



Տղաների նախընտրության և աղջիկների քերարժևորման կանխարգելմանը ուղղված գլոբալ ծրագիր
Global Program on Prevention of Son Preference and the Undervaluing of Girls

PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Issue N1, December 2017

WORKSHOP ON ISSUES OF EFFECTIVE RESEARCH AND POLICY ANALYSIS OF PREVALENCE, CONSEQUENCES AND CAUSES OF GENDER-BIASED SEX SELECTION



The workshop on issues of effective research and policy analysis of prevalence, consequences and causes of gender-biased sex selection was organized on November 10-11, 2017 at the premises of International Center of Human Development. The workshop offered knowledge and skills in conducting effective research and policy analysis on prevalence, consequences and causes of non-medical gender-biased sex selection. Representatives of political parties, relevant ministries,

national research institutions, as well as from the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia participated at the event. The workshop was organized within the Global Programme to Prevent Son Preference and the Undervaluing of Girls and facilitated by Vahan Asatryan, Chief Technical Adviser.



THE ROLE OF MEDICAL STAFF IN THE PREVENTION OF GENDER-BIASED SEX SELECTION AND BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE COUNSELING

Training for health care providers on the role of medical staff in the prevention of gender-biased sex selection and basic principles and tips for provision of effective counseling was organized on November 15, 2017 at Ani plaza hotel. 45 representatives of Yerevan-based Women's Consultations (obstetrician-gynecologists and ultrasound specialists) participated at the training. The training was welcomed by EUD representative Line Urban, UNFPA National Consultant Narine Beglaryan and Head of Division of Reproductive and Maternal Health Protection of the Ministry of Health, Gayane Avagyan.



“ We have more than 800 obstetrician-gynecologists, and if every practitioner attempts to keep at least one person away from such thoughts and ideas [prenatal sex selection] in the working year, we will save more than 800 lives. And today everybody seemed to obtain that consciousness. They will talk about it in their teams and share what they have heard here today... If possible, of course, it would be desirable to involve the major centers of Yerevan, where abortions are usually performed and talk about it. As well as marzes, if we can not all of the marzes, at least Gegharkunik and Aragatsotn regions, which have the highest levels of prenatal sex selection. At least, we need to work with

healthcare providers, population, pregnant women in those regions.

Gayane Avagyan, Head of Maternal and Reproductive Health Department of Ministry of Health of Armenia

“ I am a gynecologist and we're dealing with that problem everyday in the Armenian reality. Today's meeting truly produced very interesting thoughts, mechanisms of how we can prevent this [prenatal sex selection]. I would like this process to be continuous. So that if there is something new to pass to the doctors of the primary care units, they are invited again. The training was very well-organized and high-quality and quite productive. It was quite practical, in a sincere, relaxed environment, where we listens, spoke to, and discussed things with each other.



Doctor Armenuhi Poghosyan, Gynaecologist, Maternity Welfare Clinic N22



“ My impressions are very good, I received quite valuable information.

We realized that we all needed teamwork to reduce the number of prenatal sex selection cases. As sonographers, because the sex of the pregnancy is visible only after 12 weeks, we should be able to at least make our own contribution to prevention, we should be able to convince the person that a child is a child regardless of sex, and whoever created, must come to light... I thank the organizers very much, we received very valuable information, it was very good.

Gohar Kocharyan, Sonographer at polyclinic No 22

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR LOCAL NGOS ON DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS TO CURB GENDER-BIASED SEX SELECTION

A three-day capacity building training for local NGOs from Yerevan and marzes was conducted on December 4-6, 2017. The training was carried out by using a set of integrated techniques such as games, energizers, quizzes and group work.

Garik Hayrapetyan, Assistant Representative of UNFPA Armenia, greeted the participants.





Participants were given practical examples and case studies on project management and often put in situations where they elaborated on their own practices. Participants used flashcards, flipcharts and handouts to perform group exercises, discussed a lot in plenaries and often drew examples on their current work to understand solutions to real-life challenges. The entire training was built on examples from gender projects and their specificities. Overall, the

volume of questions and discussion showed that the training was important and shed light on a number of practical challenges that CSOs face. Participants were very thankful for provided opportunity and identified the high need for this type of practical trainings. The training became a sort of reflection exercise for CSOs to identify their own mistakes and get the right advice to move forward.

Overall, 23 participants from 15 local NGOs participated at the training. Upon the completion of training, the Certificates were awarded to training participants.



METHODOLOGICAL GUIDELINES FOR QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE RESEARCH AND DATA ANALYSIS ON PREVALENCE, CONSEQUENCES AND CAUSES OF NON-MEDICAL GENDER-BIASED SEX SELECTION

Within the Global Program to Prevent Son Preference and the Undervaluing of Girls, ICHD, with the active participation and peer review of the target institutions, has developed “Methodological Guidelines for Quantitative and Qualitative Research and Data Analysis on Prevalence, Consequences and Causes of Non-medical Gender-Biased Sex Selection”. ICHD reviewed the international experience of developing relevant guidelines, including those for collection, analysis and presentation of data by various governments, universities, WHO and other international development partners.

The guidelines aim to harmonize research, data collection and analysis feed further formulation of evidence-based policies, programmes, advocacy campaigns, monitoring of the situation and policies aiming at prevention of non-medical gender-biased sex selection and addressing its root causes: son preference and declining fertility levels. The guidelines may also assist in research and policy analysis in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as well as population and development at large.



Guidance on the prioritization of the data to be collected is also provided to promote collection of at least a minimal set of high-priority parameters in various settings, including sex ratio at birth, prevalence of boys and girls, etc. The guidelines cover a wide range of issues related to gender-biased sex selection and are intended to meet the different needs of data collection and analysis in Armenia and in the region on this issue. They can also be modified to meet the specific needs of other countries in South Caucasus and Balkans.



The Methodological Guidelines were discussed during the series of workshops and presented during the Workshop on December 14, 2017. Representatives of identified research institutions participated at the event and stated the practical usefulness of the methodological guidelines and suggested to initiate multi-stakeholder research based on them.

“NE’S JOURNEY” PUPPET-THEATRE PLAY IS TRAVELING ACROSS ARMENIA

“Ne’s Journey” puppet theatre play was presented in Yerevan and three marzes (Armavir, Gegharkunik and Aragatsotn), that have a most skewed sex ratio at birth in Armenia.

The play is performed in a lively, funny, dramatic and musical atmosphere. It contributes to both the overall development of the audience and the awareness of the importance of healthy coexistence of girls and boys, parents and children, the interaction of different sexes and age groups, and the need for mutual assistance. Throughout the performance, it is also important to acquire profession, to master crafts, and to work diligently.



Ne is the symbol of International Girl Child Day in Armenia. She was born on October 11, 2013, and has started her journey in the World full of fascinating adventures.



Ծրագիրը ֆինանսավորվում է Եվրոպական միության կողմից
This project is funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

