s no food in the table.
Philippines TODAY!

97,000,000

- 1 out of 2 consider themselves poor
- **36.8%** of the population is living below the poverty line (P33.61 per day) = **25,865,949 PINOYs**
- **13.8%** of the population has a food allowance of P7.50 per meal
  = **12,568,665 PINOYs**
The Youth: Our Responsibility & Our Hope
Agents of Change

- 20% to 30% of voters will come from the youth sector
- Sangguniang Kabataan
OUR PARENTS BROUGHT US TO THIS WORLD

We had not chosen to be born, but we need choices to move on to a brighter future.
Future Parents

- Of the estimated 1.7 million babies born every year, around 30% come from young women.

- By age 24, each of our young women already bore 1 child, on average.
## Socio-Demographic Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>19.4 million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growth Rate</td>
<td>2.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio</td>
<td>102 males : 100 females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty level</td>
<td>3 of 10 youths are poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Knowing & Understanding Ourselves
Social Environment

- FAMILY
- SCHOOL
- FRIENDS
  - 5 close friends
  - primary source of information about sex
- MEDIA
  - source of authority regarding what is right, what is wrong, what is important
  - new surrogate parent
  - 8-14 hours/week watching TV
- CHURCH
- GOVERNMENT
Views, Knowledge and Attitudes

- Majority still prize **VIRGINITY**
- Young people continue to **LOOK POSITIVELY** on **MARRIAGE**
- There is an **INCREASING TOLERANCE** for **WOMEN ENGAGING** in **PREMARITAL SEX**
Getting Concerned About Our Reproductive Health
Views, Knowledge and Attitudes

- 95% AGAINST ABORTION

- 9 of 10 youths believe the government should provide family planning services

- Some 8 of 10 think it proper that these services also be provided to the youth

Views, Knowledge and Attitudes

Knowledge about sexuality and fertility

- Almost half were unaware that pregnancy was possible after only 1 sexual encounter

- Only 2% know about menstruation and sex

- Awareness of AIDS was 95%. However, misconceptions on the curability had worsened
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do not give much importance to virginity</td>
<td>Put a high premium on virginity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Youth in Focus

Males and females attach different meanings to virginity and pre-marital sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>View sex basically as a pleasurable activity that need not have anything to do with love</td>
<td>See sex as strongly connected with love</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Youth in Focus

Males and females attach different meanings to virginity and pre-marital sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An occasion to hone one’s skills in love making and possibly, to strengthen intimacy when done responsibly</td>
<td>Not as much inclined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Should be reserved for marriage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Getting Concerned About the Reproductive Health of the Youth

Sexual, Non-Sexual and Multiple Risk-Behaviors

Premarital Sex (PMS)

Around 23% or 2 of 10 Filipino youth had premarital sex in 2002. Almost all (94%) who already had sex said they were unwilling and unprepared to become parents. Highest in NCR and Eastern Visayas. Average age of initiation to sex is 17.5 years old.
Unprotected Sex

More females did not use any contraceptive method during their first sexual encounter.
First Sex Partners

Almost 4 of 5 young females with men usually older, whom they regard as their **boyfriends** or ‘steadies’

Young males were more into **Casual Sex** - about 2 of 5 who had **PMS** with either a friend or plain acquaintance
Homosexual sex emerging

5% of boys admitted having first sex with males

>1% of females had lesbian sexual relationships

12% of very early first sex (13 years old and below) was homosexual
## First sex experience by venue of sexual debut and gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner’s home</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>31.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend/employer’s house, boarding house, relative’s house, office</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel or motel, sauna/beer house</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>21.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (car, beach, park, school classroom, farm, field, beauty parlor, etc)</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marriage and Live-In

More and more Filipino youth have chosen to postpone marriage

73% of males and 57% of females (20-24 yrs) remained single

Nearly 4% of females aged 15-19 and around 8% aged 20-24 were in live-in arrangements
Getting Concerned About the Reproductive Health of the Youth

Sexual, Non-Sexual and Multiple Risk-Behaviors

Pregnancy During Adolescence

Young pregnancies
30% of all births,
6% of spontaneous abortions
3 of 4 maternal deaths

Abortion
4 of 10 abortion complications were from the youth
Multiple Risk-Behaviors

Put them at high risk for premature death, disability, or chronic illnesses
Non-Sexual Behavior

- **SMOKING**
  - Almost half (47%)
  - Males being more prone
- **DRINKING**
  - 70% drank alcohol
  - 93% for males; 70% females
- **DRUG ABUSE**
  - 11% of boys and girls
  - Rampant in high school and college
Non-Sexual Behavior

**SUICIDE**
12% have had at least 1 suicide attempt
Females (17%) more prone to commit suicide than males (7%)

**VIOLENCE**
Younger males 15-19 years (17%) compared to older males (12%).

Same pattern was observed among females (13% vs. 10%)
Young people’s engagement in risk behaviors appears to be temporary. Significant proportions of both male and female adolescents and young adults eventually dropped out from vices.

**Drop Out Rates:**

- Smoking (60 %)
- Drugs (75 %)
- Drinking (40 %)
RISK-TAKING BEHAVIOR ARE INTERLINKED

Those who Smoke, Drink and Use Drugs are more likely to have SEX. On the other hand, Having Sex is most strongly linked to Drug Use, than with smoking and drinking, and later, to thoughts of Suicide and Violence.
Rethinking and Enriching Our Youth Development Programs

The voice of the youth must be heard in all youth-related efforts
Our Youth Development Programs

What Are We Doing to Help Them?
What More Do We Need To Do?

A growing number of youths are engaging in risky behaviors without understanding its consequences.
What More Do We Need To Do?

Adults do not know how to communicate openly about sexuality with young people.
What More Do We Need To Do?

Media is playing a bigger role in young lives
What More Do We Need To Do?

Health and development policies, programs and services ignore youth’s needs
What More Do We Need To Do?

The voice of the youth must be heard in all youth-related efforts
PINOY YOUTH

Making Choices, Building Voices

THANK YOU!