

Reproductive Health in the Pacific

**Excerpts from an address to the Pacific
Society for Reproductive Health (PSRH)**

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Apia, Samoa

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Reproductive Health Priorities

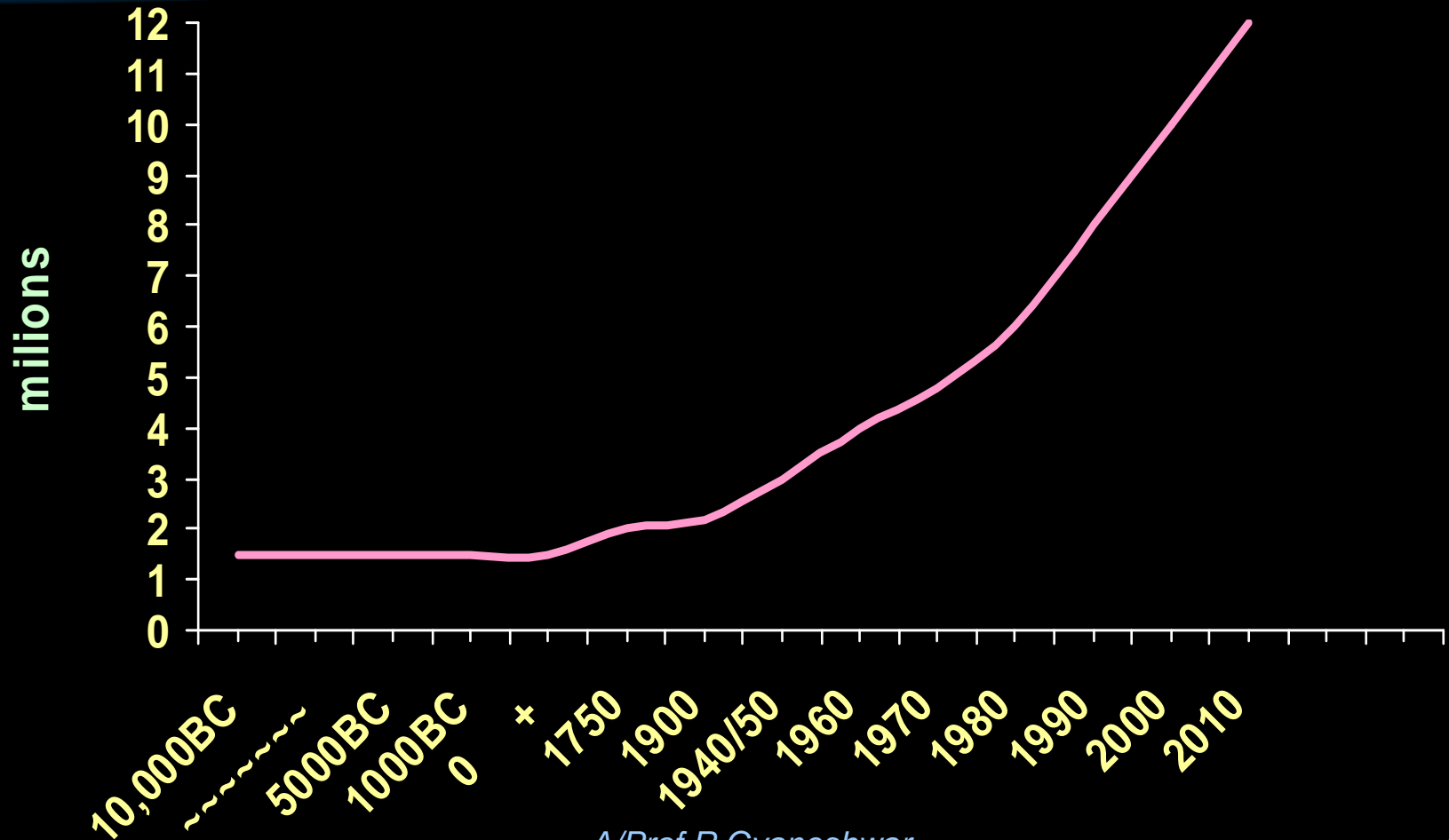
(WHO Western Pacific Region – Nov. 2006)

