

HIV/AIDS EDUCATION FOR SCHOOL GOING YOUTH IN MAKUNDUCHI CONSTITUENCY – YOUTH REPORT

INTRODUCTION

JUKEJIMA in its health section organized a project which was aimed at spreading knowledge concerning HIV/AIDS to young people in all schools of Makunduchi constituency. As part of the JUKEJIMA members, youth were fully involved in both managerial and operational activities of the project. This was done purposefully to the adherence of the contract between JUKEJIMA and UNESCO which stated that JUKEJIMA has to involve 2 youth at all level of project implementation.

This report therefore reflects our involvement in the project management and implementation from the beginning to its end.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The management of the project consisted 6 people (termed as project management team). Of whom 2 were youth (male and female) and others were media person, a project coordinator and 2 supporting staff. The team was responsible for organizing all project activities and participates fully during the execution of the activities. Some of the management role which we were involved with are:-

- ❖ Communicate with some facilitators
- ❖ Communicate with school authorities
- ❖ Propose and organize venue
- ❖ Participate in the team meetings and the meetings between the team and the organization management.

As the project was managed in team work, we were assigned to perform such managerial roles accordingly.

PROJECT EXECUTION

The project activities were implemented in all nine schools of Makunduchi constituency. These are Makunduchi Secondary School, Kajengwa Primary School, Kiongoni Primary School, Miwaleni Primary School, Kizimbani Mkunguni Secondary, Kizimkazi Dimbani School, Mtende School, Kibuteni primary School and Kusini primary School. Each school was represented by not less than 60 students with gender consideration and not more than 3 teachers. The students were all over 15 years old.

There were 3 main activities in each school and other 2 activities which were organized separately and conducted in collective manner. These activities were song competition and panel discussions. The 3 main activities were:

1. Lectures on HIV/AIDS issues
2. Film screening and discussions
3. Role plays

These activities were facilitated by:

1. Dr. Haji H. Mohammed - Mnazi Mmoja Hospital
2. Ms. Shemsa A. Himid - AidNet Zanzibar
3. Mr. Amir H. Amir - AidNet Zanzibar
4. Ms. Khadija A. Amour - Mnazi Mmoja Hospital
5. Mr. Saadat M. Saadat – Zanzibar AIDS Commission

ACHIEVEMENT

All project activities were undertaken as was planned. Students show that they are much interested to have such programme and they are keen to know new things. According to the questionnaires distributed before and after the lectures, role plays and film viewing, the students have got new things/knowledge pertaining HIV/AIDS. This implies that, the project have achieved its objective of increasing HIV/AIDS knowledge to young people.

CHALLENGES

Although almost all activities were carried out successfully, there were some barriers that for us seems to interfere the smoothness of the programme. These include:

- ❖ The shown films were those which involve only people living with HIV and not people who are really suffering with AIDS
- ❖ The same case happened to people living with HIV who really don't show any different to those who are HIV negative. These 2 issues made the students at the first place not to believe that those people (shown in the films and from ZAPHA+) were suffering from the same thing.
- ❖ There was frequent electricity cut off during the sessions. This interrupted more during film viewing and discussions
- ❖ Some students were scared to ask or contribute during the discussions.
- ❖ Although all main activities insisted people to check their health- HIV status, there was no such service during the whole program.

RECOMMENDATION

Due to high success of this project, the following are recommended;

1. This program should be extended to other parts/constituencies of South District of Zanzibar especially those areas which have high interaction with many people from outside Zanzibar (East Coast Zone)
2. Youth who are out of school have to be given equal opportunities of having such basics of HIV/AIDS as their in school counterparts.

3. It is better to show films that involve people suffering with AIDS rather than people with HIV. This can make young people more afraid and take more care to engage in all things which lead to HIV transmission.

CONCLUSION

The program seems to be very educative and really innovative due to the methods which were applied. Being involved fully in the project management has really helped both of us to gain new experience and being exposed to a large community of Makunduchi constituency.

We give our heartily gratitude to UNESCO for supporting/sponsoring this project and secondly for demanding our involvement in the project management team. And to JUKEJIMA for accepting and value our contributions during the activities planning and implementation. ***TOGETHER WE MADE IT!***