



Making Philippine Schools Overseas (APSO) Gender-Responsive in the Midst of Foreign Culture

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Shared Problems and Concerns of Women Across the World

Population and family Life

- ▶ Life expectancy is steadily rising, with women living longer than men.
- ▶ International migration is increasing. There are more and more women migrants, and in certain areas they outnumber men.
- ▶ The age at marriage for women continues to rise – and it remains high for men.
- ▶ In family life women overwhelmingly carry the workload, although in some countries the gap has narrowed significantly

Source: United Nations. *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*. New York: Department of Economic and Social Affairs. ST/ESA/STAT/SER.K/19. 2015,



World's Women Today

Family Life

- ▶ In some countries very young girls (15 years of age or below) enter into either marriage or a consensual union, making them prey to all the dangers to their physical and mental health that more often than not accompany such arrangements (p 16).
- ▶ Family life rests solidly on the shoulders of women in all areas of the world.
- ▶ As spouses, parents and caregivers, they take on the primary responsibility for ensuring the proper functioning of families and the provision of everyday care and maintenance. Preparing family meals, maintaining hygiene, caring for other family members and a myriad of other chores related to children.

Source: United Nations. *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*. New York: Department of Economic and Social Affairs. ST/ESA/STAT/SER.K/19. 2015,



World's Women Today

Family Life

- ▶ Men are increasingly getting involved in the daily functioning of families, it is still predominantly women's responsibility;
- ▶ Time use studies show that women spend more time on housework and community and volunteer work than men do,

Source: United Nations. *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*. New York: Department of Economic and Social Affairs. ST/ESA/STAT/SER.K/19. 2015,



World's Women Today

Education

- ▶ Two thirds of the 774 million adult illiterates worldwide are women – the same proportion for the past 20 years and across most regions.
- ▶ The global youth literacy rate has increased to 89 per cent, while the gender gap has declined to 5 percentage points.
- ▶ Gaps between girls' and boys' primary enrolment have closed in the majority of countries, but gender parity is still a distant goal for some.
72 million children of primary school age are not attending school, out of which over 39 million (or 54 per cent) are girls.
- ▶ While secondary school enrolments show improvement, fewer countries are near gender parity than for primary education.



World's Women Today

Violence against Women

- ▶ Violence against women is a universal phenomenon. (page 127)
- ▶ Women are subjected to different forms of violence – physical, sexual, psychological and economic
- ▶ – both within and outside their homes.
- ▶ Rates of women experiencing physical violence at least once in their lifetime vary from several per cent to over 59 per cent depending on where they live.
- ▶ Current statistical measurements of violence against women provide a limited source of information, and statistical definitions and classifications require more work and harmonization at the international level.



World's Women Today



- ▶ Female genital mutilation – the most harmful mass perpetuation of violence against women – shows a slight decline;
- ▶ Child marriage is still prevalent in some countries despite efforts of countries to declare it as a criminal offense.
- ▶ In many regions of the world longstanding customs put considerable pressure on women to accept abuse;
- ▶ Weak enforcement of existing laws; and the absence of educational and other means to address the causes and consequences of violence



UN Initiatives to Address Global Gender Issues

- ▶ World Conferences to stir global action to address the needs and concerns of women (i.e. Mexico, Nairobi, Beijing, Beijing plus 5, etc.)
- ▶ 1971 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (**CEDAW**);
- ▶ 1977 Geneva Convention – protocols labeling rape, sexual assault and any form of indecent assault as “outrages upon personal dignity.”



UN Initiatives to Address Global Gender Issues

- 2000 UN Security Resolution on Women, Peace and Security;
- 2010 the UN General Assembly created the UN Women body;
- Yearly meetings of the CEDAW Committee;
- Yearly meetings of the UN Committee on the Status of Women



What are Human Rights

“Human rights are the minimum civil, cultural, economic, political and social entitlements that every human being should be able to claim and enjoy. because they are human beings.”



CEDAW...women's bill of rights

- The CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW), consisting of a Preamble and 30 Articles, was adopted in 1979 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly and is often described as an international bill of rights of women.
- It defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.



What is discrimination against women?

- ▶ CEDAW defines “discrimination against women” as “any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of women and men, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.”⁷



Applying CEDAW Principles in Education

Principles of non-discrimination inform---

- ▶ Academic programs and practices, including teaching materials (e.g., history textbooks that are organized around men's experiences only),
- ▶ Teaching strategies and daily practices in the classroom
- ▶ Syllabi and reading materials — to reflect the issues and experiences of the wider society, including those who have been silenced and marginalized, and;
- ▶ School policies and non-academic programs and services;



Legal Mandates for Mainstreaming Gender into School Programs and Services

- ▶ The 1987 Philippine Constitution underscores the country's recognition of the need to promote equality between the sexes, and to advance the rights of marginalized groups, especially ethnic minorities and the poor, to development and quality life.
- ▶ In 2009, Philippine Congress passed the **Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710)**. This law provides the legal definition of discrimination against women and spells out their human rights. These include:

Protection from all forms of violence

Protection and security in times of disaster, calamities and other crisis situations;

Participation and representation

Equal treatment before the law

Equal access and elimination of discrimination against women in education, scholarships and training



Legal Mandates for Mainstreaming Gender into School Programs and Services

Magna Carta of Women

Equal participation in sports

Non-discrimination in employment in the field of military, police and other similar services;

Non-discriminatory and non-derogatory portrayal of women in media and film;

Comprehensive health services and health information and education;

Leave benefits and


Equal rights in all matters relating to marriage and family relations

Source: Philippine Commission on Women. 2010. Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710): Implementing Rules and Guidelines. Manila.



What is Gender and Development?

- The Philippine government through several policy guidelines emanating from NEDA, DBM and the Philippine Commission on Women has mandated all its agencies to adopt the Gender and Development Approach **to achieve the goal of gender equality** and the empowerment especially of poor women;
- GAD Mainstreaming as the tool for the implementation of the country's GAD policies and programs.



How can Philippine schools overseas apply national laws and norms on promoting gender equality?

- ▶ Since many countries (183 nation-states) are signatory to CEDAW, Philippine schools abroad can apply the CEDAW principles without violating the legal norms of host countries. Check first if host country has signed CEDAW.
- ▶ In cases where Filipino gender-related norms and practices are truly different from those commonly practiced by citizens of the host country ((i.e. child marriage, Islamic prescriptions about how female should behave in public), it is prudent to teach Filipino children and their to protect themselves from possible harm.
- ▶ Where local customs and traditions do not violate fundamental human rights, teach the students to adjust and assimilate.
- ▶ The schools must provide the gender-responsive programs and services for both the faculty, non-teaching personnel and students.



Salamat!

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