# Research Activities of Women in Health Sector 

Prof. Tran Thi Phuong Mai Ministry of Health


## Background

* The Government of Vietnam considers the 4th Women Congress in Beijing 1995 especially in women care, empowerment, gender equity as a guiding framework for its women health and reproductive health care.
Vietnam Government has strongly committed to improve the current status health care services for women.



## Background

Women consists of $51.5 \%$ of the population having life expectancy at 72 years
The literacy of Vietnam women is rated at $82,3 \%$ relatively high rate among developing countries.
Women have high social positions in Vietnam, as well as in health sector. A vice-president, 5 ministers, and numerous women hold many leading positions of the country. In the 10th National Assembly, there are 26\% women parliamentarians.

## Role of women in Health Sector

- Women taking important role in Health sector: 170,000 (70\%).
- Health Minister, vice-minister, $7 \mathrm{MOH}^{\prime}$ department directors, 31 Provincial Health Director/vice director are women.
- In some areas: nursing, midwifery,reproductive health, etc. most of the staff are women.
- Women have good qualities for doing research: hard-working, honest, accurate, serious.
- In health, women are directors and principal researchers of many studies.
- All researches have contribution from women in many components, especially in data collection.


## Number of Women in Health Sector



## Education of Women in Health Sector



## Number of highly qualified women in Health Sector



Professors and Ass. Prof. Ph.D.and post-graduate

## In Hanoi Medical University Number of lecturers



# In Hanoi Medical University Number of Associate Professors 



## In Hanoi Medical University Number of Professors

Men<br>97\%



Women 3\%

# In Hanoi Medical University Number of Research Directors of Ministrylevel researches 



# In Hanoi Medical University Number of Research Directors of institutional researches 



## I n last 5 years

- Women take more role in researches in Universities, Institutes, Hospitals, Ministry, Provincial Health Offices, MCH/FP centers etc.
- Women have raised awareness about importance of research activities.
- Many Women are research directors of national, ministrial, provincial researches.
- Achievement in research activities incorporated into the institutional and personal Award Scoring System.
- Kovalevskaia Awards 5 prfessors
- Thousand of women have post-graduate, short training, attending study tours, conferences in-country and abroad, which improve a lot capacity of women researchers.


## Comments

- Although have improvement, women' participation in researches still limited in numbers and small in scale.
- Researches are not distributed equally among institutions and areas (more number in Universities and Research Institutes, less in Hospitals, Secondary Med. School or Health facilities etc).
- More researches focused in basic medical sciences, public health, clinical sciences, pharmacy, but few researches focused on health management, health economics, or nursing etc.
- Research directors are mostly doctor, pharmacist or biologist, but not nurse, midwife, engineer or health economist.


## On the way to the future

- Women in health sector need to strengthen their research activities both in quality and quantity, in scientific and practical values of research findings.
- Women in health sector need to build capacity by self-learning, training, english, report writing etc.
- Need policies to encourage women to involve in research: priority in working, financing, procedures of approval etc.