- Improving antenatal, perinatal, postpartum and newborn care
- Providing quality service for family planning and infertility
- Eliminating unsafe abortion
- Combating STIs, cervical cancer and gynaecological morbidity
- Promoting sexual health

Challenges

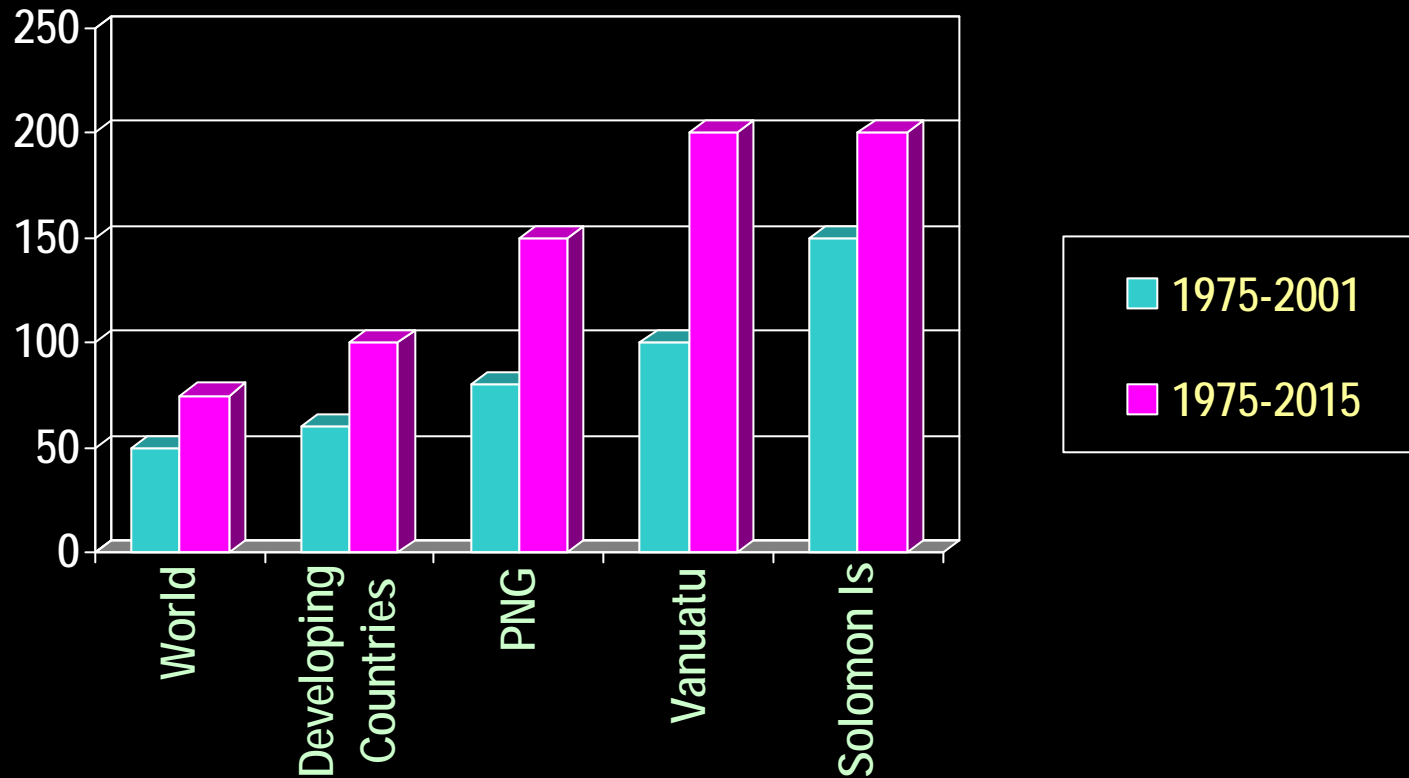
- Population growth
- Poverty
- Political instability
- Gender issues
- Poor management of resources
- Poor workforce morale

