




FAMILY AND MEGATRENDS

Role of technology and climate change

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Asia Expert Group Meeting, 28-29 Feb 2014, Kuala Lumpur



SCOPE OF PAPER

--- INTRODUCTION, 4 SECTIONS

INTRODUCTION – The big picture / linkages

1. THE FAMILY

2. NEW TECHNOLOGY

2.1. Impact on the family well-being

2.2. Impact on health

2.3. Impact on sexual reproductive health (SRH)

2.4. Technology and gender

2.5. What can be done?



3. CLIMATE CHANGE

3.1. Impact on the family well-being

3.2. Impact on health

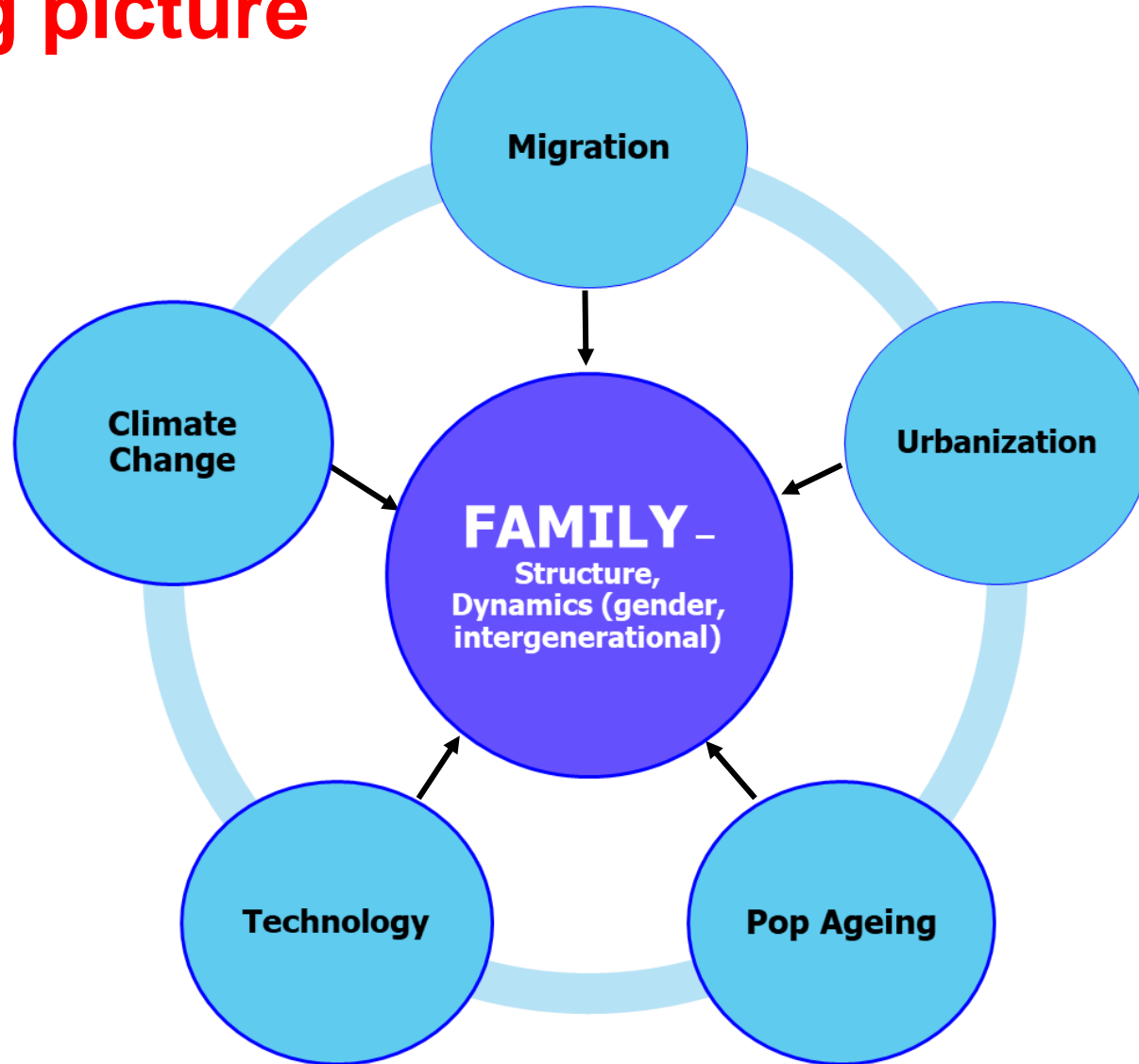
3.3. Impact on sexual reproductive health (SRH)

