



Gates Archive

The Exemplar

July 2023

Hi friend,

When Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw remarked that “youth is wasted on the young,” he may have been onto something. Even if the Nobel laureate’s critique that young people don’t always value youth could be debated, here is one thing that is undeniable: all of us were young once. Yet youth is often used as an excuse and a barrier. A barrier to employment, political participation, and yes, health and rights.

According to the [WHO](#), adolescents are often underserved and too often face “a lack of education and information; high rates of early and unwanted pregnancy; lack of access to health services, especially for contraception and safe abortion; gender inequalities and harmful traditional practices... child, early and forced marriage; and risk of STIs, including HIV.”

Inequity only exacerbates this reality. In low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), nearly [one in three women become mothers as teenagers](#). In 2019 alone, that equated to 20 million girls. Nearly half of those pregnancies were unintended, and of these, 55% ended in abortions, which can often be unsafe.

Research has shown that when young people can make independent decisions about their sexuality and reproductive health, their health and wellbeing improve, they have broader access to education and economic opportunities, and they can create better outcomes for societies.

With a population of 1.2 billion people aged 15 to 24 and growing, policy makers have a unique opportunity to invest in advancing adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights in partnership with the largest cohort of young people in history. The promise and potential of this generation is great, and it’s our obligation not to waste it.

Best,
Niranjan Bose



Niranjan Bose, PhD
Managing Director, Health & Life Sciences

At Women Deliver 2023, Exemplars in Global Health announced a new research project to study six countries that have made exemplary progress in adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights.

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EXEMPLARS STORIES

'I'm hoping we get that feeling of forward momentum back': Dr. Maliha Khan, Women Deliver CEO

Ahead of Women Deliver 2023, Exemplars News spoke with Dr. Maliha Khan about ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls worldwide.

Showing links between climate and SRHR is a priority: Women Deliver's director of policy and advocacy

Divya Mathew discussed how the organization is using evidence to galvanize progress in sexual and reproductive health and rights.

WD2023: Supporting youth engagement in SRHR programs

If girls stay in school longer, they're more likely to feel autonomy over their own bodies. Exemplars News spoke with Alice Mukashyaka, one of Women Deliver's Young Leaders, about how educational opportunities can unlock girls' full potential.

"We need multi-sectoral solutions to solve SRHR risks for girls in Africa"

Dr. Alhadi Osman, a Women Deliver Young Leader, believes that youth leaders can play a crucial role in addressing significant challenges facing girls in Africa related to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

EVENTS

International Youth Day (#InternationalYouthDay) August 12, 2023

A commemorative day of action that brings youth issues to the attention of the international community and celebrates youth's partnership in tackling the world's greatest challenges.

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ABOUT

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Join a passionate and dedicated community of global health leaders working on the biggest challenges of our times. Explore critical learning from countries around the world as you tackle similar problems at home. Informed by your knowledge and voice, our robust and growing set of resources are designed to ensure the positive and most equitable global health outcomes.

