

Women's Empowerment for Health

a new public health framework.

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Right to health is not an entitlement

In many developing countries, including Pakistan, health is not an entitlement to ensure acceptable health outcomes. In this context, health care becomes a privilege of those who can afford it.

Result: Inequalities in health outcomes

Health thus becomes a struggle for rights.

Response to the impasse

A new conceptual framework to transform health as a rights issue and legitimise empowerment for better health .

Two milestones of health, the 1978 Declaration of Primary Health Care, and the Ottawa Charter of 1986, provide the needed conceptual legitimacy to people's participation and State responsibilities towards health needs. **BUT ...**

they do not provide a framework for interpreting participation as empowerment

Social Struggles in Pakistan

social struggles or movements in Pakistan

Labour movement;
students movement;
women's movement;
peasant movement;
journalists movement;
lawyer's movement;
nationalist movement;
religious movements.

Impasse Created.

No health movement !

The clinical modal of health does not prepare health professionals to make health a human rights issues.

People's Health Movement that strives to make *right to health* a global issue is dormant in Pakistan.

Health policies, programmes & outcomes

Health policies and programmes in Pakistan focus primarily on health services.

health outcomes for women are embarrassingly poor, and health inequities persist.

WEMC – a response to the health needs of women

Key Concepts: WEMC & Health

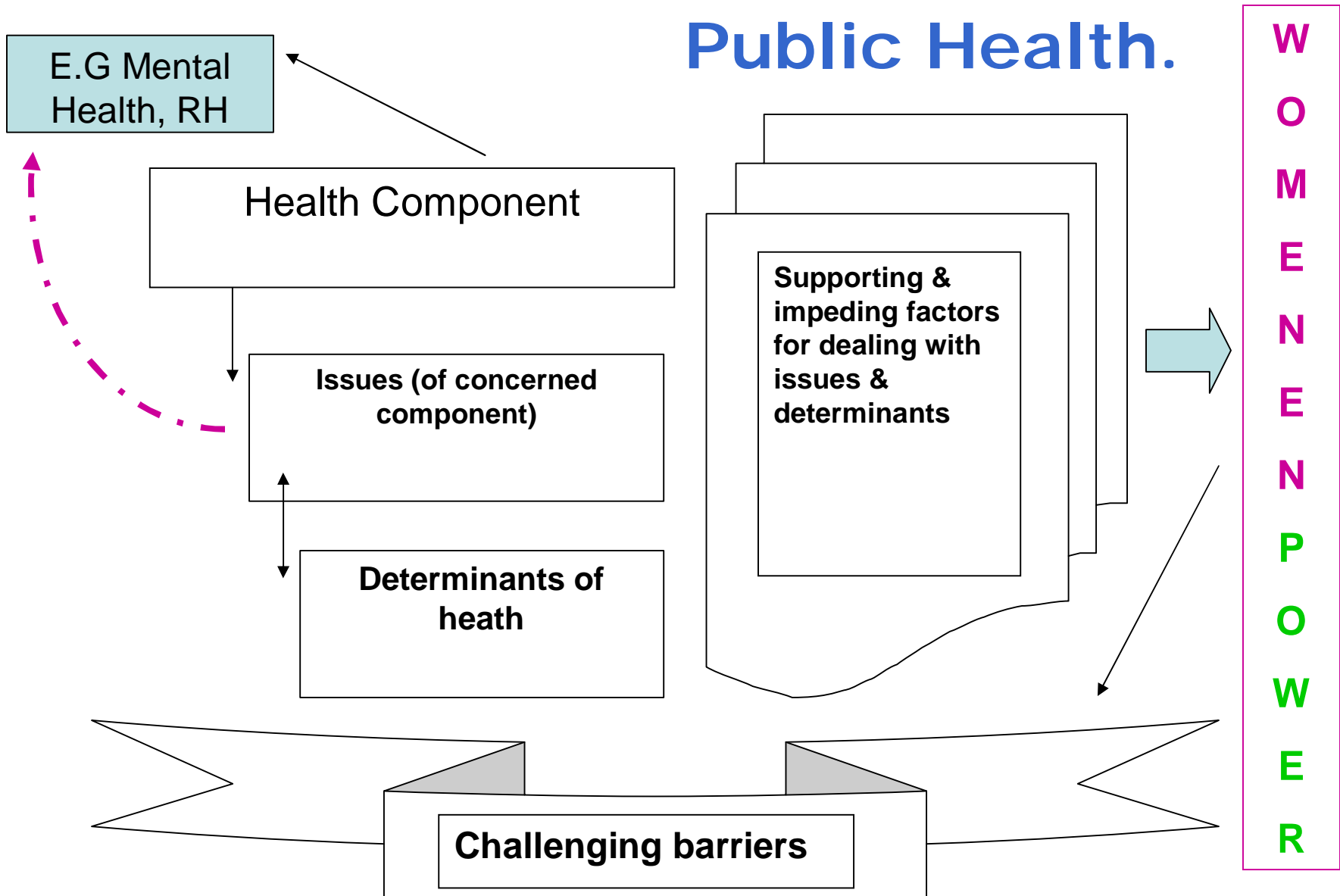
WEMC

Empowerment;
Barriers to
empowerment;
Factors facilitating
empowerment;
Three levels;
Moving from individual
to collective, to
organization, &
institution.

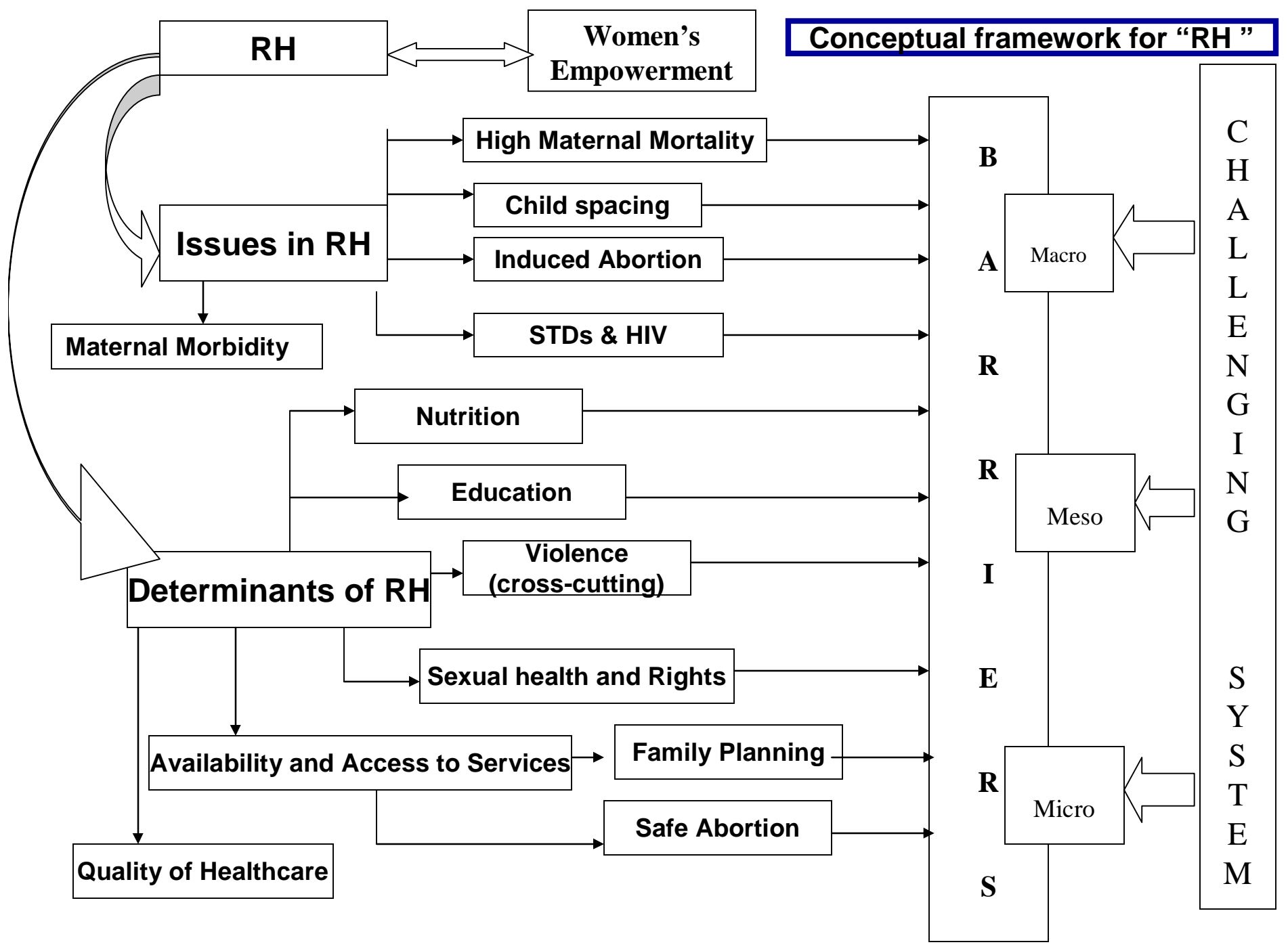
Health concepts:

Health outcomes
Social determinants of
health.
Equity, and
determinants of
inequities.

