

Corpers' Watch

6TH EDITION
ISSUE 6

...creating awareness and saving lives

Principles of Supporting Social Networks in Community Programming

With the many concepts in the development sector, social networks have become very important in our work with the communities. It has provided solution for the spread of HIV prevention message in the community and beyond through the use of the trained core group members by corps members. However, there are many ways in which network members and supporters has benefitted, not only by spreading information, but through learning and their ability to share their learning and broadening their knowledge base.

They have provided a way to gather, assess and share knowledge and learning. They have been cost-effective ways to access or provide services to a larger population. They can and will promote sustainability of interventions by developing strong springboards. Our network groups, fondly called core groups have used two networking functions so far. They are the *community support* and developing and strengthening the voices of the members; *Agency Roles*. These roles are clearly understood, better delivered by youth corps members. Nevertheless it is basic that core group members clearly understand and respond the reasons for their formation.

The strategies and activities of our networks can be described from the following;

1. Community building, to promote and sustain a healthy group
2. Convening to bring together members from different quarters in a community
3. Facilitating learning and the main activities of members
4. Investing knowledge and learning to members by corps
5. Making little understand to a wider understanding



The principles of supporting network include among others;

1. In social networking there are no templates for success
2. A culture of knowledge and learning is a cornerstone of network development
3. Work with social networks to agree on their functional balance and support that balance
4. Sustainability should be judged against the need of the members for the network
5. Provide appropriate support for the network and its members to develop the right competencies and skills to collaborate

6. Interventions to develop a network cannot be conceptual as logical framework projects
7. Support networks to function as networks with and through their members rather than to deliver specific services that could be delivered by their members
8. Do not treat networks as traditional NGOs or civil society organizations
9. Network support timeframes should take into consideration the different stages of network development.

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QUESTIONS THE YOUTHS
ARE ASKING CORPERS

MY WORK MY EXPERIENCE
AND MY COMMUNITY

IN A WORD

CROSS WORD PUZZLE

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Questions the Youth are asking Corpers

Questions the Youth are asking Corpers



Question: If I have a boyfriend that loves me very well and he says he can't be with me unless I have sex with him, what should I do?

Response: If your boyfriend really loves you and cares for you he will wait for you until you are through with your schooling, and then ask your hand in marriage then you can both have sex with each other.

Question: Who is at risk of HIV/AIDS?

Response: Everyone is at risk. However, there are particular behaviours and practices that increase your risk of HIV infection, such as:

1. Having multiple sexual partners whose HIV status are unknown
2. Engaging in unprotected sex as earlier mentioned by my second.
3. Sharing skin-piercing or drug injection equipment

4. When given infected blood and even
5. Alcohol consumption

Question: How can HIV infection be prevented?

Response: Although there is no vaccine yet to prevent HIV infection, scientists are working to develop one. However, there are behaviours we can adopt to prevent infection:

1. Abstinence for unmarried couple
2. For the married couples (spouses), stick to your husbands and wives
3. For those who cannot abstain or stick to one faithful uninfected partner for any reason should please use condoms.
4. Ensure you transfuse or receive only screened blood.
5. Avoid the use of unsterilized skin piercing instruments

6. Infected mothers should seek advice before getting pregnant- drug therapy, breast feeding and delivery option may have to be considered.

Question: Whether it is necessary to use condoms if they are both infected with HIV?

Response: Yes. If one or both partners if married or couple is/ are infected, they should use condoms every time they have sex because:

1. They may be infected with different types of the various and cross infection may result if a condom is not used.
2. More viruses can be transmitted which may accelerate to onset of AIDS.
3. Unintended pregnancy may take place and they may contract other sexually transmitted diseases.

Question: How is HIV contracted?

Response: Since HIV is found in body fluids, it can be transmitted when fluid from an infected person enters the body of another person. This can happen through the following ways:

1. During unprotected sexual intercourse
2. During blood transfusion
3. When using unsterilized skin piercing instruments and other skin-piercing activities
4. From an infected mother to her baby during pregnancy, childbirth or after birth through breast feeding.

