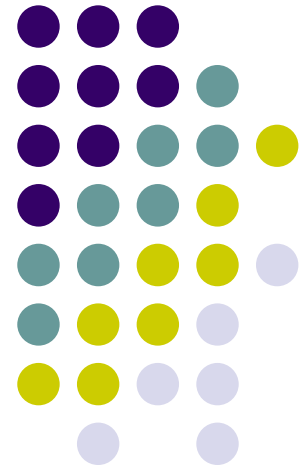


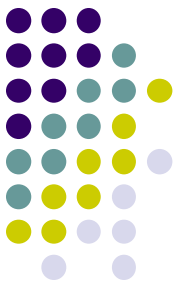
Reproductive Health, Rights and Gender in the Caribbean *Gender and the ICPD*



ICPD at 15
Caribbean Sub-regional Seminar
August 20 – 21, 2009
Antigua and Barbuda

Professor Barbara Bailey
The Institute of Gender and Development Studies
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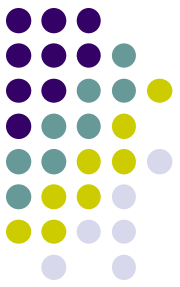


The ICPD Programme of Action

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development occurs at a defining moment in the history of international cooperation... Never before has the world community had so many resources, so much knowledge and such powerful technologies at its disposal which, if suitably redirected, could foster sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

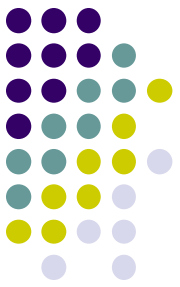
Programme of Action of The International Conference on Population and Development

<http://www.unfpa.org/icpd/icpd-programme.cfm#ch2>



Presentation Overview

1. **Gender: Equality, Equity & Women's Empowerment**
2. **Progress towards Implementation of ICPD Platform of Action**
3. **Gaps & Challenges in relation to gender equality & women's empowerment**
4. **Progress since ICPD+10**
5. **The Way Forward**

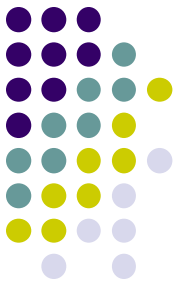


The ICPD Programme of Action

CHAPTER FOUR: Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women

- THEMES:
 1. *Empowerment and status of women*
 2. *The girl child*
 3. *Male responsibilities and participation*

Empowerment of Women



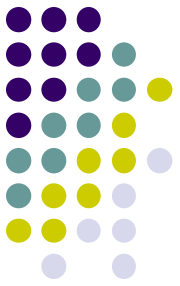
- *Investments that enable girls and women to reach their full potential offer a double dividend, because of women's dual productive and reproductive roles. ...Investments in the education, reproductive health and economic opportunities of women and girls represent critical and synergistic elements of the development of the human capital of women.....*

UNFPA State of the world population 2005.

The promise of equality: Gender Equity, reproductive health and the Millennium Development Goals. UNFPA 2005.

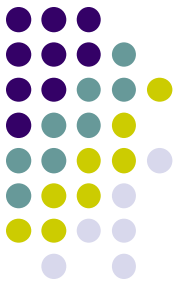
<http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2005/english/ch1/index.htm>

Empowerment of Women: Action Points



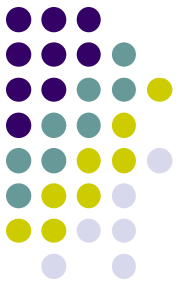
- eliminating gender discrimination
- ensuring women's equal participation representation & equitable participation in political processes;
- fulfilling women's potential through education, skill development and employment;
- realizing rights related to reproductive & sexual health;

Empowerment of Women: Action Points



- enabling women to earn income beyond traditional occupations;
- eliminating violence against women; through laws and regulations;
- making it possible for women to combine productive & reproductive roles; and,
- promulgating, implementing & enforcing national laws and international conventions

Empowerment of Women

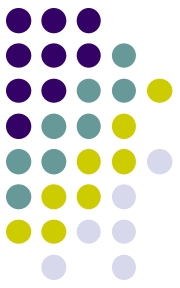


CASE STUDY: EDUCATION

.....as the basis for the full promotion and improvement of the status of women and as the basic tool that should be given to women in order to fulfill their role as full members of society

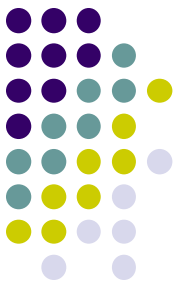
The Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women as adopted by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievement of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. (New York: United Nations Department of Public Information. 1993).

Millennium Development Project: importance of women's education



- increases use of maternal health and family planning services and improves reproductive health
- reduces poverty;
- influences the health, education and nutrition of their children;
- improves the economic prospects of the family;
- reduces violence against women

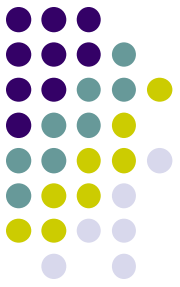
Empowerment of Women: Education not a 'Silver Bullet'



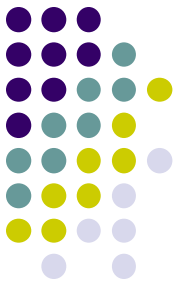
In spite of their [women's] overall higher levels of participation and performance at the secondary and tertiary levels of Caribbean education systems, the majority of the women in the region continue to be positioned in the lowest sectors of the capital market, earn lower wages than men, suffer higher rates of unemployment, experience greater levels of poverty, are under-represented in decision-making positions at the meso and macro levels of social and political institutions and lack real personal autonomy.

