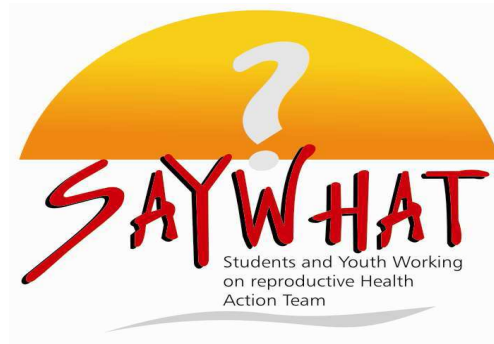




AGRICULTURAL SPORTING GALA



“SCORING AGAINST STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION”

Acknowledgements

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The hosting Principal of the 2010 Agriculture Sporting Gala Mrs. Madzime, the principal of Mlezu college of Agriculture's leadership towards the gala and other college initiatives is greatly appreciated by SAYWHAT.

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List of Abbreviations

AIDS-	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
GBV-	Gender Based Violence
HIV-	Human Immune Virus
PSI-	Population Services International
SAYWHAT-	Students And Youths Working on reproductive Health Action Team
SRHR-	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
STIs-	Sexually Transmitted Infections
VCT-	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
MCP	Multiple Concurrent Partnerships
CSP	Concurrent sexual Partnerships
PADARE-	Men's Forum on Gender
MC-	Male Circumcision
FGD-	Focus Group Discussion

Executive Summary

SAYWHAT participated for the 6th year in the Agricultural Sporting gala held at Mlezu college of Agriculture under the theme “Scoring against Stigma and Discrimination” from the 22nd -28th of February 2010. The gala brought over 1000 students from Agricultural and Vocational Training Centres from across Zimbabwe who besides being given the opportunity to compete in different sporting disciplines also interacted with comprehensive information sexual and reproductive health.

The overall objectives of SAYWHAT’s participation in the 2010 Agricultural Sporting Gala were to:

- To provide one-on-one counseling and advice on sensitive issues such as positive living and condom demonstrations
- To identify gaps in SRHR programming that could be addressed in our programs
- To disseminate accurate information on gender issues for students from agricultural college

This gala was particularly different from the rest because of its unique thematic focus on positive living as well as information on new HIV prevention interventions such as male circumcision which can reduce the chances of HIV infection by 60%. The focus encouraged more students into accessing VCT services and a total of 271 got tested this year from last year’s figure of 197. The gala also saw 11 tested male students being referred for Male circumcision.

Focus group discussions and voluntary counseling and testing provided the students the chance to have their concerns on Sexual Reproductive Health answered. Students were encouraged to know their status and empowered on how to live a positive and fulfilling life whether they are negative or positive.

Apart from giving advice on reproductive and sexual health there was also a need to fill the void of providing female students with affordable sanitary wear at the gala. The gala saw 800 pads being provided for female students.

Information on domestic violence and how the survivors can be protected by the law was provided to empower students on their rights and how they should respond to harmful cultural practices through Gender Focus Group Discussions.

Edutainment was also used as a way of entertaining students at the same time imparting knowledge on SRHR during quiz, drama and film aided learning. The film shown explored positive living amongst young people particularly females using a documentary called Tariro (Hope). The drama competition ran under the theme “Positive talk, Positive perceptions, changing our attitudes towards HIV and AIDS” and this saw 11 colleges

competing for the SAYWHAT sponsored drama trophy. 77 students directly participating in the drama competitions.

SAYWHAT also had quiz competition to assess SRH knowledge levels of students in the categories of HIV and AIDS, contraception, Male Circumcision and Reproductive health and Rights.

The Local Coordinating Committee at Mlezu conducted a Candlelight memorial. The memorial was meant to raise concern on HIV and AIDS and increasing personal risk perception at the same time giving students an opportunity to reflect on the people who are living positive and those who passed on due to HIV. The Candlelight memorial saw 450 students participating in lighting of candles and a march drawing attention of immediate community members and college authorities. 8 students were inspired by this platform to disclose their HIV positive status.

Introduction and Background

The Students And Youth Working on reproductive Health Action Team (SAYWHAT) in collaboration with Agricultural Training Institutions in Zimbabwe holds a sporting gala annually. The sporting gala reaches out to an average of 1000 students from 7 agricultural colleges and 6 vocational training centres converging at one college for the gala.

The sporting gala provides an opportunity for SAYWHAT to interact with over 1000 students from Agricultural Training Colleges in the country who are usually marginalized as most program implementers have a bias towards urban areas. Due to the nature of their studies, Agricultural Colleges in Zimbabwe are located in rural and farm communities unlike other institutions which are based in urban areas. As such, there has been an information gap amongst the students and the surrounding communities. This sporting gala brings together the students and the surrounding communities and provides a platform to educate them on reproductive health matters including HIV and AIDS.

Students in tertiary institutions are sexually active and very vulnerable; there is therefore need for them to have correct information so that they make informed decisions in regards to their sexuality. There have been cases of STIs and unplanned pregnancies within the Agricultural Colleges which requires comprehensive information and provision of services including a wide range of contraceptives.

SAYWHAT managed to assess knowledge levels of students on gender and new interventions such as male circumcision. On male circumcision the facilitators gave emphasis on the fact that male circumcision can not be used as a stand alone prevention strategy but should be used with other prevention strategies such as being faithful to one regularly tested partner, abstinence and condom use. Focus group discussions on gender, male circumcision, multiple concurrent partnerships, and dual Protection were conducted throughout the gala.

Throughout the years the gala has become an entry point for Voluntary Counseling and Testing with 271 students managing to access VCT services during this edition. SAYWHAT managed to collect a database of positive students who are willing to be assisted in accessing CD4 Count, transport to collect their medication as well as knowledge on positive living, nutrition and treatment literacy.

SAYWHAT managed to reach out to over 600 students through focus group discussions.

An assessment of the student's perceptions and knowledge of positive living has shown that students have increased their risk perception as well as acceptance towards HIV.

Gala Objectives

For the 2010 Agricultural Sporting Gala SAYWHAT intended:

- To provide one-on-one counseling and advice on sensitive issues such as positive living and condom demonstrations
- To identify gaps in SRHR programming that could be addressed in our programs
- To disseminate accurate information on gender issues for students from agricultural college
- To ensure access to Voluntary Counseling and Testing Services
- To provide post test referrals and assistance for students
- To inform students on contemporary interventions like Male Circumcision
- To create platform for discussions on the HIV drivers like Multiple and Concurrent Partnerships
- To address myths and misconceptions on SRHR issues as well as provide accurate information
- To reflect on the World AIDS Campaign and the HIV pandemic

The 2010 Gala Expected Outputs and Outcomes included:

- Improved knowledge on SRH
- Access to condoms and accurate information on correct use
- A database of empowered positive living students
- Improved understanding amongst HIV coordinators and strengthened relationships for effective programming
- Documentation of gender issues and concerns that will inform programming
- At least 800 students reached through FGDs, Group discussions, Counseling with accurate information on SRHR
- At least 600 students participating in the candle light memorial
- A report on gender scoping for agricultural colleges
- A mobile VCT centre availed
- A referral Pamphlet availed
- 11 Colleges principals and 11 Health coordinator Sensitized on new trends on SRHR

Operating environment

The 2010 agricultural sporting gala came on a background of Zimbabwe being in a historical process of writing a new constitution. The current Lancaster House formulated constitution has limited coverage on the 2nd generation rights like the right to Health including Sexual and Reproductive Health. This provides an opportunity for students to meaningfully participate and ensure the enshrinement of the 2nd generation. The sporting gala occurred when the Min of Youth, Empowerment and Indigenization is muting plans to review the National Youth Policy which provides procedures and guidelines on the development, empowerment and support of young people including those in the Sexual and Reproductive Sector(10-30 years). The coming in of the Inclusive government has brought some stability not only in the economic sector but has reduced polarization and created space for non-state actors to engage citizens in civic education.

Current trends in programming for students have seen a sizable number disclosing their HIV status and this call for attention on positive living, treatment literacy among other livelihood issues. The need to address the concerns of students living with HIV has made focus on positive living a priority.

The agricultural colleges are geographically located in farming and rural communities where there is limited access to information on sexual and reproductive health and rights. These communities are underpinned by cultural practices that put little value to women particularly young women and consider discussions around sexuality a taboo. The sporting gala becomes a platform to engage students and community members in these remote areas. Students in agricultural colleges are also sexually active and their vulnerability is derived from this sexual activeness with limited SRHR information.