Note that HIV is not contracted through casual contact such as sharing clothes, dishes and toilet seats or through eating together. One cannot be infected with HIV from hugging, kissing, shaking hands, touching or being near a person with HIV or AIDS.

My Work My Experience and My Community

Youth Corp Members' bear their minds on how they felt, having a dual role, on influence of their works in the communities, community responses towards their programmes so organized.

Myself as a Corper and as a Community Worker

I see myself as a deliverer who



must not devour the people he has been sent to serve. I see myself as a role model, a mentor and a teacher. I am an agent of positive change, a carrier of live saving messages on HIV/AIDS and other Reproductive Health Issues. I believe I am a true Nigerian, serving not only in my place of birth, but in a land where the cultures and traditions are unknown to me. I can survive anywhere I am sent to without compromising with anything bad or unprofessional.

Influence of Community Work

My work in the community taught me tolerance, patience, and how to make do with what I have at hand while hoping for a better one

to come.

I am a better public speaker now than ever before. I now know what it means to keep to time for a programme; when to leave the stage when I am through with speaking, and how to capture my audiences' attention. My job has made me a better teacher, I make

friends easily, and I have learnt a great deal how to relate with people of all kinds and from different backgrounds.

Community Response towards Programming

The community as a whole has been very supportive, ensuring that my stay in the community is enjoyable. Members of the community accepted that indeed the issue of HIV is what needs to be attended to as no community in Nigeria is totally free from it. They agreed that their community is vulnerable to the spread of HIV and that their level of knowledge on HIV/AIDS is low. They advocated that we should build their capacity by organizing

seminars, and teach their children issues concerning HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, condom use, and general reproductive health lessons.

In line with the benefits the community has received, female youth in the community now know their right, and can easily reject offers given to them by the men folk; this has really helped in reducing risky behaviour, and unwanted pregnancies. The sale of condom is very high now, an indication that people are more safety conscious than before. Traditional healers have also succumbed into listening to us, before they used a blade to do circumcision, the same blade for incursion on another person, but all these are things of the past now. Barbing saloons are also adhering for safer living as they sterilize their clippers locally using JIK. For those who still use blade to cut hair, we advocated for one person, one blade.

Finally, I would like to thank and congratulate the community for this excellent work which together we were able to achieve. I wish them all the best in staying and keeping safe.

In a word

The major influence my work had on me is to respect individuals for whom and what they are and also to respect and accept people's way of life, values, and belief systems. Areas of work I will be remembered for in the community is majorly for the one-on-one talk with the youth, peer education classes, quiz competition, sign post and wall post carrying HIV/AIDS related messages and in all the youth friendly centre.



individuals to exercise freedom of controlling their bodies like having consensual sex free from violence and force and enter marriage with full and free consent of both parties.

SRH rights are part of the human rights recognized in national and international laws and agreements. These include the Convention on and Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

The awareness on rights is expected to improve health seeking behaviour, thereby promoting improved quality of life of beneficiaries of this information.

Know Your Rights in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH).

Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) rights are part of the entitlements an individual is born with. These recognise that all individuals both the young and old can decide freely and responsibly on issues centred on SRH. They include the right to make decisions concerning reproduction free of *Discrimination, Force and Violence*. They apply to all people regardless of where they live, their gender, age, race, religion, ethnicity or social standing. SRH rights enable

TWELVE BASIC SRH RIGHTS

A set of twelve rights have been derived from basic human rights as below:

1. Right to Life
2. Right to Health Care and Health Protection
3. Right to Privacy
4. Right to benefits of Scientific Progress
5. Right to Information and Education
6. Right to choose whether or not to marry and set up a family
7. Right to decide whether or when to have children
8. Right to equality and freedom from all forms of discrimination
9. Right to freedom of thoughts
10. Right to freedom from torture and ill treatment
11. Right to liberty and security of person
12. Right to freedom of assembly and political participation

Continue in the next edition.

Answer to Last Editions' Cross Word Puzzle



**ERADICATE,
ACHIEVE,
DEVELOP,
INSURE, COMBAT,
IMPROVE,
PROMOTE,
REDUCE,
WARFARE,
ACCOMPLISH,
SUPPORT,
ENCOURAGE,
SUSTAIN,
ENHANCE,
MODERATE**