



**AMREF INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH
HSR 701**

**INTRODUCTION TO PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEIR
LINKAGES TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS
(SRHR)**

**END OF TERM EXAMINATION
(MAY – AUGUST 2026)
5TH AUGUST 2026**

TIME:3 HOURS START:5:30PM FINISH:8:30PM

SECTION A (COMPULSORY QUESTION)

QUESTION 1: (15 marks)

Article 26 (4) of the Kenyan Constitution provides for the rights to access safe abortion when in the opinion of a trained health professional, there is need for emergency treatment, or the life or health of the pregnant woman is in danger. Unsafe abortion is among the 5 leading causes of maternal deaths and injuries in Kenya. It is estimated that about 464,500 induced abortions occur annually in Kenya. Severe complications of unsafe abortion occur among adolescents.

In 2025, the Ministry of Health in Kenya banned XYZ, a service provider, from providing information to adolescents and youths, who required the same because of the magnitude of unsafe abortion recorded, with assumption that the majority of the cases of unsafe

abortion was from adolescents. Further, **XYZ** was also banned from providing abortion care including post abortion care; despite the same being appreciated as an emergency as per the Constitution.

Answer the questions below: -

a) Discuss the rights that are violated when there is restriction on access to information on abortion by the adolescents **(5marks)**.

a) As a SRHR expert, provide a five (5) high level policy issue for Kenya Government to consider in order to lift the blanket ban of XYZ in order to reduce the high levels of unsafe abortions as indicated above. **(10 marks)**.

SECTION B- ANSWER ANY 3 QUESTIONS OF YOUR CHOICE - (TOTAL 45 MARKS)

QUESTION 2

Read the passage and respond to the questions below.

Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) comprises numerous human rights. States have obligations to **Respect, Protect and Fulfil** human rights upon ratification of international and regional treaties and other commitments. At the domestic level, States must take positive steps to implement these commitments through legislative, policy and administrative procedures including guidelines and programmes. This they do by continuously identifying and addressing any existing barriers to accessing the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), addressing any violations that may occur and presenting periodic reports to the monitoring committees as a measure of accountability.

- a) Focusing on countries in Sub Saharan Africa, discuss **three (3)** barriers/violations that are likely to occur in the select SRH service areas below: -
- i) Access to Family Planning methods services and providing information and education that is safe for women **(2 marks)**

ii) Prevention of unwanted pregnancies, safe abortion, post abortion care
(2marks).

iii) Gender Based Violence and especially Violence Against Women. **(3 marks)**

b) Discuss key implementation measures a State requires to put in place to meet the human rights criteria for evaluating sexual and reproductive health and rights below: -

i) Availability **(2 marks)**

ii) Accessibility **(2 Marks)**

iii) Acceptability **(2 marks)**

iv) Quality. **(2 marks)**

QUESTION 3

One of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 3 is to reduce maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births at State's level. Most African States register unacceptably high rates of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity. Kenya's maternal mortality rate currently stands at 355 per 100,000 live births. Maternal mortality and morbidity are often caused by human rights violations including non-accountability to human rights-based principles of equality, non-discrimination and meaningful participation among others.

a) In undertaking human- rights- based analysis of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity in Kenya, discuss five (5) key factors that exacerbate high maternal mortality and morbidity. **(5marks)**

a) You are engaged as a SRHR expert for the Ministry of Health in Kenya. Your Terms of Reference are to assist Kenya document its accountability measures to meeting the ICPD Cairo 1994 and the SDGs commitments to reduce maternal mortality rates.

Recommend five (5) key human rights **accountability measures** for Kenya to consider in order to reduce maternal mortality to meet the SDG 3 target of 70 deaths per 100,000 live by 2030. **(10 marks)**.

QUESTION 4

Accountability to human rights is central to every stage of the human rights-based approach to SRHR. It requires meaningful participation of citizens, transparency, respect to human rights, equality and non-discrimination and focuses on those that have been left behind i.e. adolescents, persons with disabilities and marginalized population among others.

- a) Discuss five (5) actionable and implementable steps Kenya has to take in order to increase access of SRHR for adolescents **(5 marks)**.
- b) Monitoring implementation of human rights and human rights-based standards is closely monitored at several levels. Monitoring is important to ensure that the Government implements the agreed commitments. Accountability to human rights happens are different levels.

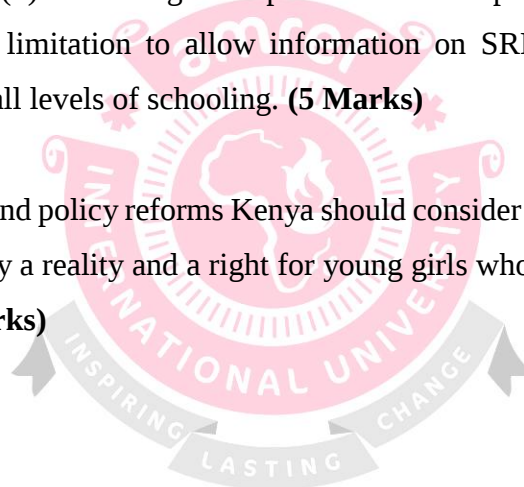
Elaborate key steps of accountable for SRHR in the areas below for Kenya.

- i. Administrative / Ministry of Health accountability to SRHR **(2 marks)**
- ii. Social/Civil Society accountability. **(2marks)**
- iii. International /Treaty reporting accountability. **(2marks)**
- iv. Parliamentary accountability. **(2marks)**
- v. Judicial/legal accountability. **(2marks)**

QUESTION 5

Jane is a 16-year-old girl, in secondary school and she has been elected as the Captain of the School. One of her campaign agendas was to ensure that the school allows age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education. She approaches you as the newly appointed Minister of Health and Wellness to discuss several concerns adolescents and young people have in accessing SRHR services and the limitation in accessing information and the limitation on age-appropriate sexuality education in schools. She considers this as a violation of the SRHR.

- a) Discuss five (5) challenges of the limitation of age-appropriate sexuality education in Kenya. **(5 marks)**
- b) Elaborate five (5) human rights steps Jane needs to put across to the minister to reconsider the limitation to allow information on SRHR to be included in the curriculum of all levels of schooling. **(5 Marks)**
- c) Propose legal and policy reforms Kenya should consider in order to make the return to school policy a reality and a right for young girls who become mothers while in school. **(5 marks)**



QUESTION 6

The Civil Society organizations (CSOs) continue to play a critical role as non-state actors in monitoring implementation of the ICPD Cairo 1994 commitments and in general promotion of SRHR. Reflecting on your country, with focus on areas below, discuss key areas of human rights violations that CSOs could hold the government accountable for failure to implement a human rights-based approach.

- a) Contraceptive and information services **(5 marks)**
- b) Sexual and Reproductive Health education and information **(5 marks)**
- c) Harmful traditional practices i.e. FGM. **(5 marks)**