The Population of the Pacific



Population Growth in the Pacific

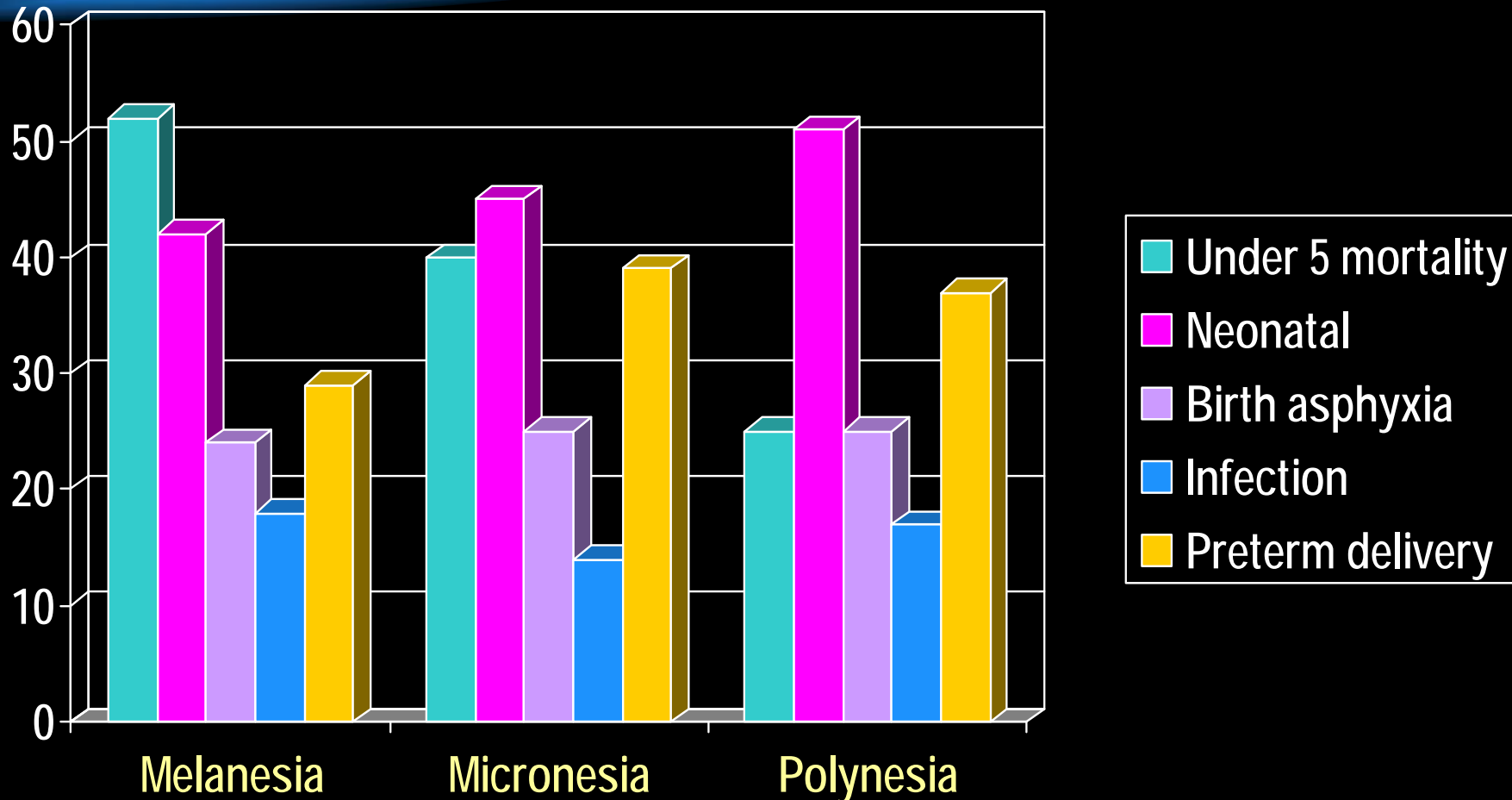
% Population Increase (actual and projected)



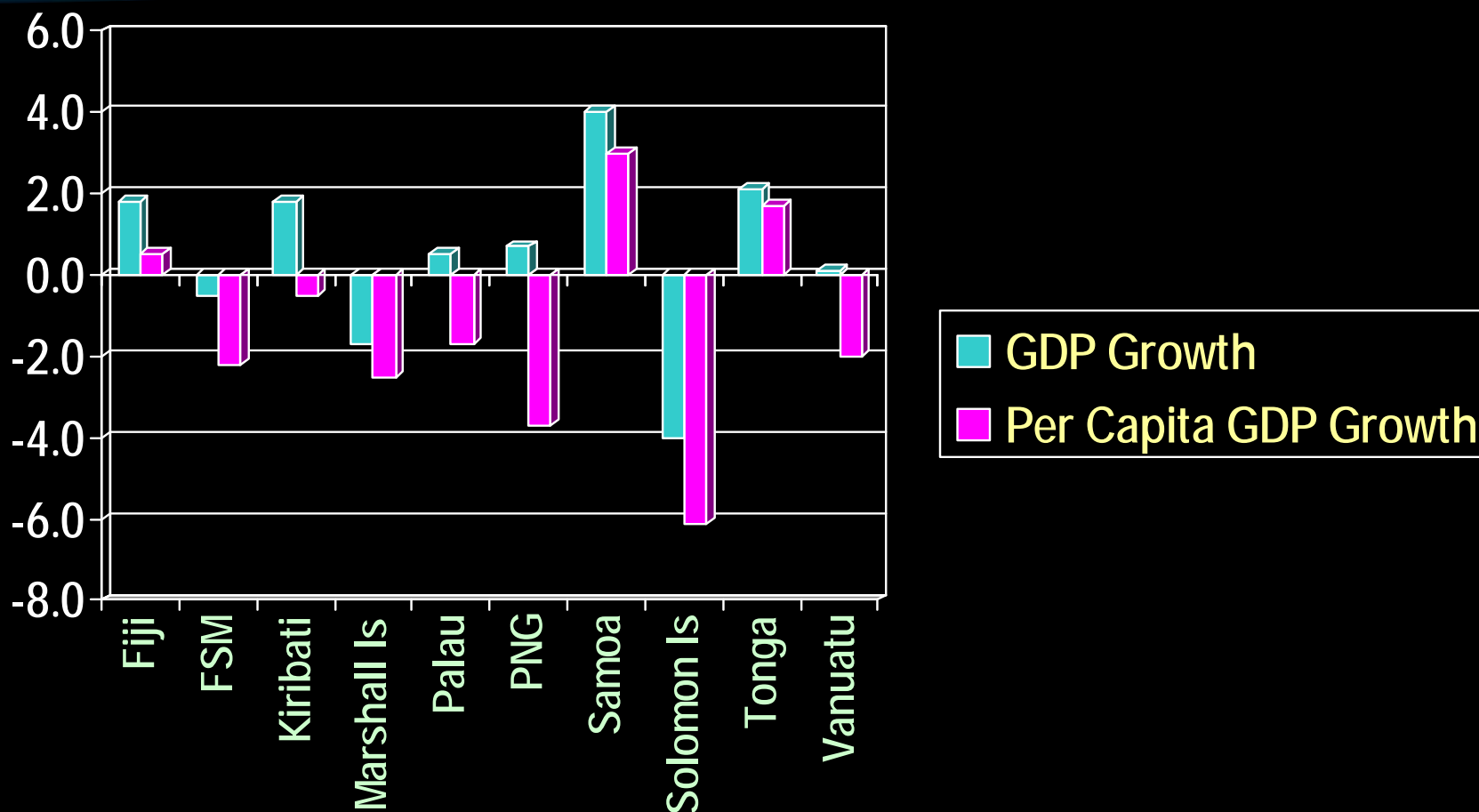
Impact of Population Growth - Education Capacity and Facilities

- PNG - 137,678 births/year, 12 new classrooms daily
- Fiji - 13,170 births/year, 1.2 classrooms daily
- Vanuatu - 1 classroom every 2 days
- Kiribati - 1 classroom every 10 days
- Nauru - 1 classroom every 6 days
- Samoa - 1 classroom every week