The EPP and spectrum projected HIV prevalence estimates for 2009 show that young people between the ages of 14-25years have an HIV prevalence rate of 7,5% in females and 3,5 % in males. Globally 50% of all the new infections occur in the age group of 14-25years which coincide with the college life of most students. The sporting gala then presents a platform for dissemination and sharing of accurate information by students

Synopsis of activities

Edutainment

The use of edutainment during the sporting gala proved to be influential in imparting knowledge to students. Edutainment as a strategy has been used because of its entertainment component that is coupled with key messages on SRH. There has been evidence from SAYWHAT programming in tertiary institutions through workshops/ activity evaluations that students understand more and their interest is retained by the use of edutainment. During the 2010 sporting gala SAYWHAT tapped from the benefits of edutainment through the following activities:

Film aided learning

General overview

Students watched Tariro- Hope a documentary that was made in Zimbabwe, whose thematic focus is on positive living after one has been tested. The documentary features Tecla a 24 year old lady who resides in Epworth a High Density suburb in Harare, Zimbabwe. The documentary is a real life story of Tecla who was sexually abused at the age of 13 and got infected with the HIV virus after being sold off by the father.¹ The documentary also depicts how some of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights like choosing a partner are not respected. Tecla's brother in the documentary narrated issues of stigma and discrimination as members of the community thought Tecla contracted HIV through promiscuity. About 411(221 being females) students and college authorities attended the film aided learning activity which was beamed by a projector outdoors using the public announcer system.

Discussions

The facilitator asked 5 volunteers to share with the group the key lessons learnt and comments on the documentary. Below are some of the responses:

“One can still lead a normal life after testing HIV positive There is need for acceptance of one's status so as to have a positive mind frame” commented Mudzamiri from Kushinga Phikhelela

“Being HIV positive does not mean the end of the world. One can join post test clubs. Continuous counseling after testing HIV positive helps one to accept their status,” said Susan from Mlezu college of Agriculture

“Fellow students I urge you to disclose your status to someone after being tested so that you can get assistance and support. It is difficult but it's necessary and can be done and you will realize that you lead a stress free life after that”, said Rumbidzai

¹ A cultural practice in Zimbabwe called Kuzvarira

“There is need for behavioral change amongst students and to educate the uninfected about HIV as this may help to eradicate stigma”, commented a student from Magamba

“ Being HIV positive does not mean one has to be on ART as Tecla is living positive and not on ARV and is leading a normal life with good nutrition and a positive mind”, said Senzeni from Esigodini

Recommendations

- There is need to broaden the thematic focus of the documentaries to include other SRH related elements like contraception
- There is need for college based film aided learning
- There is need to train student facilitators on film aided learning
- There is need to evaluate and validate film aided learning to produce a model on film aided learning for students in Zimbabwe

Drama Advocacy

Overview

The drama advocacy which ran under the theme Positive talk, Positive Perception, changing our attitudes towards HIV and AIDS saw 11 colleges participating with 77 students (41 being females) showcasing their drama set pieces to an audience of 553(297 being females). The overall objective of the drama advocacy was to build the capacity of students to be SRH advocates and inform stakeholders like students, college authorities and community members. Poems on positive living entitled “I have run my race”, “The HIV champions” and many others were recited in-between drama plays

The adjudicators were from BATSIRAI Group a voluntary counseling and testing service provider from Midlands. The adjudicators were looking for: conformity to the theme, accuracy of information, voice projection and stage management amongst other factors.

Discussion

Key issues raised in the dramas

- ✓ The use of Provider Initiated Counselling and testing(PITCT) to know one’s status- Chaminuka Drama Group and Esigodini Drama Group
- ✓ use of condoms to avoid re-infection- Magamba VTC and Rupangwana Drama Groups
- ✓ The need for adherence and good nutrition in ART Mshagashi and Chibero Drama groups
- ✓ PMTCT- Chaminuka Drama Group and Esigodini Drama Groups
- ✓ high stigma and discrimination in the student community- Mlezu and Kushinga Phikhelela Drama groups

- ✓ The existence of sexual networks between students and lecturers and Intergenerational sex Mshagashi and Rio Tinto Drama Groups
- ✓ Limited understanding of gender as women's issues –Mashayamombe and Kaguvi Drama groups
- ✓ cultural perceptions on HIV and AIDS being a witchcraft condition- Mshagashi and Rupangwana
- ✓ Issues of Denial Kaguvi and Rio Tinto Drama Groups
- ✓ Limited confidentiality and SRH related drugs within the college community- Esigodini Drama group

Memorable quotes from the dramas

"Tell me your HIV status my friend. I have all the college files in my heart and I don't disclose", said a gossip monger to a friend who had been tested (Esigodini)

"Woenda kucollege muzukuru chenjera zvikomana. Uvhare murenje" said Grandma advising her granddaughter not to indulge in sexual intercourse before leaving for college

Interesting Question and Response Table

Question	Response
• Can the HIV virus penetrate the condom pores?	The condom is an electronically tested product which is approved by WHO standards. The virus is transported by seminal or vaginal fluid and blood which can not penetrate the condom
• Can the HIV virus be detected soon after one has sex with an HIV infected partner?	With an HIV antibody test which looks for these antibodies in blood, saliva or urine results can be ascertained after the window period which is between 6-12 months. However a PCR test (Polymerase Chain Reaction test) can detect the genetic material of HIV rather than the antibodies to the virus, and so can identify HIV in the blood within two or three weeks of infection
• Is it possible to have an HIV negative child if both partners are HIV positive?	It is possible to reduce the chances of transmission from an HIV positive mother to the unborn baby. This program is called PMTCT and it reduces to as low as 5% the chances of transmission. You can visit an antenatal care unit at any hospital for more information

Recommendations

- ✓ There is need to make drama advocacy a process and not just a gala event

- ✓ Capacity building workshops for drama participants are important for strengthening this approach
- ✓ There is need for proper documentation including documentaries of the drama plays

Quiz competitions

General overview

Quiz competitions were used to assess the knowledge levels of students on issues of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Questions were on HIV, Gender, Contraceptives, Sanitary wear and Male circumcision. The quiz competitions saw 11 colleges participating with a total of 33 students being quiz respondents. Each college had 1 focal person/ health coordinator or HIV lecturer supporting their quiz team. The quiz competition drew a total audience of 233 (150 being females)

Question response sampling

Question	Students response	Answer
Which cells are found in the foreskin and are more receptive to HIV?	Langahaul cells	Langerhern cells
What is gender?	Women empowerment	This are socially ascribed and constructed roles, norms and opportunities for women and men
What is dual protection?	The use of two condoms at the same time	The use of a condom to prevent one from contacting STI's including HIV and another form of contraception to avoid getting unintended pregnancy
What is CEDAW	Convention of Discrimination against women	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against women
Give one example of a sexual and Reproductive Health Right	Right to sex	Right to safe and satisfying sex

Most of the students got questions on HIV and AIDS correctly but were having challenges in outlining concepts on gender, reproductive health including rights as shown below

	2010	2010	2009	2009	
Category	% correct	% Incorrect	% Correct	% Incorrect	% Increase levels
HIV and AIDS	70	30	64,3	35,7	6,7
Sexual and Reproductive	52,8	47,2	48,9	51,1	3,1
Gender& Contraception	57,9	42,1	53,4	46,6	4,5
Male Circumcision	69,3	30,7	60	40	9,3

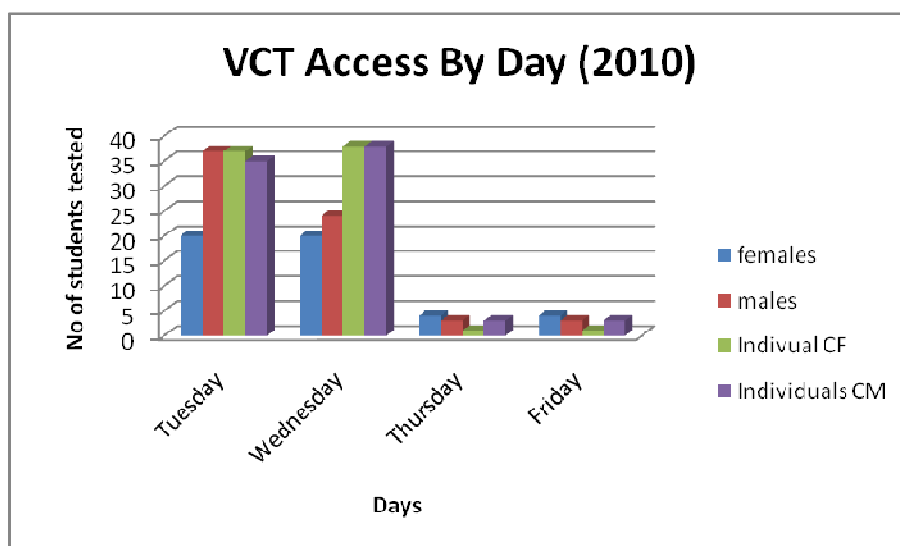
The increment in knowledge levels can be attributed to SAYWHAT's up-scaling of its activities, efforts by other partners and the introduction of HIV in the curriculum.