3.4. Technology and gender

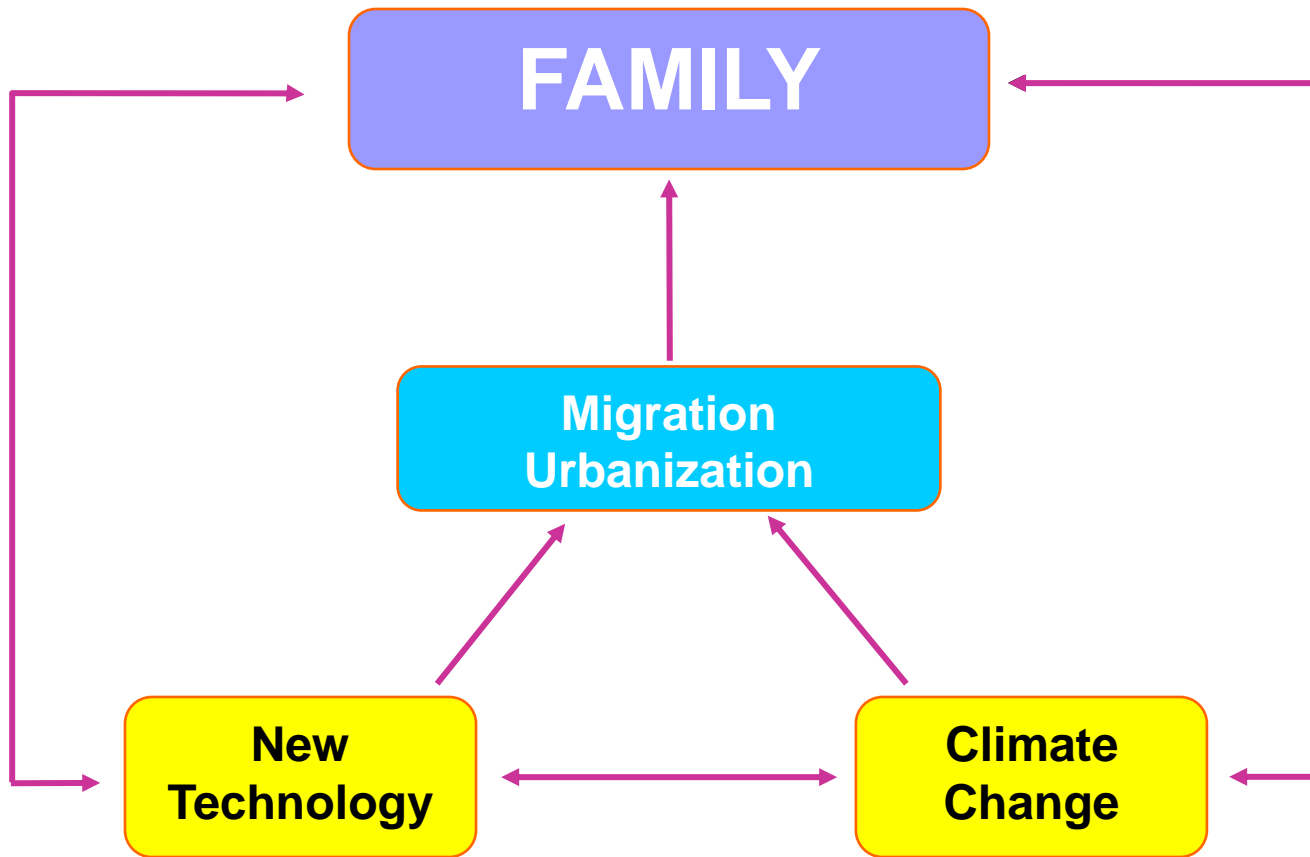
3.5. What can be done?

