UNFPA

state of world population 2008

Reaching Common Ground: Culture, Gender and Human Rights

state of world population 2008

Reaching Common Ground: Culture, Gender and Human Rights

Copyright © UNFPA 2008

United Nations Population Fund
Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director

state of world population 2008

Overview 1

Human Rights 2

Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality 3

Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights 3

Poverty, Inequality and Population 5

War, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 6

Conclusions 7

1

Negotiating Culture: An Introduction 9

Why Culture? 9

Background 10

What Is Culture? 12

What Culture Is Not... 13

Why Are Culturally Sensitive Approaches Critical? 14

Overview of the Chapters 15

2

Negotiating Culture: Building Support for Human Rights 19

The Debate Over Human Rights 20

The Evolving Nature of Human Rights 21

Building Cultural Legitimacy for Human Rights 22

3

Negotiating Culture: Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women 27

Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Culture 29

The Many Faces of Power: Examples from Africa 30

Cultural Struggles Against Domestic Violence in Latin America 31

Culture, Gender and Human Rights 33

Negotiating Cultures: Seven Lessons from Experience 34

FIGURE

Figure 1
Understanding Culture, Gender and Human Rights 33

On the cover
Dancers on a street in Salvador, Brazil.

© Peter Adams/Getty Images

Reaching Common Ground: Culture, Gender and Human Rights

4

Negotiating Culture: Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights 43

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: The Value of Cultural Knowledge 44

Probing Cultures 46

Culture, Masculinity and Sexual and Reproductive Health 50

5

Negotiating Culture: Poverty, Inequality and Population 55

Cultural Contexts of Population Issues, Poverty and Inequality 56

Culture and Fertility Issues 56

Poverty and Health Care Delivery 58

Culture and Issues Related to Reproductive Health 59

Migration, Immigrants and Cultural Diversity 61

FIGURES

Figure 2
Fertility differences between the rich and the poor 56

Figure 3
Mean level of unmet need and total demand for family planning, by region and quintiles of household wealth 57

Figure 4
Availability of antenatal care 59

Figure 5
Births with skilled attendants 59

TABLE

Table 1
Estimates of MMR: number of maternal deaths, lifetime risk and range of uncertainty, by United Nations MDG regions, 2005 58

6

Negotiating Culture: Gender and Reproductive Health in Conflict Situations 65

Cultures, Gender Relations and Armed Conflicts 65

Addressing Gender Relations in Armed Conflicts: United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) 66

Culturally Sensitive Approaches, Gender Relations and Armed Conflicts 68

Impact, Analysis, Response 71

Negotiating Cultures Within Development Organizations 74

7

Negotiating Culture: Some Conclusions 77

Notes and Indicators 81

Notes 82

Indicators 86

Monitoring ICPD Goals – Selected Indicators 86

Demographic, Social and Economic Indicators 90

Selected Indicators for Less Populous Countries/Territories 94

Notes for Indicators 96

Technical Notes 97

Editorial Team 100

Background image:
Cuban woman holding baby in her arms.

© J. Royan/Still Pictures

Overview

Culture is and always has been central to development. As a natural and fundamental dimension of people's lives, culture must be integrated into development policy and programming. This report shows how this process works in practice.

The starting point of the report is the universal validity of the international human rights framework. The focus is therefore on discussing and showcasing how culturally sensitive approaches are critical for the realization of human rights in general and women's rights in particular.

The report gives an overview of the conceptual frameworks as well as the practice of development, looking at the everyday events that make up people's experience of development. Culturally sensitive approaches call for cultural fluency – familiarity with how cultures work, and how to work with them. The report presents some of the challenges and dilemmas of culturally sensitive strategies and suggests how partnerships can address them.

Culture – inherited patterns of shared meanings and common understandings – influences how people manage their lives, and provides the lens through which they interpret their society. Cultures affect how people think and act; but they do not produce uniformity of thought or behaviour.

Cultures must be seen in their wider context: They influence and are influenced by external circumstances and change in response. They are not static; people are continuously involved in reshaping them, although some aspects of culture continue to influence choices and lifestyles for very long periods.

Cultural customs, norms, behaviours and attitudes are as varied as they are elusive and dynamic. It is risky to generalize, and it is particularly dangerous to judge one culture by the norms and values of another. Such over-simplification can lead to the assumption that every member of a culture thinks the same way. This is not only a mistaken perception but ignores one of the drivers of cultural change, which is multiple expressions of internal resistance, out of which transitions emerge. The movement towards gender equality is a good example of this process at work.

◀ *Nepalese family.*

© Peter Bruyneel

Appeals for cultural sensitivity and engagement are sometimes wrongly interpreted as acceptance of harmful traditional practices, or a way of making excuses for non-compliance with universal human rights. This is far from the case – such relativism provides no basis for action and produces only stalemate and frustration. Values and practices that infringe upon human rights can be found in all cultures. Culturally sensitive approaches determine what makes sense to people and work with that knowledge. Embracing cultural realities can reveal the most effective ways to challenge harmful cultural practices and strengthen positive ones.

Culturally sensitive approaches:

- go beyond "what" to "how" and "why" things are the way they are;
- seek the local knowledge and relationships that can provide the basis for dialogue and positive change;
- avoid generalizations and acknowledge differences in values and objectives, even within the same culture;
- encourage humility among those who work with communities; and
- ensure that deep understanding of human realities, including culture, rather than theories or assumptions, become the basis for policy.

Culturally sensitive approaches are both logical and practical, recognizing that cultural development is as much a right as economic or social development. Creative solutions abound within cultures, and culturally sensitive approaches seek them out and work with them. Culturally

are joined by consensus documents such as the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (1994) and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995).

There has been considerable discussion over the universality of human rights, but the discussion has often overlooked the critical interrelationships between human rights and cultures. The human rights framework includes protections for the collective rights of groups as well as those of individuals; among these is the right to health, including reproductive health. The language of rights is the language of resistance to deprivation and oppression, which is common to all cultures: People have begun using the language of rights to make their own claims.

Universal rights are realized by specific people and groups in their own cultural contexts, and must be understood in that way. This realization is what culturally sensitive approaches aim to achieve.

Culturally sensitive approaches recognize that:

- people in different cultures understand rights in different ways;
- people in the same culture also have different perspectives on and experiences of rights;
- people advocate for rights in ways that suit their cultural contexts;
- human rights can be ingrained through "cultural legitimacy"; and
- facilitating cultural legitimacy requires cultural knowledge and engagement.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维
https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId