

Volunteer Report, 2018



UN University Volunteer in comprehensive reproductive health education

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Lingyi WEI

About the assignment

Contributed to UNFPA's strategic objectives

Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to sustainable development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, HIV and gender equality

SDG targets

03. Good health and well-being

- By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

05. Gender equality

- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Added value

Promoted the inclusion of specific marginalized groups in the programs delivered by UNFPA

We submitted a proposal to strengthen community-based platforms for nutrition, sexual and reproductive health of women and adolescent girls, to improve access to public health services and to improve the nutritional status of women and adolescent girls through enhanced household food security and proper behavior change communication. Since the conclusion of the conflict in 2009, the role of women and young people in peace and reconciliation has been recognized as an essential component, highlighted by the increased number of women-headed households and fewer opportunities for men to engage in regular income generation activities. The role of mothers to create healthy and nutritional wellbeing and food security in the household is undisputed. There is an increasing focus on the role of adolescents to ensure their social, health and economic wellbeing. During the conflict, young women were often vulnerable, becoming victims of sexual and gender-based violence. In a post-conflict setting, military occupation and efforts to rebuild and improve health care facilities in the Northern Province are still lacking in basic equipment and qualified staff. Due to infrastructure barriers, both in post-conflict areas and in the plantation sector, access to health care facilities is limited for people living in remote areas. Sri Lanka, as a patriarchal society, also provides limited access to job opportunities for women and youth.

Promoted gender equality

We have worked on a proposal to ensure gender equality in all spheres and sustainable socio-economic development in the post-conflict context. The proposed activities included efforts to be made to address issues with a strong focus on women's access to universal health care including Sexual & reproductive health services, which would enable reduction of GBV and empowerment of women and girls, allowing them to take leadership and contribute meaningfully to post-conflict social development.

Introduced new initiatives or innovations

As a follow up to UNFPA's 5th Generation-to-Generation dialogue on the need for CSE in Sri Lanka, UNFPA held a media workshop to support the media to strengthen reporting on CSE, to help educate the public that CSE goes beyond information, helping young people to explore and nurture positive values regarding their sexual and reproductive health. It provides an opportunity to highlight that this education includes discussions about family life, relationships, culture, and gender roles, and also addresses human rights, gender equality, and threats such as discrimination and sexual abuse. To debunk myths and misconceptions about CSE in the media participants, I suggested use Kahoot, a game-based learning platform composed of multiple-choice quizzes that allow user generation to conduct the workshop in a more interactive manner. Through the performance of the game, it can be found that

most of the participants could answer correctly to most of the questions, but some participants displayed misconception or wrong knowledge about gender equality, abortion, GBV, etc.

Personal and professional development

- soft skills and competencies
 - business/office skills
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