4. LINKING TECHNOLOGY TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The big picture



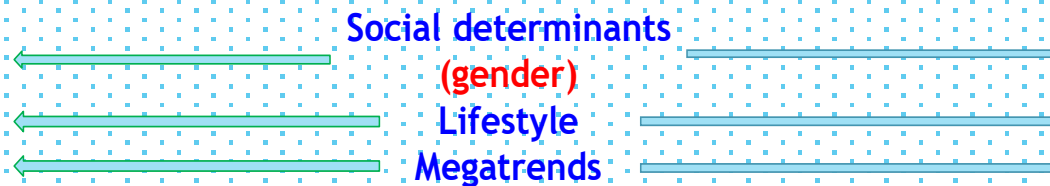
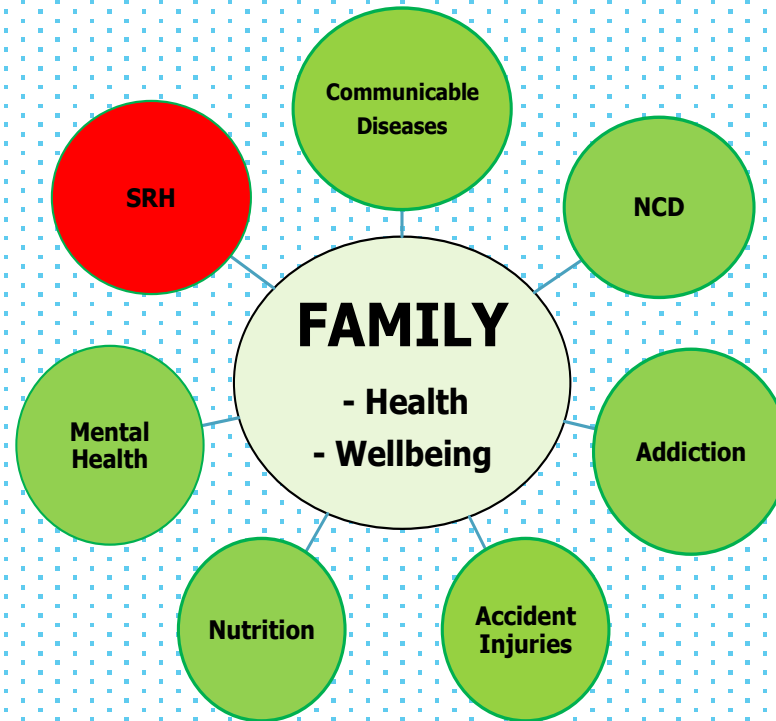
The main drivers are migration and urbanization.



