

Make a Choice: Change a Life

Taking Choices for Granted

**Sexual & Reproductive
health choices save
lives, empower women
and help build
sustainable
communities**





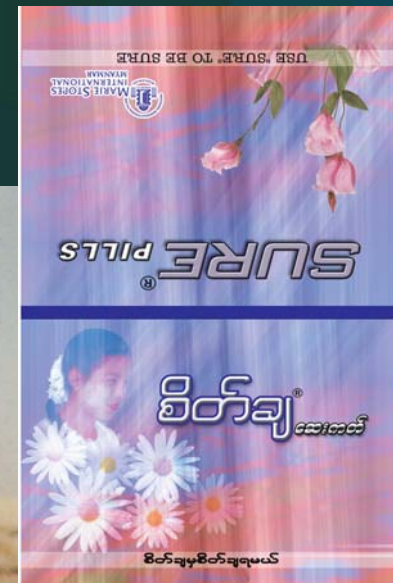


Education: understanding your choices – a basic human right

Understanding choices

- Knowledge is power
- *Informed* choice relies on good education and communication – and complete information (eg A.B.?C approach)
- **Everyone** needs to know: women, men, grandparents, adolescents, policy makers
- Educational attainment of women closely linked to family size

Choice (right) to Access Contraception



201 million women
would like to use
contraception but are
unable to access it.

One woman in every six who wishes
to delay, space or cease
childbearing does not have the
means to do so (UNFPA)



Safe Motherhood: the choice not to die

Every minute of every day

- **One woman dies of pregnancy related causes**
- **This is 530,000 women every year**
- 99% of these deaths are in developing countries
- At least 30% of these deaths are due to unsafe abortion
- **Almost all of these deaths are preventable**
- **Restricting access to information and contraception leads to an *increase* in abortion**

Gender equity and reproductive rights: the choice (right) to choose



In many countries

Women have no control over their own fertility or reproductive health because of:

- Lack of access to contraception
 - Lack of knowledge
 - Distance (eg Nepal, Mongolia)
 - Limited resources, cost
 - Social/cultural issues

**Child health:
the choice
(right) to have
healthy
children**



Family planning saves children's lives

- Spacing children 3 years or more apart dramatically increases their and their siblings' chances of survival (WHO)
- Delaying first pregnancies dramatically increases the chance of survival of the mother and baby.

**LOOK OUT
FOR
ONE EYED
SNAKES.**



**Inaleta
RAHA!**



**The choice (right) to protect yourself
against HIV/sexually transmitted infections**

The most common method of transmission of HIV worldwide?

- Hetrosexual sex (man to woman)
- Without the woman's knowledge
- More women and girls are infected with HIV daily than any other group

We need to Cover the World with Condoms

- Only 42% of those who wish to use them, can access them
- US influence and focus on 'abstinence' dramatically restricts access in some of the countries most affected by HIV

Choices for a future....



Reproductive choices:

- Are a fundamental human right
- Save lives and improve the health of women, children and their families
- Give women the chance to contribute and participate actively in their families, communities and the economy
- Help lift families out of the poverty cycle
- Are a key factor in achieving sustainable national economic growth

Marie Stopes International worldwide

- 40 countries
- 4.3 million clients served in 2004
- 395 health centres, employing 3,500 local team members
- Sustainable health clinics and outreach
- Lives of **9,000 women** and **130,000 infants** saved in 2004



Marie Stopes Australia

Cambodia

China

Indigenous Australia

Mongolia

Myanmar

The Philippines

Papua New Guinea

Viet Nam

The Pacific Islands:

- Fiji

- Kiribati

- Tuvalu

- Federated States of
Micronesia

- Samoa

MSI's six operational areas...

- **Education and information**
- **RH and HIV Clinical services**
- **Contraceptive social marketing**
- **Project management**
- **Advocacy**
- **Consultancy and technical advice**

MSI's operating philosophy:

- **People requiring contraceptives are clients not patients**
- **The provision of family planning and many reproductive health services is a marketing challenge, not a medical problem**
- **Services must be customer driven, not provider determined**
- **Contraceptive acceptance must be on the basis of informed choice**
- **Quality is no less important than quantity**
- **Reproductive health and being able to decide on your family size and timing is a basic human right**



Who was Marie Stopes?

Pioneer, campaigner, intellectual, eccentric, inventor, visionary



1918 Marie Stopes publishes '*Married Love*'

1921 Dr Stopes sues MP Dr Sutherland for libel

1925 Opening of first clinic in Whitfield Street

1958 Marie Stopes dies

1975 Overseas programs launched

2000 Voted Briton of the Millennium by Guardian Readers in the UK

2005 '*Married Love*' listed as one of '12 books which changed the western world' in BBC series (SouthBank Show), BBC)



How **you** can
MAKE A CHOICE
and
CHANGE A LIFE

Why isn't Sexual
Health **SEXY????!!!!**

We all need

Sex Appeal

How you can help women exercise their right to choose:

- Join: MSIA Membership
- Donate: tax deductible donations for our work
- Volunteer: Melbourne and overseas
- Buy: Sex Appeal Wrist Bands and condoms
- Participate: in Sex Appeal Events
- Engage: your workplace with Individual tax effective Support through Company Payroll Giving
- Write: to your MP asking what support they are advocating for women's reproductive choices in the aid program *and for women in Australia.*



\$25 – pays for a safe birthing kit in Viet Nam

\$40 – contraceptives and iron tablets for a small village in Myanmar for a month

\$50 – pays for a child immunisation day in Cambodia

\$70 – buys a bicycle and spare tyres for an outreach worker in Sri Lanka helping refugees

\$80 provides 600 couples with condoms in Mongolia

\$100 prints 130 leaflets on HIV prevention in Fiji



\$350 outreach health-camp in rural Philippines

\$1000 HIV or GBV training workshop for 40 teachers in PNG

\$5000 establishes a mini clinic in Myanmar



Choices Change Lives

www.mariestopes.org.au

