CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR) IN AFRICA

18th-19th November 2020, Entebbe, Uganda[1]
https://setsrhrconference.org/

Theme: Leveraging Research and Training for Universal Coverage of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Africa

1.   Conference Overview

The project "Strengthening Education and Training Capacity in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights" in Uganda (SET-SRHR) in conjunction with Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH), the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam (ISS-EUR) and Rutgers will host a Regional Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Entebbe, Uganda from 18th- 19th November, 2020.[1]

The aim of the conference is to promote and strengthen the interconnectedness of research, training, policy and practice to contribute towards the attainment of universal access to SRHR in Africa. To that end, the conference will provide a platform to varied actors (researchers, trainers, policy makers, practitioners and advocates) to discuss and disseminate the outcomes of their programmes to larger audiences. In addition,

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[1] Should current COVID-19 related travel and social distancing restrictions persist through November, the conference will take place online or adopt a blend of in-person and online participation.

the conference will provide opportunity for participants to reflect on innovations and lessons from the field and how these can help expand access to SRHR services to diverse groups of people in Africa. Finally, it will provide opportunity for strengthening partnerships and collaboration in the areas of SRHR research, training, policy making, programming and advocacy.

The conference will feature a broad range of sessions including high level panel discussions, keynote speeches, abstract driven presentations and plenary sessions. Satellite presentations and exhibitions will provide opportunity for professional development and networking. Conference proceedings will be published and disseminated widely. Invited regional researchers will collaborate with Researchers from Uganda to write comparative papers for the second edited volume of the project.

2.   Conference Sub-themes

The Conference organisers are interested in empirical papers that address any of the following sub themes:

2.1 SRHR Service delivery: this sub-theme will focus on studies/interventions relating to equity in access, quality of care and accountability for SRHR services including but not limited to the following areas:
- Availability, accessibility to and quality of family planning services and commodities;
- Antenatal, childbirth and postnatal care, including emergency obstetric care;
- Safe abortion services and treatment of the complications of unsafe abortion;
- Prevention and treatment of HIV infection and other STIs;
- Prevention, detection and management of sexual and gender-based violence;
- Prevention, detection and management of reproductive cancers, especially cervical cancer;
- Information, counselling and services for infertility;
- Comprehensive sexuality education for in and out of school youth.

2.2 Ecology and SRHR: this sub-theme will focus on the socio-economic, cultural, religious and other belief systems and how they impact on SRHR policy uptake and service outcomes.

2.3 Rights based approaches and SRHR: This sub-theme will focus on the relationship between human rights and SRHR and will cover the following:
- Issues related to the protection of individuals against coercion, discrimination and violence;
- Issues related to availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of information, education and services;
- Issues related to accountability of duty bearers and mechanisms for redress of abuses and violations of rights of individuals. Human rights related to SRHR, include the right of individuals and couples to make decisions concerning their health and reproduction free of discrimination, coercion, and violence as expressed in human rights documents;
- Shift in SRHR programming from simply meeting needs to doing so in ways that fulfil human rights.

2.4 Governance of SRHR: this sub-theme will focus on studies or programmatic interventions relating participation and inclusion of individuals and communities in SRHR planning and decision making, leadership and policy engagements, financing mechanisms, accountability for recourses and for results, mechanisms for assessment of progress, partnerships and multi-sectoral collaboration among others.

2.5 Capacity building for effective SRHR programming: this sub-theme will cover innovative approaches in training and education, curriculum development, knowledge acquisition and knowledge transfers, translation of knowledge and skills into practice for improved SRHR outcomes among others.

2.6 SRHR in the context of COVID-19: this sub-theme will focus on studies that assess availability and access to SRHR services in the context of national responses to COVID-19.

3. Abstract Submission

Researchers/ SRHR practitioners who have completed SRHR studies in or about Africa on any of the sub-themes above and are interested in presenting at the conference should send their abstracts to set-srhr@musph.ac.ug no later than 31st of August 2020. Abstracts should be written in English, presented in Microsoft word format, and should not exceed 350 words.