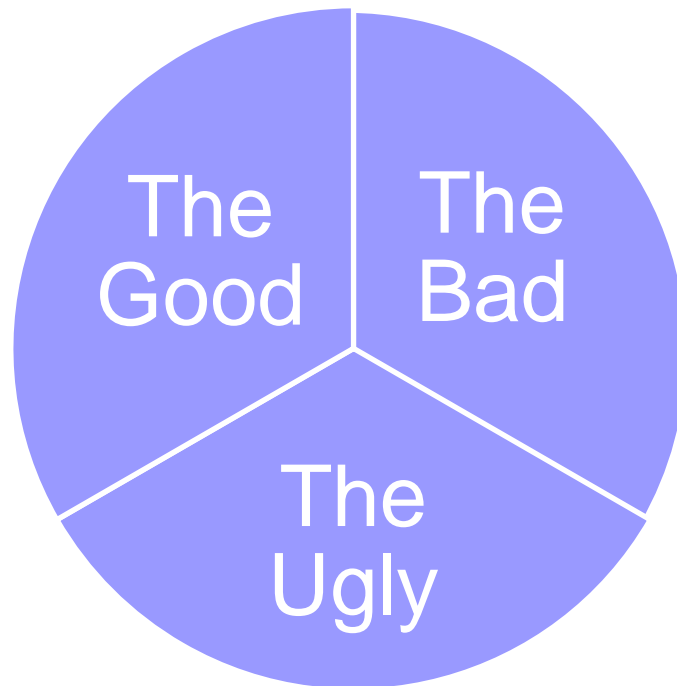
1. THE FAMILY – salient to this session

- (1) Malaysia has a **NATIONAL AGENCY** for the family - the NPFDB or LPPKN
- (2) There is a **NATIONAL POLICY ON THE FAMILY**, with a Plan of Action - recently been reviewed and updated
- (3) The family is impacted by many factors for its **WELL-BEING** (including **HEALTH**). A healthy family is one in a state of *“complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the disease and infirmity”*.
- (4) There is **INDEX OF FAMILY WELL-BEING**, which has 8 domains (Malaysia scores “high” – in 2019 it was 7.55)

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity”




2. NEW TECHNOLOGY – fact of life – *the good, the bad, the ugly*



2.1. Impact on family well being...

- **Mode of communication**
- **Family time and bonding**
- **Parent-child interaction**
- **New influencer of the child**
- **Independence of children**
- **Relationship (digital)**

- 
- **Conflict in family – sharing gadgets**
 - **Inter-generational different digital skill**
 - **Social skills**
 - **Cyber safety**
 - **Health – mental, physical, emotional**

2.2. Technology & overall health

“the good, the bad, the ugly”

“Old technology” the “good” - many, obvious –
diagnostics, treatment, vaccines etc, later telemedicine

The “*bad and ugly*” – sedentary lifestyle, sleep, vision,
hearing, posture, fatigue, headache, text thumb,
mental, emotional, anxiety, internet addiction

2.3. Technology & SRH

The “old” technology has played significant role in FP, in diagnostic and treatment modalities for pregnancy, childbirth and women’s health

Special mention - Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART)- treatments include

- in vitro fertilization (IVF)**
- embryo transfer (ET)**
- gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT).**

2.4. Technology & gender

- Technology equated with “men's power,” women and girls portrayed as less technologically skilled and less interested
- **Equipment tends to be gender-typed.**
- **Historical narratives exclude role of women**
- **Digital technology is a powerful tool can serve as a catalyst for promoting gender equality.**

2.5. What to do for family well-being

- Limit screen time, gadget zones
- Parents control access to internet sites
- Regular checks on history of usage
- Assign specific time/day for face-to-face interaction
- Organise events that do not involve technologies
- Encourage digital detoxification
- Educate family on the harmful health effects
- Parents to be role model

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Ofcom research found that 91% of children in the UK own a smartphone by the time they are 11. Photograph: Hollandse Hoogte/Shutterstock

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What to do - for technology and SRH

- Research and learn from other countries - how to optimize modern technology to improve SRH
- **Optimise digital technology for follow up and tracking of users of SRH services, victims of GBV**
- Look for better technologies - eg screening of cervical cancer and other cancers, and cost-effectiveness studies (compare ROIs)
- **Find better and more affordable treatment modalities for infertility and subfertility**

