

Global Reproductive and Maternal Health Seminar (collaboration between gynecology and global health)

We have chosen to focus on six major global challenges, where there are huge outcome differentials between high and low-income countries, and high and low-income families within countries. All these challenges have a gender dimension, and all of them have a political dimension. The challenges are; maternal mortality and morbidity; abortion; female genital mutilation; contraception; comprehensive sexual education and sexualized violence and rape.

In a group work format, we want the students to work on two short introductions for each of those challenges, and to present them in a seminar (ca 30 minutes in total devoted to each challenge). Within each challenge, one group (a) should present the background facts, and the other group (b) should introduce the main aspects that form the reasons why the problems continue, like gender/political tensions or priority, and suggest some ways forward. Thereafter they should present some questions for a discussion with the audience.

The presentations should be short (**not more than 8 minutes**) and give room for discussions in class. We want the students to use both scientifically published papers and policy documents, from various sources, to inform their presentations. Supervisors will guide the work from the field. Each group can choose to have a meeting with the supervisor, or to work on their own. Drafts for the presentations need to be shared with the supervisor **no later than two weeks before the seminar**, and **has to be approved one week before the seminar** at the very latest.

Remember: this is not a thesis! We do not expect you to spend more than 4 hours of effective time on this.

See our webpage for information on which of the challenges below your group will work with, your contact person and the dates of the seminar:

<http://www.med.uio.no/studier/ressurser/fagsider/samfunnsmed/samfunnsmedisinsk-undervisning/samfunnsmedisin-i-modul-6/group-assignments-in-global-health.html>

1. Maternal Mortality and Morbidity:

- a) What is the status? What are the main causes of ill-health. Which countries and situations are hard-hit? What types of programs and targets exist? What is the situation around antenatal care, delivery care including caesarian section, and post-partum care?
- b) What are strategies that have been tried out? What are the largest obstacles to achievements of the goals? Are the main issues coverage or access, or utilization, or quality of care? Why do we not have enough skilled providers?

2. Termination of pregnancy (Abortion)

- a) How does the WHO Abortion care guideline from 2022 define safe, less safe and unsafe abortion? What is the span of abortion rates in the world? What do different assessments of the trends in abortion deaths per year tell us, and why do the assessments differ so much? Which factors influence changes in rates? Where in world is the highest risk of dying from an abortion, and why? What is included in Post Abortion Care?
- b) What is the span of abortion legislation in the world, and what are the trends in global legislative changes? What is the role of medication abortion? Why are there such huge social differences in access to safe abortion and resorting to unsafe methods? What is the relevance of Human Rights instruments in reducing mortality and morbidity from abortion, and for conscientious objection of health staff? What is the main opposition to abortion rights based on? What is the role of health care providers, and what can health workers do?

3. Female Genital Mutilation

- a) Where does FGM take place? What do we know about prevalence and trends? What are the main reasons for girls being mutilated? What are the health risks? Psychological and sexual risks? What types of programs exist?
- b) Why are FGM issues a concern in our part of the world? What does legislation say? Should FGM be combatted through legal work, or other strategies? What can we do for the women that already have become mutilated? How can health workers deal with this problem? What should health workers do if they feel that a girl is at risk?

4. Contraception

- a) What is the current fertility status and pattern in the world? How does this relate to contraceptive coverage? What types of contraceptive methods are promoted? Why do people fail to use contraceptives despite no desire for reproduction?
- b) How has family planning programs worked over time and in different countries? Who are covered well, and who are not? Why are FP programs sometimes resisted? Is FP a health or a population issue?

5. Comprehensive sexual education

- a) What is the current policy content of comprehensive sexual education for your people? What do we know about the global distribution of such prevention strategies? What are the most important challenges that young people face?
- b) What is the content of other types of family life education? What is the evidence for and against comprehensive education regarding behavior and attitudes? Why do so many people resist this type of education? What are main obstacles in implementation?

6. Sexualized violence and rape

- a) What is the definition of a sexual assault? How common is it, and what is the variation? What are health outcomes? What are the diverse legal frameworks globally? What should a rape crisis center do?
- b) What are gender norms that “allow” this to happen? Why are so few rape cases reported to police and even fewer taken to court? What types of discussions may take

this issue forward, and reduce the burden of rape? How can the medical examination of rape victims improve?

The whole group – all members - has to sign a sheet of paper declaring that they have contributed to the group work – in what way - even if only one presenter is chosen, and this has to be co-signed by the supervisor.

NB: “Presentation of group assignment in Global Health is mandatory. Students will be divided into groups and assigned a topic. The group must give a presentation on the given topic for the other students. A first draft of the power point presentation must be sent to the group's supervisor at least two weeks before the seminar, and a final version approved by the supervisor at least one week prior to the seminar. A short description of each student’s contribution to the presentation must be delivered to the supervisor together with the revised presentation”. (<http://www.uio.no/studier/emner/medisin/med/MED5600/#teaching>)