



WHEC Statement
**55th Session of Commission on Population and
Development (CPD)**
Virtual Side Event, 26 April 2022, 13.15 – 14.30 EDT

Global Science & Technology Cooperation : Our Initiatives

By Rita Luthra

Welcome!

Join us to advance the causes of peace, health, literacy and development!
Join us to plan, promote, publish and partner with our initiatives and projects!
We Plan Development Together.

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) has a unique role to play in strengthening the health and education systems, in rich and poor countries alike. Technology and innovations in learning are creating new opportunities to accelerate progress towards – *health-for-all* and *Education-for-all*. **Let us not leave anyone behind.**

Established in 2001, in USA, WHEC undertakes initiatives with the United Nations (UN), World Health Organization (WHO) and UNESCO, to achieve its mission and goals. Our e-Learning Platform <http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>, which was launched on 24 October 2002, in collaboration with the United Nations, is serving in 227 countries and territories. It is available in six official languages of the UN: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic. It welcomes universities, teaching hospitals, libraries, NGOs [accredited by ECOSOC and/or Department of Public Information (DPI)], International Organizations (IGOs) and Academic and Research Institutions – from all over the world – for various types of collaborations, and accesses.

Join the movement!

WHEC's Global Health Line (WGHL) is technically an Internet-application of WHEC in the United States of America, an Internet-facing collaboration platform, based on mutual benefit and mutual respect, approved and hosted by WHEC in USA.

Online learning and e-Health have important role to play to make quality education and healthcare available, affordable and accessible in every country. Education and health are, intertwined; they together serve as the foundation for a better world.

Join us to achieve worldwide literacy, and access quality healthcare, in every country.

The objectives of this Side Event are:

1. To elaborate strategies that will strengthen national policies in Education and Health;
2. To share the experiences of experts in improving the accessibility of health services and education; and how best to implement best practices in health and education;
3. Inclusion of girls, women and minorities in literacy programs and support economic growth and opportunities;
4. Ending Child Marriage. The silence on the plight of child brides must end.
5. Improving access for girls, women and minorities to STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) programs.

Today, in 2022, there are nearly 70 million child brides worldwide. Every 2 seconds a young girl is forced into marriage. Let us be part of the generation that changes that. The next generation of development programs must make ending child marriage a priority. Moving forward, there must also be more investment in documentation and evaluation of what works to end child marriage – a body of work of successful programs to expand on. Much more work is required across the geographic settings and communities. It is critical that, these efforts do not overlook girls, who are already married at very young age. They are among the marginalized members of society and need special attention in development programs and planning.

No one lives in healthcare systems; we all live in our homes, with our families and communities.

If we consider what it takes to create health, the school becomes an ideal setting for action. It is indeed an honor and pleasure to launch *health promoting school initiatives* with our partners and Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing, at WHO HQ. Schools can help young people acquire the basic skills including decision-making, problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, self-assessment and coping strategies. *Learning Life Lesson Series*, planned, developed and published by Women's Health and Education Center, has special focus on prevention of teen pregnancies, and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. Making good decisions and avoiding risky behavior helps to adopt healthy lifestyle. Each new generation of children faces health challenges; but those being dealt with by today's youth seem particularly daunting.

Too many teenagers become parents; either they cannot envision another positive future direction to their lives, or because they lack concrete educational or employment goals and opportunities that would convince them to delay parenthood. No single or simple approach has successfully reduced the teen pregnancy rate; much more study and efforts are required.

Our Projects | Programs will help schools and universities to plan and develop:

1. Health-promoting schools;
2. Programs for Youth Development (PYD);
3. Mental Health Programs to Prevent Gender & Gun Violence;
4. How to Handle Life's Challenges for Good Mental Health.

We welcome everyone. Please share with us your experiences, projects and programs.

Gender equality, including in education and health, is a condition for development. The connection between education, health and earning capacity is better understood. Ensuring that our surroundings are conducive to good health means directing efforts at all levels, within and between all sectors of society.

We can make healthier choices and lay the foundation for true social and economic development.

The healthy future of society depends on the health of today's children and their mothers, who are the guardians of that future. Because, all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are inseparably linked, they must be achieved concurrently. Poverty impairs learning, health and development. The low social status and illiteracy, of women in some countries, limit their access to economic resources and health-education information. This, in turn limits their ability to make decisions about their health and nutrition. Some women are denied access to care either because of cultural practices, such as seclusion, or because decision-making is the responsibility of other family members. Lack of access to and use, of essential obstetric services, is a crucial factor that contributes to high maternal mortality.

Skilled attendants mean successful outcomes. A focus on maternal and newborn health, including psychosocial support, should be the center of policy and action. A strong and vital health workforce is an investment in education and health sectors, for today and the future. **Internet Classrooms** have potential to manage knowledge flows easily and is readily available, thus reducing the chasm between what is known and what is done, in education and health sectors, the so-called "know-do gap." These projects and programs strengthen and reflect sustained high-level political involvement, and can support the scale-up of programs within and across sectors.

Decisions made in one sphere affect those in the other.

It is also my pleasure to introduce you, our **LINK** (Learning, Innovating, Networking for Knowledge) **Access Project**, which was launched in collaboration with the Reproductive Health

Research (RHR) Division of WHO in 2013, and presented by WHEC, in a Side Event during the 2018 HLPF (High-Level Political Forum) session. It was very well received by the audience. It encourages national health and educational systems to contribute, towards continued-education at all levels, to improve maternal and child health, culturally appropriate contraception counseling information and availability; Prevention of Teen Pregnancies, End Child Marriages, and Violence against Women and Children.

WHEC supports capacity building for e-Health and e-Government applications worldwide, and look forward to developing the use of norms and standards, with the World Health Organization (WHO). We aim to reach, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) identified by United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), to disseminate *Reproductive Health Research* and evidence-based information.

WHEC provides, free-access to online e-Learning / e-Health, to Least Developed Countries.

All over the world, in every country, we all provide healthcare services and other services to culturally diverse population. By interacting with different cultures, we will learn to respect diversity. Building the capacity to care – is a global responsibility. And it is our generation's responsibility, and our opportunity.

We believe, on this path effort never goes to waste, and there is no failure.

Join us to improve coordination for stronger health and education policies.

Thank you.

