

Recommendations

Deliberations the Conference revealed that there is now awareness among the SAARC nations about the importance of Adolescence Education. Consequently special programmes and schemes for adolescence education are in place. However, there still remains a need to increase emphasis on the initiatives. There is a need to review the existing programmes and ascertain their effectiveness. The delegates felt that it was not a question of developing a unique solution common to all countries, but of establishing common guidelines. The variety of situations at the regional, national and local levels obviously imply that these guidelines should be adapted keeping the local social and cultural values in view.

The specific recommendations for action in the SAARC countries emerged from the conference are as follows:

- There is a need for a clear definition and understanding of adolescence education programme. Currently there is lack of clarity about the programme, which is impeding implementation.
- Action: UNFPA
- Advocacy efforts need to be strengthened for enhanced awareness and acceptability. These efforts to be supported by requisite evidence based research and data. Documentation of best practices among SAARC nations to be undertaken and shared with SAARC members.
- Action: UNFPA
- Need for building a supportive environment through capacity building of various stakeholders.
- Action: UNFPA, NIOS, Nodal officer, Member Countries SAARC
- Curricular approach to be pursued for long-term effect and ensuring sustainability of the programme.
- Action: NIOS
- Non-formal systems of education and State Open Schools to be included in the programme for enhancing outreach. Information and Communication technology to be extensively used to support expansion and outreach.
- Action: NIOS
- Vocational education programmes to be strengthened by integrating life skills.
- Action: NIOS
- Need for promoting South-South Collaboration for addressing common concerns of adolescents in the region by organizing periodic conferences and exchange programmes among SAARC nations.
- Action: UNFPA
- A web-based Adolescence Education Resource Center to be established at NIOS for sharing of materials on AEP among SAARC nations. A focal unit/cell in each country to coordinate and provide material for the website.
- Action: NIOS
- Sample materials to be developed for adaptation and translation as per the country requirements.
- Action: UNFPA, and NIOS
- Technical assistance to be provided to develop country-specific strategies for integration of AE in the existing materials and for capacity building.
- Action: UNFPA, and NIOS
- Need to have a roster of AE experts for utilization in quantitative expansion and qualitative improvement of the AE programme.
- Action: UNFPA, and NIOS