



## UNFPA supports Lao PDR:

- Ensure that every pregnancy is wanted
- Every birth is safe
- Every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect
- Every young person is free of HIV /AIDS
- Use population data to reduce poverty

# Gender and Sexual Reproductive Rights

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**1. Sex and gender have the same meaning and can be used interchangeable**





# FALSE

Sex refers to biological differences between women and men, while gender refers to:

- a) Socially constructed roles and responsibilities of women and men.
- b) A concept that may change over time and vary within and between cultures.
- c) Femininity and masculinity

**2. Women's  
empowerment is a  
necessary condition for  
improved reproductive  
health**





**TRUE**



**3. All women and men in  
Lao PDR have equal  
access to sexual  
reproductive health care**



# TRUE



De-juro: according to constitution;  
- health care policy and degrees

# FALSE



De-facto “in practice”: access is not equal i.e. geographical, financial, language, cultural, services do often/not always take into account gender specific needs; age etc.

**4. If a woman carries male condoms with her, she is inviting men to have sex with her and/or is unfaithful to her husband.**





**FALSE**

**It can/should be a sign of empowerment if women can and will protect themselves**

**In a study conducted on female sexual behavior it was found that almost 20 % of women were coerced into sex;**

**And up to 80% sex workers do not use a condom with their boyfriend**



**5. If a woman wants to have a sterilization conducted, she should get the permission from her husband first.**



# FALSE

Ideally, it would be a couples decision to decide on which contraceptive method to use, and health care providers should provide supportive counseling, promoting involvement of both partners.

However in case this dialogue is not possible, and the woman is clearly indicating that she wants/needs to have a permanent method, then she should be able to receive this treatment, irrespective if her husband (or any other person) has provided permission.

## 6. Induced abortion is illegal in Lao PDR



# True

RH policy 2005: abortion IS illegal and a major cause of morbidity and mortality

# False

Regulation on Maternal and Child Health-2005: “ in case the women conceives because of medical causes for example infected by STI, AIDS, cancer and other ailments, or she has been raped, the pregnancy could then be safely terminated”. Article 4



7. Boys or girls under 18 years of age should get permission from their parents before they can use contraceptives





# **FALSE**

**RH policy 2005: ensure access to youth  
Friendly RH services for both single and married  
young people that are confidential, do not require  
parental consent, are affordable or free of charge  
and accessible in a variety of settings.**



**8. Male violence towards women is instinctive. Women have to accept a certain degree of violence.**





# FALSE

Multi index cluster Survey – 2006 reports that 81.5% of women perceived violence against women acceptable.

Violence against women / gender based violence is NEVER acceptable and should not be tolerated.

Health care providers have an important role to play to support and assist the victims / survivors of VAW/ GBV

**9. Gender equality is an issue that is most relevant to girls and women**





**FALSE**

Gender equality is a matter  
of men and women alike

**10. Women with a mental or physical impairment / disability should be prevented to have a sexual relation and health care workers have an obligation to advise treatment to ensure that they cannot get pregnant**





# FALSE

Reproductive Rights are Human Rights, including those with impairments, illness, disability. The role of the Health care providers is to provide non biased, objective and honest information and education, and counseling respecting universal access to RH services.



Thank you