..for technology and gender

- Design technological innovations that appeal to women and can benefit women
- **Make amends on narratives on women contribution in technology Encourage older women to mentor younger women pursuing careers in technology**
- Offer women and girls opportunities such as internship, hands-on learning in technology-related fields and businesses
- **Tailor programs towards the en in society, underserved females are awarded spaces, networks and inspiration to learn and grow technological skills**

The role of government

- **Increase public awareness using all media**
- **Make policies such as pricing policy for various technologies to ensure equitable access**
- **Control of the internet (?)**
- **Promulgation of laws such as for cyber security**

3. CLIMATE CHANGE –

3.1. Impact on well-being of family

- **Direct impact - disaster brought on homes by floods, hurricane, tsunamis, drought on livelihood**
- **Human habitat loss - nearly 42 million people per year will face the loss of their homes due to climate change events in the next 20 years.**
- **These have a myriad of social, health, economic consequences on the family.**
- **Reason for migration – many consequences**

3.2. Impact on health

- All domains of human health are potentially impacted by climate change - CD (eg vector borne disease), NCD (esp due to pollution), mental and psychological health.
- **Climate change has a disproportionate impact on the poorest and most vulnerable communities.**
- R&D on climate change and health - current focus on more profitable markets – lead to inequitable dev of and access life-saving technologies

3.3. Impact on SRH

The impact is all **negative** (*“the bad and the ugly”*).
Environ disasters (floods and hurricanes) jeopardise access to SRH services.

Climate change and fertility. Two trends –

- (i) global warming might directly affect fertility - hot weather could affect sexual behavior, negatively influence reproductive factors eg sperm motility and menstruation.
- (ii) climate change has led to a reduced desire of couples to have children. The reasons cited for this are....

... reasons

- **Environ disruption (floods, drought etc) – not able to get care during pregnancy, childbirth**
- **Environ disruption – cannot provide for children**
- **Anxiety over children inheriting a planet damaged by climate change**
- **Not to contribute to more pop, more polluters**
- **Political - children may detract parents from environ activism**

3.4. Climate change and gender

Girls/women face disproportionately high risks compared to boys/men, due to historical and structural gender inequalities. They face disproportionately high health risks


Some challenges

- **Gender-specific threats to silence female environmental activist**
- **Barriers to leaving areas prone to climate change and disaster**
- **Excluded from decision-making spaces and negotiations**
- **Female-led groups do not receive sufficient climate funding.**

3.5. What to do... R R R

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- **separate trash for recycling, and reuse and recycle**
- **take a reusable tote bag to the grocery store**
- **refill a water bottle rather than buy a disposable one**
- **save energy by using LED bulbs**
- **turn off appliances not in use**
- **reduce the brightness of computer screens**
- **buy local produce**

- 
- **buy loose rather than pre-packed (especially plastic packed)**
 - **buy only what we need , not the economic size**
 - **eat less meat and dairy**
 - **walk instead of drive (work from home is an option)**
 - **lessen need for flying**
 - **use renewable sources of energy – sunlight, wind**
 - **etc, etc**

... for climate change and health

- generate more awareness, knowledge on climate change and health, be creative (*UNDP advert using dinosaur addressing UN meeting on extinction*)
- develop treatments for climate-sensitive diseases
- increase sustainable R&D and manufacturing
- advocate for innovation for neglected diseases in the climate change response

.. for climate change and gender

- **promote gender equality at household level**
- **empower households with time-saving technologies for women**
- **encourage women's participation in leadership roles**

What can govt do?

- carbon taxes
- cap and trade
- clean energy standards
- adaptation policies
- minimise financial risks
- technology investments
- offsets, and carbon footprint measurement

4. LINKING TECHNOLOGY to C/CHANGE

- use Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Directly affecting FAMILIES - predicting weather patterns and climate disasters, so communities can better plan how to adapt to climate change

Other uses

- Measuring & monitoring the rate icebergs are melting**
- mapping of deforestation**
- recycling of more wastes**
- cleaning up the oceans**
- helping industries to decarbonize**



THANK YOU!