The Know Your Status Campaign

General overview

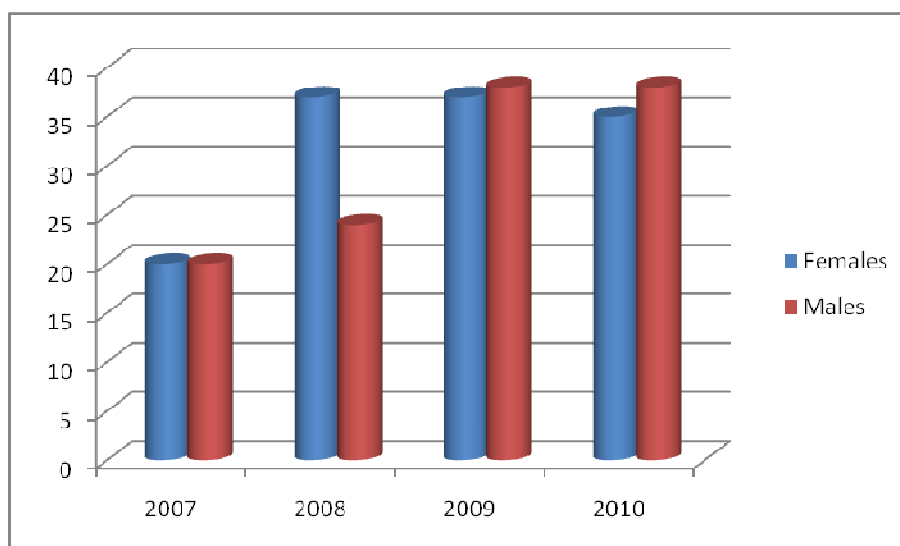
The thematic focus of the gala was on positive living with the theme “scoring against stigma and discrimination”. SAYWHAT in collaboration with Batsirai Group, a VCT service provider availed the VCT service to 271 students (140 females and 131 males) in a period of three and half days. SAYWHAT carried parallel sessions in raising awareness and benefits of knowing one's status through FGD's. The number of students who accessed VCT increased by day as they were encouraged by facilitators in focus group discussions on MCP, MC, Gender and Dual Protection.

The graph below shows the response by individual students and couples to the Know Your Status Campaign.



The 2010 Know your status campaign was a great success as it saw the figures doubling from preceding years (see graph below). This has been attributed to the integration of positive living in all SAYWHAT programming and other awareness tools like The SAYWHAT Observer focusing on positive Living

The graph below shows the Know Your Status campaign trends and patterns disaggregated by sex from the sporting gala hosted at Esigodini in 2007 to The Mlezu 2010 gala.



Recommendations

- There is need to decentralise mobile VCT services to colleges
- There is need to develop post test support programs including CD4 counts for students
- Integration of MC and VCT in SAYWHAT advocacy programming

Male Circumcision

General overview

Discussions on Male circumcision drew a lot of interest from male students. Most male students wanted information on the benefits of being circumcised and how it reduces one's chances of contracting STIs' including HIV by 60%. The 12 focus group discussions had the overall objective of assessing the knowledge levels on MC by students and increasing awareness on the reduction effect of male circumcision. Male students also cited their fears on pain that may result from male circumcision. The FGDs on MC reached out to 215 students (70 females and 145 males). Students were also advised on where surgical MC is being done for free in Zimbabwe which are ZNFPC spill house, Manyame, Mutare, Bulawayo and Karanda site. Demonstrations on MC using a male model and a condom were conducted to give clarity on MC.

As a result of this FGDs and VCT services 11 male students were given referral slips for them to undergo male circumcision after the sporting gala

Sampling of questions and responses in FGDs

Question	Response
1. Does Male Circumcision affect sexual pleasure?	There is no evidence of male circumcision reducing sexual pleasure. Sexual pleasure is influenced by other factors like consent to sexual activity, security, safety and satisfaction in the sexual act. Sexual pleasure includes physical psychological, emotional, and at times spiritual experiences.
2. How does Male Circumcision benefit females?	The reduction effect in men indirectly benefits women but this does not mean an HIV positive circumcised man can not transmit HIV to his partner
3. Will I not get a painful penile erection during the healing Period?	There might be slight pain during penile erection and individuals are encouraged to urinate to ease the pain
4. Is it not a human right abuse to circumcise an infant who is not in a position to give consent?	In such cases the parents are given the benefit of making decisions which are in the best interest of the child and there is

	no legal provision that the child can use against the parents
5. Will male circumcision not take away my virginity?	A virgin is any man or woman who has not experienced sexual intercourse and will still remain one after male circumcision if he has not indulge in sex
6. Can an HIV positive person be circumcised?	An HIV positive person has to seek medical advice from a clinician who is able to assess his immune condition and other related possible complication. HIV positive males will however not benefit in the current public sector role out which is meant to reduce HIV prevalence
7. At what age can one get circumcised?	One can get circumcised at any age even infants can be circumcised but there is need for parental consent

Recommendations

- There is need to decentralize Male Circumcision services centres
- Male Circumcision awareness campaigns should cover more students
- There is need to standardize messages on Male Circumcision to avoid risky behaviours
- Male circumcision can be used as an entry point to VCT, positive living and broader prevention strategies

Sanitary wear campaign

General overview

Most Agricultural colleges are located in farming and rural communities away from towns such that it is difficult for students to access sanitary wear. Wherever it is available, it is at times unaffordable leaving most female students with limited options such as tissue, cloth and mattresses which may cause diseases like cervical cancer and reproductive tract infections. Generally there is a high demand for sanitary wear in these colleges and SAYWHAT executed its ongoing Sanitary Wear campaign which started in 2007. The campaign caters for the sanitary wear needs of female students which include affordability, availability, and accessibility and raises awareness on the proper disposal methods.

Discussion

The 2010 Agricultural Gala saw SAYWHAT availing 620 sanitary pads with 500 packs of the total being sold at a subsidized price of \$1 for 2 packs. 120 packs were distributed to outstanding female students who participated in the different sporting disciplines. This

was a great increase compared to the previous years as only 300 packs were availed. Sanitary wear advocacy has become a key and appreciated concept in the student community. Male and female students now realize the importance of accessibility and availability of sanitary wear. This year's gala saw a number of male students showing concern and actively participating in the campaign and in some cases buying pads for their female partners and relatives.

Some focus group discussions conducted during the gala revealed challenges on sanitary wear disposal. It was also highlighted that most students have limited sanitary wear options as colleges usually provide pads. This was noted as a challenge by students who favor the use of cotton wool and tampons. The students extended their appreciation to the sanitary wear campaign which alerted them on the feasibility of different hygienic disposal methods. The sanitary wear options presented during the campaign managed to eliminate choice biases amongst the students and promote proper use and disposal.

Gender Barometer

General Overview

Gender Mainstreaming is an important aspect in SAYWHAT programming aimed at creating effective gender based responses in addressing Sexual and Reproductive Health challenges in tertiary institutions. Gender programs and activities continue to empower students in order to promote active participation and to strengthen their confidence and capacity. The participation and involvement of male students has to be central in gender programming so as to influence positive behavioral change and encourage men to promote gender equality at all levels. The Gender Barometer survey noted how gender inequality increases the vulnerability of men and women in contracting HIV.

