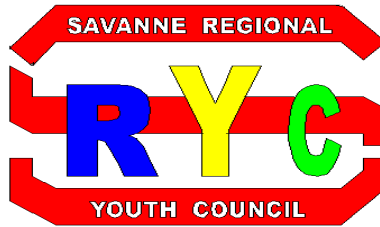


*3 Days residential workshop on  
HIV/Aids*

*Organised by*

**Savanne Regional**



*Affiliated to the  
National Youth Council,  
Mauritius.*

**Youth council**

*in collaboration with*

**UNESCO**

**FRIDAY 16 MARCH - SUNDAY 18 MARCH 2007  
SENIOR CITIZENS RECREATIONAL CENTRE  
POINTE AUX SABLES**

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### **1- Introduction:**

The 3 days residential workshop on HIV/Aids, organized by the Savanne Regional Youth Council (SRYC) in collaboration with UNESCO, is an offspring of the Small Islands Developing States youth Conference “Youth Visioning” held in January 2005 in Mauritius. The Workshop’s primary aim was to create a sense of awareness among the youngsters against HIV/Aids.

In all 50 youngsters were expected to participate in the residential but considering the high interest among the youth to increase their knowledge on HIV/Aids, we had to increase the number of participants making it become 70 in all. And as days were approaching, we were getting more and more youngsters taking interest to participate in the residential and finally after turning down many other youngsters, on the day of the residential we were 85 persons in all to participate.

The residential took place on 16th-18th of March 2007, at the Senior Citizen Recreational Centre, Pointe aux Sable.

We, as organizers, we have done our best to make this residential interesting. We have tried our best to organize it the way the young generation want it to be and not making it boring at all. According to the participants, this residential has been very interesting and also very different from those usually organized. And there is a big demand for other residencials like this.

This report gives an overview of the residential workshop, the different types of activities organized, a financial outline accompanied by photographs for the activity.

### **2-Aims and objectives:**

Our aims and objectives of the activities were:

- Creating a sense of awareness amongst the youngsters against HIV/Aids
- Preserving our society from being destroyed by HIV/Aids
- Help youngsters to understand the true meaning of sexuality and the different causes, which might lead to HIV/Aids.
- Make the young generation aware of how these diseases are destroying the whole world.
- Show different ways to prevent us from being affected by this dangerous disease.
- To motivate the youngsters to create a sense of awareness against HIV/Aids in their locality.
- To encourage them to organize different types of activities to fight this disease.

### **3- The residential workshop:**

The official opening ceremony of the workshop was done on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of March in the presence of Honorable Sylvio Tang, Minister of youth and sports, Honorable Shakeel Mohammed, Member of Parliament and the chairman of the national youth council, Mr. Doomun.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>, the whole day was used by different interveners from different associations to explain various topics on HIV/Aids. And at night there was cultural show presented by the participants relating to HIV/Aids. Finally, on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>, participants presented their project on which they had worked, followed by an evaluation of the workshop.

### **4- An overview of the planning of the activities:**

#### **Friday 16 March 2007:**

16.00 – Arrival of participants and Registration

16.30 – Welcome and Briefing

18.00 – Official Ceremony

- Welcome address by:  
Mr. Qadir Mahamoodhally, President Savanne  
Regional Youth Council

- Address by:
  - Chairman of the National Youth Council
  - Hon. Mr. Shakeel Mohamed, Member of Parliament
  - Hon Sylvio Tang – Minister of Youth & Sports

18.30 – Reception

19.30 – Dinner

20.30 – Objectives of workshop

Presentation of participants

22.00 – Lights off

### **Saturday 17 March 2007:**

06.30 - Morning Exercise

07.30 - Breakfast

08.45 - 10.00 - Talk "La situation du Sida à l'Ile  
Maurice » - Aids Units

10.00 - Break

10.15 - 12.00 - Project write-up & Implementation -  
Mr. Hurbungs, Project Coordinator, Trust Fund for  
Social & Vulnerable Group

12.00 - Lunch

13.00 - 14.30 Talk on "ce dont les jeunes ont besoin pour se  
protéger contre le VIH/SIDA - Mrs. Homa Mungapen -  
Conseil des Religions

14.30 - Tea Break

15.00 - Talk on "what it means to be a person living  
with AIDS" -Mr. Vijay Ramanjooloo, PILS

16.15 - Group work session

17.30 - Free Time

19.30 - Dinner

20.30 - Animation (sketch, songs, dance, poems on AIDS)

22.00 - Lights off

## Sunday 18 March 2007:

06.30 - Morning Exercise

07.30 - Breakfast

08.45 - 10.15 - Group Presentation of previous group work

10.15 - Break

10.30 - 12.00 - Evaluation / Feedback on projects

12.00 - Lunch

13.00 - 14.00 - Pack up for departure

## 5- A brief explanation of the different topics discussed during the residential

### a) Talk on “ La situation du sida a Ile Maurice” by representative of Aids Units

The intervener explained that in Mauritius, the majority of Aids cases started through drugs. According to statistics given, 92% of Aids case is due to drugs. And after drugs, its through sexuality that Aids is being transmitted.

In order to stay away from being infected by this dangerous disease, the intervener encouraged the youngsters to:

- Be sincere with his/her partner. Not to keep changing partners. And also not to be in a hurry to have sex especially in young age as everything on earth has its time.
- To protect ourself while having a sexual relationship. That is to use condoms. Now together with male condoms, there is also ones for females. Explain well that it's not a shame to use condoms or some people don't like to use it because they feel it decreases the pleasure. The intervener put emphasis on this better to use a condom to protect oneself rather than to be infected by not using it. He also gives a demo on how to use a “femidom” (condom for female).

- Explanation was also given on pregnant women who have been contaminated with HIV/Aids. There is special treatment given to be able to save the child from being contaminated with this virus.
- For blood donors, there are different tests carried out before using these bloods.

b) Project write-up & Implementation – Trust Fund for Social & Vulnerable Group

In this session the intervener explained how to write a good project. Explained the different steps needed to be taken into consideration before writing a good project.

c) Talk on “ce dont les jeunes ont besoin pour se protéger contre le VIH/SIDA –Conseil des Religions

- Put emphasis on the importance of education. Its one of the best ways to fight this dangerous virus of HIV/Aids.
- The intervener explained that we must be responsible if we want to fight this virus. We must know what we are doing.
- Explain the A B C to fight HIV/Aids.

A- Abstains: Very difficult but it’s the best way to protect yourself.

B- Be faithful: Only one partner.

C- Condoms: Use it to protect our self.

She gives a very good example between human beings and animals. She said, that god have gifted man with intelligence compared to animals. That’s why animals don’t have control on themselves whereas we, man, do have. So we must use our intelligence.

d) Talk on “what it means to be a person living with AIDS” - PILS

The psychologist started by congratulating all the people present for their interest in fighting such a dangerous disease, which is very rare to get young volunteers nowadays. Then he gives a brief explanation about the different

stages a person who came to know that he has been contaminated by HIV/Aids, must go through.

There are cases where even the family rejects that person. They refuse to talk with him, touch him, use same towels etc). Then people from PILS went to talk with the family and explain to them.

He explains that when a person has been found HIV positive, it does not mean that he will die on the spot. In the beginning he will be just zero positive and for this to develop into Aids, it might take years. And the person can live if he follows proper treatments.

## **6- Project write up by participants:**

During the group work session, the participants worked on different projects which will be implemented later in their respective region. Here are a few among the projects:

- i) Organise a mini concert and invite youngsters to participate with songs and dance in which will pass message on HIV/Aids. It is a way to attract lots of youngsters and in this way can inform them about the danger of HIV/Aids.
- ii) To organize a few activities in a deprived area and during these activities, to explain these deprived youth the danger of this dangerous disease and advise them.
- iii) To organize a football tournament and through this tournament, to pass the message to the youth.

These three projects have already been implemented and it was a success. The first one was organized at souillac youth centre in collaboration with souillac youth centre. We have invited youngsters from different regions to perform and through music and songs we have tried our best to show the danger of HIV/Aids to the people. In this mini concert we have been able to accomplish two important tasks. First one is to sensitise people against the danger of HIV/Aids and secondly we have given youngsters opportunities to develop their hidden talents by performing live on stage.

The second project was organized in a place known as “cite EDC”. There are no activities done in this place and thus the youngsters over there don’t have any leisure. We have done activities for approximately 2 weeks there and during the activities we have explained the danger of HIV/Aids not only

to the youngsters but also to all the inhabitants living there. And also shows them the different precautions needed to be taken to stay away from this dangerous disease.

The third activity that is the football tournament was done in my village known as Camp-Diable. Almost all the youngsters in this village love football. So we have organized tournaments in the village which lasted for nearly two months. And through the tournaments, we have encouraged youngsters to participate in sports activities and to stay away from social evils, especially those which finally ended by HIV/Aids.

Other project write up by the participants were:

- Organise a half day seminar in their locality where a different intervener will come and explain to the inhabitant about the danger of HIV/Aids and how to stay away from it.
- To go into some deprived area and work with the inhabitants there.
- To work with prostitutes.

## **6- Conclusions:**

This project has given us the chance to learn lots of new things regarding HIV/Aids. It's rare to get such a type of workshop here in Mauritius where you got so many youngsters interested to participate. Normally such type of workshop is organized by big organization dealing directly with HIV/Aids but it's the first time that a youth organization has organized it. Even the minister of youth and sports, Honorable Sylvio Tang was very satisfied with this workshop and has make an appeal to other youth organizations to follow this good initiative.

As organizers, we the members of the Savanne regional youth council have gotten the chance to learn lots of new things concerning HIV/Aids and also it was a new experience for us as organizers to show our leadership skills and to control around 85 youngsters from different region of Mauritius for 3 days.



## 7- Financial report:

<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>USD</i>
Accommodations	1400
Refreshment	1100
Transport	250
Banners	200
T-Shirt for all participants	250
Equipment for seminar	100
Token gifts	200
Video footage and photograph	400
Other expenses	100
Follow up activities	400
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>4400</i></b>

From the total expenditure of \$UD \$4400, \$4000 is from UNESCO and the other \$400 is from local sponsors.

## **7- Acknowledgements:**

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the following organisations; associations and individuals who assisted in making this project a big success. Without your help the project of the residential workshop on HIV/Aids would not have been possible.

- United Nations, Educations, Scientific and Cultural Organisations (UNESCO).
- The Youth Visioning team.
- Members of the Savanne Regional Youth Council (SRYC).
- National Youth Council (NYC).
- Ministry of youth and sports.
- To all participants and volunteers.
- And finally to all those who have help in one way or another in order to make this project become a success.