The conference offers two options for abstract submission:
a) Option I: Research related abstracts
This is suited for research conducted in all disciplines. It should contain concise statements of:
- **Title**: the abstract should have a title, author(s) and institutional affiliation(s). Where a team is involved, indicate the leader and corresponding author (if different from the team leader) and attach the corresponding author's updated curriculum vitae;
- **Background:** Indicate the purpose and objective of the research, the hypothesis that was tested, or a description of the problem being analysed or evaluated;
- **Methodology:** Describe the study period, setting and location, study design, study population, data collection and methods of analysis used;
- **Results:** Present as clearly and in as much detail as possible the findings and/or outcomes of the study. Please disaggregate data by age and gender where possible and summarize specific results;
- **Conclusions:** Explain the significance of your study's findings and/or outcomes for SRHR outcomes and future implications of the results.

  The following review criteria will be used in scoring abstracts submitted under Option 1:
- Is there a clear background and justified objective?
- Is the methodology and/or study design appropriate for the objectives?
- Are the results important and clearly presented?
- Are the conclusions supported by the results?
- Is the study original and does it contribute to the field?

b) Option 2: Program related abstracts

This is suited for lessons learned through programmes. It should contain concise statements of:

- **Title:** the abstract should have a title, author(s) and institutional affiliation(s). Where a team is involved, indicate the leader and corresponding author (if different from the team leader) and attach the corresponding author's updated curriculum vitae;
- **Background:** Summarize the purpose, scope and objectives of the programme, project or policy.
- **Description:** Describe the programme, project or policy period, setting and location, the structure, key population (if applicable) and interventions undertaken in support of the programme, project or policy.
- **Lessons learned:** Present as clearly and in as much detail as possible the findings and/or outcomes of the programme, project or policy. Include an analysis or evaluation of lessons learned and best practices. Please summarize any specific results that support your lessons learned and best practices.
- **Conclusions/ next steps:** Explain the significance of the findings and/or outcomes of the programme, project or policy for SRHR service delivery and future implications of the results.

The following review criteria will apply to abstracts submitted under Option 2:
- Is there a clear background and justified objective?
- Is the programme, project or policy design and implementation appropriate for the objectives?
- Are the lessons or best practices important, supported by the findings and clearly presented?
- Are the conclusions/next steps supported by the results and are they feasible?
- Is the work reported original and does it contribute to the field?

In case an abstract has been previously published or presented at any meeting, the author is required to indicate details of the publication or presentation. This information will be considered by the review committee when making final decisions.

The conference organisers regard plagiarism as a serious professional misconduct. All abstracts will be screened for plagiarism and when identified, the abstract and any other abstracts submitted by the same author will be rejected. Only those whose abstracts are successful will be invited.

4.   Key dates
- Deadline for submission of abstracts: 31st August 2020
- Review of abstracts: 1st – 12th of September 2020
- Communication of results of abstract selection: 14th September 2020
- Reminder for submission of full paper: 15th October 2020
- Deadline for submission of full papers/presentation: 30th of October 2020
- Conference: 18th and 19th November 2020

5.   Funding

Limited funding is available to support travel, accommodation and meals for selected presenters based in Africa. Presenters outside Africa are encouraged to seek resources to cover their travel, accommodation, meals and any other expenses.

6.   Inquires

Any inquiries should be directed to set-srhr@musph.ac.ug

7.   About the Conveners

The SET- SRHR is a four-year project (2016-2020) funded by the Netherlands Universities' Foundation for International Cooperation (NUFFIC). The Project aims to strengthen SRHR education and training capacity and contributes towards sustainable demographic and human capital development and inclusive economic growth in Uganda. A consortium led by ISS-EUR in collaboration with Rutgers in the Netherlands, and MakSPH and NTISD in Uganda is implementing the project.

Project outcomes and outputs are tracked around five key thematic strategies: i) **Organizational Capacity** Enhancement to strengthen the institutional capacity of MakSPH and NTISD to deliver evidence based and innovative SRHR education and training. ii). Revision and development of an accredited standardized gender and age sensitive **Curriculum** and iii) **Curriculum Delivery** via a professional and an academic track targeting diverse pre and in-service frontline SRHR professionals at various levels; iv) **Research and documentation** - high-quality academic and policy relevant SRHR research v) A sustainable SRHR **Research Community of Practice – Utafiti na Kutenda** - A platform for diverse stakeholders to network and engage in evidence-based SRHR policy and discourse and action.

The Netherlands Initiative for Capacity development
in Higher Education (NICHE)