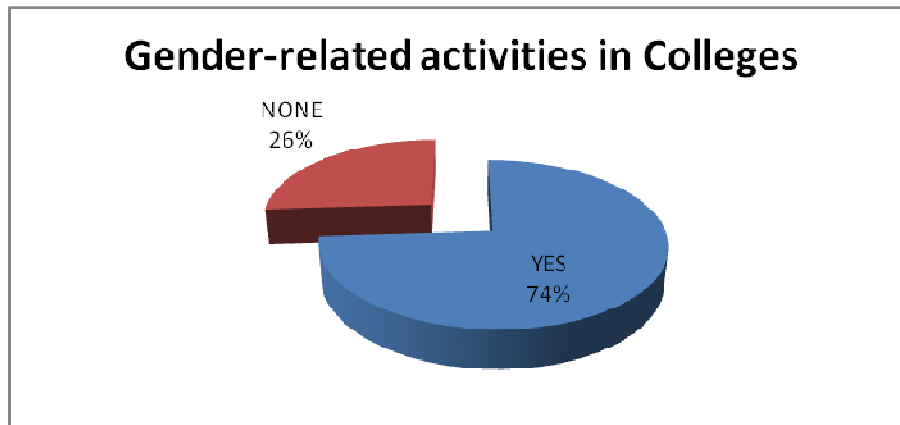
Gender Barometer Analysis

SAYWHAT administered 74 questionnaires during the gala with an objective of rating the gender responses that have been used within the colleges. The gender barometer enquired on gender components like equality, equity, gender roles and their linkage to HIV transmission. 45 female students and 29 male students responded to the questionnaire during the gala. The demographic distribution of the respondents are shown in the table below,

Sex	marital status		Age range
	Married	Single	
Males	6	23	18-37
Females	7	38	17-37

The respondents had a general understanding of gender where they managed to mention several aspects of gender such as equality, equal opportunities and fairness. The responses given did not necessarily define gender but only brought out the key aspects. This lack of understanding continues to limit gender initiatives and participation of students at local level. Programming must involve a lot of sensitization on gender and the importance of addressing gender imbalances.

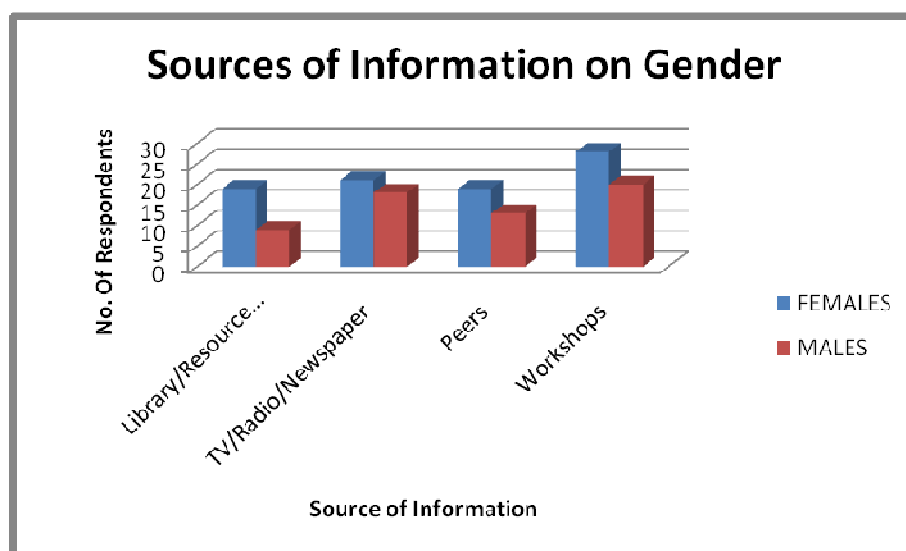
The survey noted how gender inequality increases the vulnerability of men and women in contracting HIV.



55% of the respondents said that there were gender-related activities in their colleges, while 26 % said there were none. The common activities noted were women's soccer, debates, lectures, dramas, farm work, SRC initiatives, practical work and HIV groups.

The survey revealed that a lot of gender workshops and other activities mostly target female students leaving the male students out. Programming has noted some challenges and needs to be corrected to include gender-related activities for male students. The respondents highlighted other sources of information on gender such as Teachers/ Lecturers, Christian and Religious Groups/Church, the Internet, the Clinic, Family members and discussions.

The male respondents said their sources of information included the libraries/resource centers, TV/Radio/Newspapers, Peers and Workshops. The illustration below shows the variances of preferences in sourcing information on gender between the male and female students. The respondents showed appreciation and the need to source information on gender. Gender activities and information dissemination must be scaled up. Female students must be encouraged more to look for information of gender and to participate in all activities that are done at their colleges.