Causes of Death Under 5 Years of Age (WHO Fact Sheet 2006)



Average GDP and Per Capita GDP Growth 1996-2001



National Poverty Incidence in the Pacific Developing Member Countries

PDMC	Population Below Basic Needs Poverty Line
Cook Islands	12.0%
FSM	39.5%
Fiji	25.5%
Samoa	20.3%
Solomon Islands	25.0%
Vanuatu	40.0%

Health Dollars

	Australia	Fiji	NZ	PNG
Population	20.7 m	0.862 m	4.1 m	6.1 m
GDP	822.1 bn	3 bn	114 bn	4.3 bn
Health %	14%	9%	17%	7%
Health \$	115 bn	.27 bn	6.1 bn	.3 bn
Per Capita \$	55,700	313	47,200	49

Health Personnel in PICs (WHO, 2004)

Countries	Physicians		Nurse/Midwife		% Deliveries Attended by Trained Persons
	No	No/10,000	No	No/10,000	
FSM	36	4.0	251	27.6	
Fiji	297	4.0	1344	17.9	97%
Kiribati	15	2.3	125	19.5	
PNG	269	0.8	3941	11.8	54.9%
Samoa	44	2.8	285	17.9	50%
Solomon Is	38	1.4	301	10.9	90%
Tonga	22	3.4	207	21.8	95%
Vanuatu	27	1.9	303	20.9	75%

RH and EmOC Data PICs, 2007

Country	<i>Births</i>	<i>MMR</i>	<i>SBA</i> %	<i>EmOC</i>	<i>Fertil.</i> <i>Rate</i>	<i>CPR</i> %
Kiribati	1820	284	64	Nil	3.4	21
Tuvalu	265	0	100	1 Comp.	3.7	32
Samoa	4500	22	89	1 Comp.	4.6	45
Tonga	2687	74	100	1 Comp.	4.1	34
Vanuatu	4776	84 (230?)	93	2 Comp. 1 Basic	4.8	26
Solomons	10,536*	142 <i>A/Prof R Gyaneshwar</i>	86	5+1 Comp.	4.8	15 12



Wall of Resistance to Skill Acquisition

Over-emphasis on theory	Under-emphasis on critical thinking	Large classes
Insufficient clinical experience	Teachers clinically unskilled or deskilled	
Inadequate supervision of practice	Over-emphasis on factual recall	
Lack of competency based learning		
Inadequate assessment of competence		

Wall of Resistance to Skill Retention

Lack of supervision	'Policing approach' to supervision
Isolation	Lack of continuing education
Inability to practice	

Barriers to Accessing or Using Skilled Practice

Lack of supplies

Lack of equipment

Lack of transport & communication systems

Lack of infrastructure

Lack of *or* restrictive policies

Lack of regulatory framework

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Brain Drain

- Low remuneration
- Inflexible work hours
- Lack of continuing education
- Limited training facilities
- Shortage of supplies/equipment
- Poor working environment

(Executive Summary – The Migration of Skilled Health Personnel in the Pacific Region, WHO 2004.)

Nursing Staff

CWM Hospital Fiji & Liverpool Hospital

2006	CWM	Liverpool
● Deliveries 2005	6450	3160
● Midwives	30 – 40	82
● Registered nurses	60	18-20
● Enrolled nurses		9
● Student midwives		8
● Trainee enrolled nurses		2
● Consultants	3	16
● Registrars/RMOs	8	12

Working in Fiji v Australia (Aliote/Aradhana)

- Salaries

- ◆ Fiji \$AU 12,000
- ◆ Australia \$AU 27,000

- Midwives/Patient Ratio

- | ◆ <u>Antenatal Clinic</u> | | <u>Wards</u> | |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| ◆ Fiji | 1:30 | Fiji | 1:20 |
| ◆ Australia | 1:8 | Australia | 1:8 |

Some Useful Initiatives

- Basic training
 - assistance to training institutions
- Post graduate Training
- Pacific Society for Reproductive Health
- Brian Spurrett Foundation
- Recruiting former residents



A/Prof R Gyaneshwar



A/Prof R Gyaneshwar



SAMOA BUREAU

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11-10-02

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