

Title: "Reproductive health and human rights in developing countries".

By

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Abstract:

Growth of egalitarian ideologies and principles in recent decades underlies the current focus on women's empowerment as a pivotal general strategy for improving women's health in developing countries. This paper discusses the influence of two components of this empowerment strategy, gender equality and reproductive rights, on women's reproductive health in developing countries (World Bank, 2003). The empowerment strategy for improving reproductive health is theoretically situated by identifying a number of background factors such as economic and social development. Cross – national socioeconomic and demographic data from a number of international organizations are used. The study suggests that both economic and democratic development have significant positive effects on levels of gender equality. In addition, social development plays a prominent role in promoting reproductive rights. It is found that reproductive rights channel the influences of social structural factors and gender equality on reproductive health.