Bailey & Tang Nain. 2003. The Search for Gender Equity and Empowerment of Caribbean Women: The Role of Education. In: (eds.) Tang-Nain, G. & Bailey, B. *Gender Equality in the Caribbean: Reality or Illusion*.

Caribbean education: the situation of males



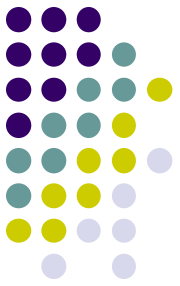
- males are under-participating and under-performing;
- generally are less highly certified than females,
- BUT
- enjoy greater access to formal employment; to alternative routes for generating capital; to higher incomes; and, to decision-making positions and therefore to greater material and symbolic power.



Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment

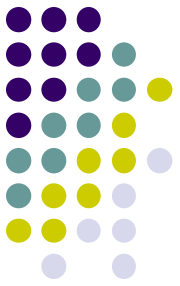
GAPS & CHALLENGES

Persistent Challenges



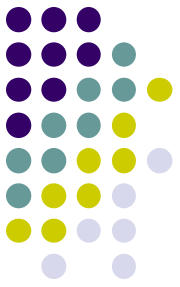
1. The weak capacity of national machineries
2. The need to promote women's participation
3. No translation of gains in education into commensurate improvement of women's economic status → Continual wage gaps for women in spite of gains made in education
4. The high level of teenage pregnancies;
5. Domestic Violence

Persistent Challenges



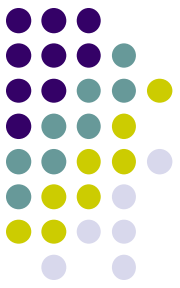
6. Limited information available on critical areas
7. Limited ratification of ILO Conventions that promote workplace gender equality and sexual harassment
8. Sexual harassment & trafficking of women & girls
9. Wide gap between knowledge and practice on the part of men and boys
10. Irresponsible behavior of boys/men to partners, families & households;

The Port of Spain Declaration



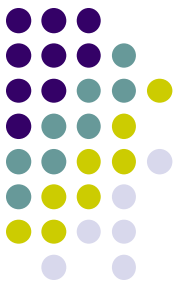
1. a comprehensive approach to preventing and addressing the consequences of gender-based violence; and, rightly so, given the magnitude and multifaceted nature of the problem which in fact undergirds and undermines so many other dimensions of the Programme of Action;
2. promotion of the need for evidence-based information of the underperformance of boys in the education system

Male Underperformance: Structural Determinants



- Lower levels of certification, higher levels of employment (transition from school to work)
- The wage gap which favours males at all levels of education
- High reward opportunities in the informal economy (often risky and illegal)
- Alternative routes for generating income in industries with high returns which are perceived as requiring little formal education.

Progress Since ICPD +10: Global Initiatives



Country	Legal Framework	Policies, Strategies & Programmes	Institutional mechanisms	Services for Victims/ Survivors	Preventive Measures and Training	Research and Statistical Data	Other
Antigua	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-
Bahamas	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-
Barbados	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Belize	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dominica	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grenada	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guyana	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haiti	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jamaica	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
St. Kitts	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Lucia	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Vincent	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suriname	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Trinidad	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-

Way Forward: Addressing Male Underachievement



- To date the discourse has centered on factors over which we perceive that we have control and instead of being constructive has pathologised women, schools and the boys themselves:
- too many female teachers,
- too many female headed households and mothers can't raise boys,
- the absentee father, no male role models,
- too much attention to the needs of women and the neglect of those of men,

Way Forward: Addressing Male Underachievement



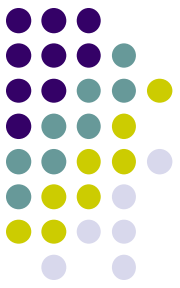
- the curriculum not relevant to the needs of boys
- teaching methods not appealing to boys,
- the need to return to single-sex schools, and the list goes on)
- little attention to the ways in which macro level structural factors and race and social class assignment are determinants of the phenomenon.

GBV: The Traditional Approach – Response to Victims



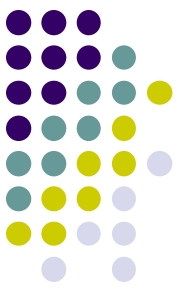
- approach has been primarily one of both direct and indirect responses to the needs of victims through a number of measures:
- legal reform
- provision of shelters
- Provision of medical services
- training of personnel dealing with victims
- Changing attitudes and behaviours of males

Way Forward: Needed a Paradigm Shift to GBV



- From as far back as the 1995 4th WCW there was a call for a paradigm shift away from merely responding to victims, as important as that is, to identifying the root causes of the problem and so stemming it at its source, that is, identifying ways in which a culture of violence is reproduced and addressing those factors.
- Schools and homes are violent spaces where children are consistently exposed to, and are victims of, verbal, physical and sexual violence and invariably themselves become perpetrators not only later in life but from a very early age

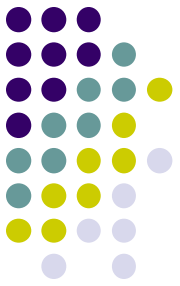
Way Forward: Some General Considerations



1. Improve access to the collection and dissemination of information
2. The alignment of ICPD goals with MDG – a word of caution
3. The need for a more systematic approach to monitoring and evaluating outcomes of commitments such as the ICPD P-o-A
4. monitoring and evaluation activities need to be harmonized at both the level of the agencies involved as well at the national level

The overall Goal

To work, not only towards achieving a greater level of gender equity, equality and women's empowerment throughout the region, but also creating an environment in which men and women can live together harmoniously in a spirit of mutual respect, where each has the possibility of fulfilling their optimum potential and the opportunity to exercise their human rights as responsible citizens.



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Questions and Comments

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