WEMC-AKU Framework for Public Health.



Conceptual framework for "RH"



Women's Empowerment for better health

Action research approach provides opportunity for women to address social determinants of health.

Four objectives of WEMC were instrumental in choosing the approach

Debate in health research is increasingly leaning towards making research address issues of development and equity and not merely generate knowledge.

90-10 principle (Stephen Covey)

You don't have control over 10% of what happens to you; but you have 90% control over how you react to it.

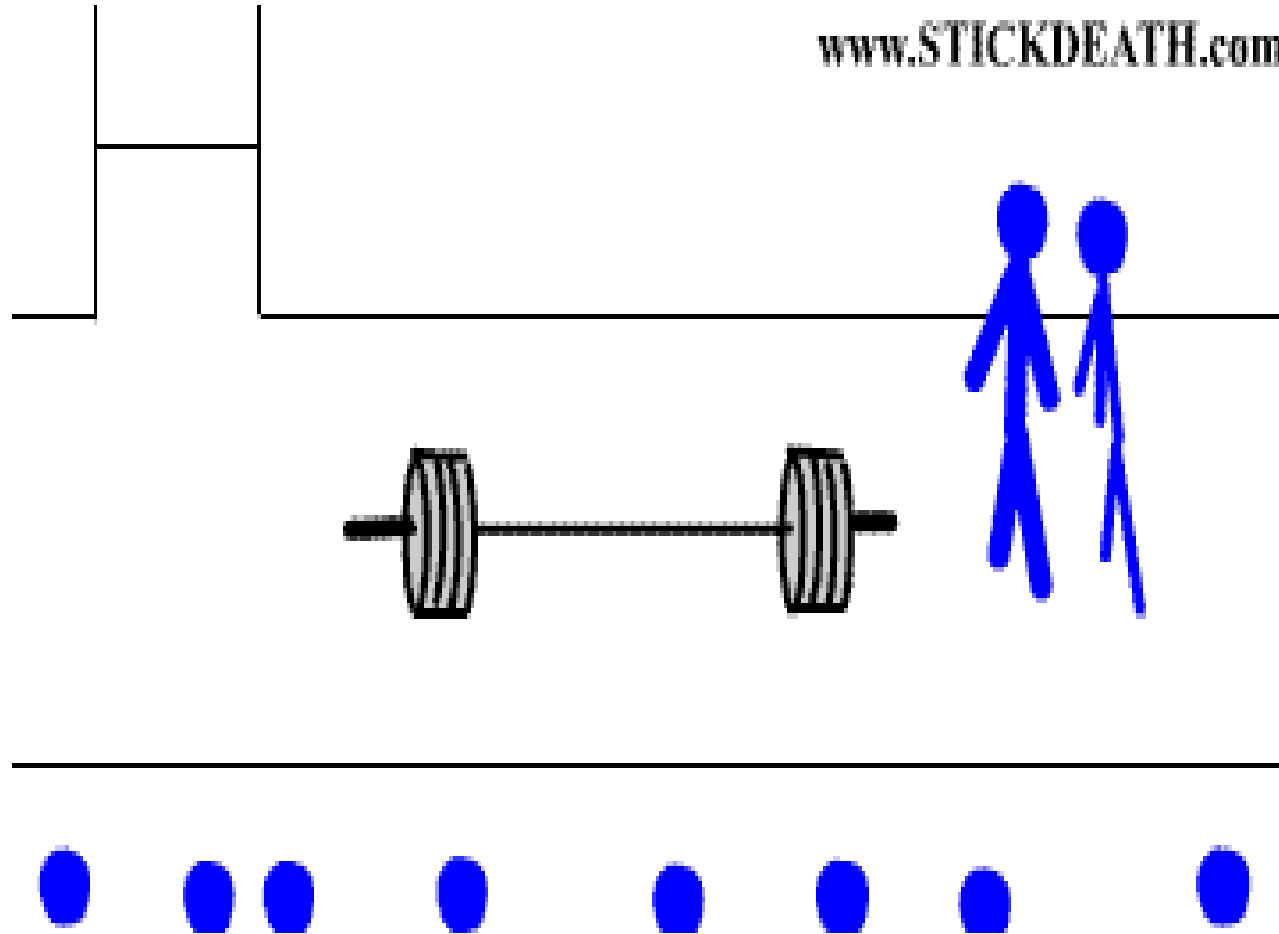
I don't have control over the unjust conditions of the life of vulnerable women in Pakistan, but I definitely have control over how I react to it.

Where there is a dream, there is hope; and where there is hope change is bound to follow.

Paolo Freiere,
Pedagogy of Hope

Over ambitious ?

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Women's Empowerment

Supportive

Obstacle

