

“Gender, Health and Theology” - teaching graduates, training faith leaders and raising awareness amongst community members in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology is an interdenominational Christian institution of higher learning established in 1997. Its Gender, Health and Theology program (before 2012 HIV/AIDS and Theology program) is a central piece of its academic courses, research and community engagement. Since 2001, it incorporates family planning and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, maternal and new-born child health. It focuses on gender inequalities and lack of preventive and rehabilitative health services, while addressing theological reflections. As a member of Faith to Action Network, EGST has been a beneficiary from capacity building in advocacy skills.



The Gender, Health and Theology program works at three levels: At the top level, its masters' course offers academic teaching and research and furthers theological reflection. At the middle level, a “faith and community leaders training package” addresses attitudinal issues of religious leaders while outreach activities at community level raise awareness among women and children.



Adama, June 01, 2016: Discussion between Masters programme students and Women Self Help Group on family planning.

The Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology's masters' course has become a growing academic discipline by increasing the number of graduates and enabling health and gender experts to work across disciplinary boundaries. 121 graduates have been trained since it integrated family planning into its curriculum. Recently, it revised its curriculum, now with courses in "Faith, Gender, Health and Development in Africa"; "Psychosocial Issues in Gender and Health"; "Philosophy of Gender and Sexuality"; "Fundamentals of Gender and Reproductive Health" and a Practicum. A flagship interdisciplinary research project is entitled 'Gender Justice and Its Theological Implications in Ethiopia'.

1,108 faith leaders - Ethiopian Orthodox, Catholic, Muslim, Seven Day Adventists and Protestant - have graduated from its faith and community leaders training package, and a training manual on Channels of Hope for Gender as well as MNCH+ has been developed.



Gewatta, March 2016: Training of Couples on FP in the Channels of Hope for MNCH+ package

At community level, 1,538 women and children have accessed improved preventive health services while enhancing the capacity of a women health development army. Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology's shares its experience with eight other seminaries through workshops and research dissemination as well as through the SRHR Network with African and Scandinavian partners.



Bahir Dar, December 2016: Interfaith Leaders Training on Channels of Hope for MNCH+. The specific session was spacing and pregnancy issues.

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