



Reproductive & Family Health Association of Fiji:

Since 1996 the Reproductive & Family Health Association of Fiji [RFHAF] has been committed to the reproductive and sexual health and rights of individuals, families, high need groups and the broader community. We fight for priority populations, including young people; those living in rural and remote communities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people; and people with disabilities.

Our focus adapts rapidly to areas of emerging need. We have been increasing our services in Fiji and providing support to other Pacific Island Countries where reproductive and sexual health needs are great. In Fiji, the Reproductive & Family Health Association of Fiji works in active collaboration with a network of community, NGO, private sector and government organisations. We value these and future partnerships, and will continue to invest in their effectiveness to enhance our capacity.

The bar is set high to ensure we strengthen our role as a leading provider of reproductive and sexual health services and a best practice model for NGO service delivery. We must continue to challenge ourselves to be innovative, effective, and focused on the expectations of our people and communities we serve along with partners who support us.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR):

Sexual and reproductive health and rights continues to be an issue of concern for women, men, young people and members of the LGBTQI community. A key issue in Fiji is the lack of access for young people to adequate information about sexuality. This coupled with the ability to freely access contraceptives is a major contributing factor to the high adolescent birthrate, which in 2013, according to the Health Status Report, was 40.1%ⁱ. With 46% of Fiji's population below the age of 25, it is crucial now more than ever that Fiji look towards providing better SRHR education for this key demographic. (Bureau of Statistics Population and Housing Census 2017).

Moreover Fiji currently has over 200,000 young people enrolled between primary and secondary education. These students are spread throughout 900 schools throughout the country and its four division's. With such a large captive audience a proper SRH curriculum would ensure that youths are given access to proper SRH information empowering them to act upon their Sexual Reproductive Rights and to make an informed decision.

Furthermore, in the 2nd UPR Cycle, Fiji accepted a recommendation from Slovenia to consider mainstreaming sexual and reproductive health education in-schools and improving access to contraception for adults and young people. To date, The Fiji education system has implemented a curriculum in schools called Family Life Education, which is conducted mainly in Secondary Schools. A study conducted in Fiji by Rafia Naz



in 2014 however, found there to be inadequacies in the current provision of Sexual Education in addition to cultural barriers hindering its usage (Naz R, 2014). The Fiji Women's Rights Movement in 2016 showed similar views, stating that the current Family

Life curriculum needs to be gender sensitized and delivered in a non-judgemental manner (FWRM, 2016). They went on to state that Comprehensive Sexuality Education is a basic right. According to the UNFPA "Comprehensive sexuality education is a rights-based and gender-focused approach to sexuality education, whether in school or out of school. It is taught over several years, providing age-appropriate information consistent with the evolving capacities of young people" (UNDP, 2019).

Recommendation(s):

- 1) Revise the current Family Life Education curriculum to comply with the UN, Revised 'International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education' and guarantee its implementation throughout the national school system, including in Special Schools.
- 2) Increase budgetary allocation to ensure sufficient resources for the implementation of the Family Life Education curriculum and to provide ongoing professional development for teachers to ensure they are equipped to teach it

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