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Population ageing in Asia: Why it is mostly a women's issue

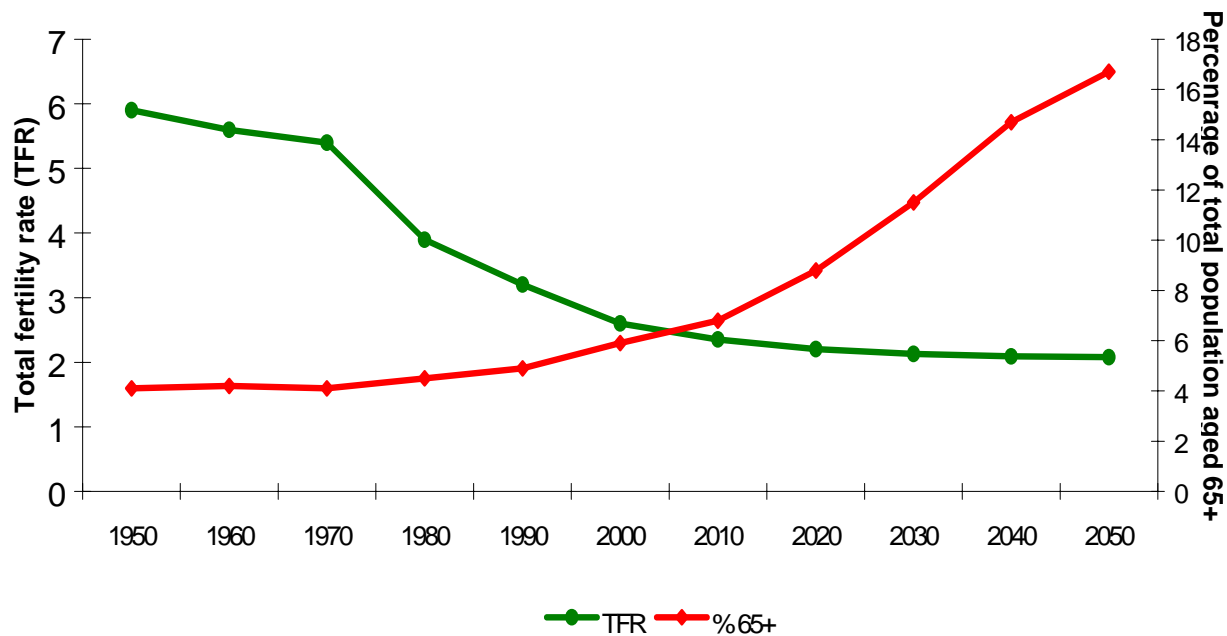
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Population ageing in Asia

Outline

- Demographic indicators of ageing
 - Ageing and gender
 - Gender in national policies and plans
 - Policy recommendations
 - Regional mandate
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Fertility decline and population ageing in Asia, 1950-2050



Demographic indicators of ageing

	TFR	Percentage 60+		PSR (15-64/65+)	
		2000	2025	2000	2025
Japan	1.3	23.3	35.5	4.0	2.0
Rep. Korea	1.3	11.0	25.0	10.2	4.0
Singapore	1.4	10.5	31.1	9.8	3.0
Indonesia	2.3	7.6	12.8	13.4	8.2
Philippines	3.1	5.5	10.2	16.7	10.0
Thailand	1.7	9.5	17.2	13.0	6.1
Viet Nam	2.3	7.5	12.7	11.5	8.4

Population ageing as a women's issue

- Older women outnumber older men
 - Women are less prepared for old age
 - High proportions of women are widowed
 - Women are family care-givers
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Percentage of females among older population, 2000

	<u>60+</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>80+</u>
Asia	53	54	62
East Asia	53	55	66
South-East Asia	54	55	59
South-Central Asia	52	53	55
West Asia	54	55	62
India	52	53	55

Labour force participation rates for persons 65+, 2000

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Asia	38.4	12.7
East Asia	28.6	9.3
South-East Asia	47.8	24.1
South-Central Asia	51.0	14.1
West Asia	35.5	13.4
India	52.7	13.5

Percentage of population 60-64 illiterate, selected countries, 2000

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Bangladesh	64	89
China	25	62
India	51	82
Indonesia	25	53
Pakistan	67	92
Sri Lanka	9	24
Viet Nam	7	21

Percentage of population 65-69 currently married

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Cambodia, 1996	87	42
India, 1986-87 (60+)	93	34
Japan, 1995 (65+)	84	43
Lao P.D.R., 1995	84	49
Malaysia (60-74)	88	56
Mongolia, 2000	73	38
Myanmar, 1991	76	43
Viet Nam, 1999	89	54

Adequacy of gender in national policies and plans

	<u>Situation analysis</u>	<u>Policies and plans</u>
India	Good	No
Malaysia	Good	No
Philippines	Fair	No
Thailand	No	No

- Gender mainstreaming is absent
 - Best interpretation is plans are gender neutral
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What developing countries in Asia can learn from the more developed countries in Asia

- Must put in place universal pension and health care systems
 - Pension systems should be compulsory and contributory
 - It will be necessary to raise retirement ages
 - Retirement should be gradual, phased or flexible, with no mandatory retirement age
 - More effort is needed to plan for changing jobs in old age
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What developing countries in Asia can learn from the more developed countries in Asia

- Government is responsible for the health and well-being of the population, but it can not provide all necessary care and services for rapidly ageing populations
 - Need healthy ageing to reduce unhealthy life expectancy
 - Community care programmes are more effective and less costly
 - Long-term care is feasible only with insurance programmes
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What developing countries in Asia can learn from the more developed countries in Asia

- Care giving will develop as an important issue
 - Attention must be given to training
 - Family caregivers
 - Volunteer caregivers
 - Paramedical staff
 - Nurses
 - Physicians
 - Care managers
 - Gender concerns should be mainstreamed in implementing all of the above recommendations
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Regional mandate

Shanghai Implementation Strategy:
Regional Implementation Strategy for the
Madrid International Plan of Action on
Ageing 2002 and the Macao Plan of
Action on Ageing for Asia and the
Pacific 1999

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Thank you for your attention!

