Module 1: Conceptual framework on gender and health

Welcome to Module 1: Conceptual framework on gender and health.

The differences and disparities in women’s and men’s health are determined by biological and social factors intertwined and shaped by the historical, social and political context. Worldwide and in most countries in the Caribbean women live longer than men but have higher morbidity rates, while in some countries of the region men experience higher rates of fatal chronic diseases. Also, although the rates of mental illness are similar between men and women, the most common mental health problems differ between both populations. Gender interacts with other social markers of inequality such as ethnicity, race, age, socioeconomic status, urban/rural residence, disability, among others generating significant gradients in the health of women and men.

Despite advances in research, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of major health problems, important gaps and challenges still persist in effectively addressing gender inequalities and inequities in health. For example, the distinction between sex and gender still tends to be confused in the health literature, and analysis of the interactions between both categories and other determinants of health is limited. In this module we will focus on various categories of analysis used in the implementation of gender mainstreaming in health. We will also examine; the connections between these categories to explain the risks and specific vulnerabilities of women and men, their access to resources and health services, their participation in the decision-making process and paid work in health.

Health disparities based on gender and other social determinants are matters of life and death. They determine how well and how long we live, our opportunities throughout life and therefore, how we die. In this sense, the approach of gender inequality is not only an ethical imperative but a precondition to eliminate disparities in health.
Competencies

At the end of this module it is expected that you will be able:

a. To define the basic concepts for the adequate integration of a gender perspective in health policies and programs, the analysis of gender differences and the diversity approach in health.

b. Distinguish relations between the basic concepts used in gender mainstreaming in health and their potential applications in work environments and/or specific contexts or health problems.

c. Identify the added value of gender mainstreaming for developing health policies, projects and programs.

Contents of this module

a. An introductory analysis of the mandate of integration (mainstreaming). What does integration mean and what do we want to integrate?

b. Definitions, characteristics and relationships between sex and gender.

c. Definitions and scope of the concepts of gender equality, equity, empowerment and masculinities.

d. Role of the elimination of gender inequalities in health in the achievement of health for all and the added value of a gender perspective in health.

Calendar

We have two weeks to develop the activities of this module. Please verify the time assigned for each activity in the timetable to ensure your full participation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Week 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Participate in Web-conference (Optional)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Gender and Ethnicity inequalities in Health in the Caribbean Region (TBD)</td>
<td>Oct 4 -10</td>
<td>Oct 4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B. Complete the exercise “Identifying the links between concepts”</strong></td>
<td>Dateline</td>
<td>Oct 9</td>
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<td>Oct 11 -17</td>
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Read “Gender and Health: A conceptual Framework” by Elsa Gomez Gomez

C. Complete integration exercise: Gender Perspective. Case study

D. Participate in Dialogue in the Forum on the following themes:
   a. Gender equality: theoretical and practical dimensions
   b. The meaning of: i) gender mainstreaming, ii) approaches to "Women and development" and "Gender equality in development"
   c. Relevance of gender as a social determinant of inequalities in health and the added value of gender mainstreaming of policies, plans and program

E. Complete Step 1 of the Intervention Proposal:
   Form the group and select the theme.

F. Complete evaluation questionnaire

Activities

A. Web Conference

October 4th. Gender and Ethnicity inequalities in Health in the Caribbean Region (TBD)

B. Exercise: Identifying the links between concepts

We invite you to pick two of the following concepts and define them briefly.
✓ sex
✓ gender
✓ gender integration
✓ gender mainstreaming
✓ gender equity
✓ empowerment
✓ gender equality
✓ masculinities
✓ homophobia
✓ heterosexism

Using the example of the graph presented below you should explain how these two concepts are related. Once you complete the exercise upload the word document into the link identifying the links between concepts.


C. Integration Exercise: Gender Perspective - Case study

To integrate basic readings, the suggested supplementary reading by the Tutor and the reflections presented in the Forum, under the guidance of your Tutor, you will carry out individually the following sequence of work:

1. Your will select one of the following:

   (i) Changing relationships in the health care context. The Uruguayan model for reducing the risk and harm of unsafe abortions (Uruguay)

   (ii) Comprehensive Adolescent Health Care (Argentina)
(iii) Empowering families to confront domestic violence (Brazil)

(iv) The participation of women and men monitoring maternal and child care (Peru)

2. Based on the revision of the selected case and readings respond the following questions:

a) How does this experience address the gender dimensions, social determinants and the concepts of equality, equity and empowerment?

b) Based on the characteristics of the Caribbean context, what additional elements should be integrated in this case to reflect these dimensions and concepts?

c) What is the added value of the use of gender perspective in the analysis of this experience?

3. Upload your answers using the Form provided in the platform to the platform section "Task - Case analysis. Module 1" indicating your name and tutors group

D. Dialogue in the Forum

We invite you to read the assigned material and initiate dialogue on selected issues. The timetable indicates the period of time available and the basic reading pages assigned to each item. Your Tutor will lead this exchange and provide feedback on the topics covered.

The following table presents items and the corresponding basic reading sections as well as the questions that will guide the dialogue of the Forum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Themes of the Forum 1 Oct 9 to 13</th>
<th>Questions to guide the discussion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender equality: theoretical and practical dimensions</td>
<td>✓ What are the main differences between the concepts of sex and gender? What are the key characteristics of the concept of gender? ✓ What are the dimensions of gender equality as it relates to equity and empowerment? ✓ Why is it fundamental to address masculinities in the framework of the gender perspective in health in the Caribbean? ✓ What key elements characterize the gender perspective in health?</td>
</tr>
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The meaning of gender mainstreaming and, approaches on "Women and development" and "Gender equality in development"

- What is the scope of the gender mainstreaming strategy?
- What are the main changes that have taken place historically in gender integration strategies?

Relevance of gender as a social determinant of inequalities in health and the added value of gender mainstreaming of policies, plans and programs

- How is gender intertwined with other social determinants of health?
- What is the added value of gender mainstreaming to the elimination of inequalities in health?

Within the group forum for exchanges, there will also be themes, which have been highlighted by your tutors, that are relative to the functioning and logistic aspects of the course, where you can clear any doubts you may have with respect to the development of activities, as well as announcements about course activities.

IMPORTANT: Each participant is expected to contribute weekly to the dialogues in the forum, and answer the questions. It is necessary to understand that what is anticipated is the construction of a collective response to the questions, in which each person contributes to the dialogue with their various reflections, ideas and doubts.

**E. Step 1 of the Intervention Proposal: Selecting the theme**

In this module you will begin the elaboration of an intervention proposal from the perspective of gender diversity and human rights, regarding a relevant problem in health/health problem. It will be a process that develops over the duration of the course. You will find the complete guide to the elaboration of the intervention proposal available in the materials for this module, and should use it to have a general idea of the expected result.

The first task in order to begin with the process of developing the proposal is to form a subgroup, along with the definition of the subject and particular problem you and your group-partners will be working on. You also need to bearing in mind the population group affected, as well as developing the justification for this decision. This should be handed in to the tutor as a word document and uploaded to the identified platforms in the activity calendar.

Each participant will upload a brief document indicating the theme selected on the date indicated in the module calendar.
F. Complete Evaluation Questionnaire

Mandatory reading

Elsa Gomez Gomez. Gender and Health: A conceptual Framework

Additional resources and readings for the Integration exercise

Changing relationships in the health care context. The Uruguayan model for reducing the risk and harm of unsafe abortions (Uruguay) and Comprehensive Adolescent Health Care (Argentina)

Empowering families to confront domestic violence (Brazil)

The participation of women and men monitoring maternal and child care (Peru):

Recommended readings

DAWN Study, “Maternal Mortality, Abortion and Health Sector Reform in Four Caribbean Countries: Barbados, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago” (pp. 9-15 and 21-29)


Kamala Kempadoo, “Caribbean Sexualities: Mapping the field”
http://sta.uwi.edu/crgs/november2009/journals/PatMohammed-BookReview.pdf

Lazarus-Black, “The Rite of Domination: Domestic Violence”

Review “Sex, Power and Taboo: Gender and HIV in the Caribbean and Beyond” Edited by Dorothy Roberts, Rhoda Reddock, Dianne Douglas and Sandra Reid and published by Ian Randle Publications.
http://sta.uwi.edu/crgs/november2009/journals/PatMohammed-BookReview.pdf

Complementary readings


ECLAC. 2000. STUDY OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE CARIBBEAN.
http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/noticias/noticias/7/14217/lccarg607i.pdf


Gita Sen; Aditi Iyer; Chandan Mukherjee A Methodology to Analyse the Intersections of Social Inequalities in Health. Journal of Human Development and Capabilities - Volume 10, Issue 3 November 2009, pages 397 – 415. Available at:
http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/ftinterface~content=a913310624~fulltext=713240930~from=content


Mehra y Gupta.2006. Gender Mainstreaming: Making It Happen

**PAHO.** 2011. *Gender, Health and Development in the Americas*.  