Notes on the Cluster meeting with college SRH Focal persons

During the sporting gala the SAYWHAT program manager and the SRH, HIV & AIDS officer hosted a meeting with all college focal persons to discuss on SAYWHAT programs, challenges and recommendation to strengthen work around SRH as identified by these key stakeholders at college level. The text box below gives highlights from this meeting:

- There was an agreement that Modeling should be retained as it attracted a lot of students. Noted however was the need to create the models into good ambassadors for good behavior and this could be reflected in the dressing as well as questions that should be asked.
- Decent time to end evening events was agreed to be 2200hrs
- SAYWHAT should increase outreach in Vocation Training Centers and make follow ups to college level work plans
- There is need for more information to support teaching and learning as HIV is now in the curriculum
- There is need to avoid mid-week events
- Activities such as college level FGDs should be increased and supported by refreshments
- There is need for supporting herbal gardens, VCT and those students that would have disclosed their status
- SAYWHAT should consider acknowledging some of its dedicated volunteers who are most enterprising, behaved and exemplary
- During the Gala Condoms should be distributed through toilets and clinics as normally

CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL

General Overview

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial has become one of the most common mobilization campaigns for HIV/AIDS awareness in the world. Zimbabwe has since joined these commemorations and different communities join together to honor and remember their loved ones in our continued responses to HIV and AIDS. It provides opportunities for leadership development, policy advocacy, partnerships, and improvement of community mobilization skills.

The Candlelight Memorial is one of SAYWHAT's most celebrated commemorations and aims at raising awareness of opportunities to respond to HIV/AIDS, to honour those who have died of AIDS related illnesses and to demonstrate support for those living with HIV. SAYWHAT supports and encourages peer educators in tertiary institutions to plan special activities for the Candlelight Memorial every year. This year the first commemorations held by SAYWHAT were during the 2010 Agricultural Colleges Sporting Gala.

Candlelight Memorial Commemoration

The 2010 Agricultural Colleges Sporting Gala Candlelight Memorial was commemorated under the theme **'More Lights for Human Rights'** and saw about 550 students participating in the commemorations. The commemoration explored the relationship between Positive Living and human rights and the need to take the rights based approach in responses to HIV treatment, care and support. Students presented poems, speeches and songs in the thematic areas of positive living and human rights. Over 500 students participated in a solidarity march around the college with candles that symbolized the unified efforts in responding to HIV and AIDS challenges.

In memorial of their loved ones that died or are living with HIV and AIDS, the students lit some candles and enshrined their names on pieces of paper as they chanted some hymns. The candle light memorial also inspired 8 students living with HIV to disclose their status in SAYWHAT's box. Such students who have expressed a need to be assisted shall benefit in a SAYWHAT pilot project that is meant to assist students into accessing CD4 Count and support them with transport to collect their medication which remains a challenge considering some of the distance they come from.

Value and relevance of Gala to Students

The Sporting gala is the biggest event on the calendar of agricultural colleges and Vocational training colleges. The hype that is created around the sporting disciplines and a sudden burst of freedom among students from their usual academic commitments normally makes them engage in risky behavior. This makes mainstreaming SRH information and knowledge sharing relevant during the week long activity.

The gala stands as a source of correct information on SRHR for students in agricultural colleges as evidenced by the evaluation forms where students confirmed that it is a platform for them to acquire correct SRH information.

The gala awards students an opportunity to access VCT services which are not available in their colleges. The SRH activities during the sporting gala are branded in an interactive way that uses mostly edutainment which are elements that lack in the curriculum of the colleges. VCT on the other hand is inspired through T-shirts for a randomized sample of those that access the service.

Besides being educative the gala is a relevant platform that allows students from agricultural colleges to be creative around areas such as drama and compete in intellectual engagements like the quiz competitions. The prestige of winning T-shirts, trophies and other prizes around SRH related competitions makes participation meaningful and creates an attachment around the prizes that inspires personalization of issues.

The students from these agricultural colleges are normally sidelined and the gala provides for much needed information and interaction on SRH issues and SAYWHAT's continued participation remains relevant.

The discussions with focal persons encouraged SAYWHAT to continue its engagement whilst comments from students through evaluation forms also expressed their opinion over the issues discussed by SAYWHAT, one student noted "these are matters of life and death which for some reason we don't get to hear about everyday".

Key Recommendations

- ❖ SAYWHAT should partner with organisations to assist female students to become assertive and demand their rights as most of them have been subject to some form of gender based violence in one way or the other
- ❖ There is still need to promote and advertise the female condom amongst students in tertiary institutions as it proved to be unpopular with most students haven't seen or touched it a case which was different when it came to the male condom.
- ❖ There is need to come up with life skills and livelihood skills trainings for students especially females as most of them get abused due to lack of economic empowerment
- ❖ Government should domesticate and come up with implement plans to international declarations that it is signatory to such as CEDAW and SADC Protocol on Gender
- ❖ There is need to have men's involvement as partners in addressing gender issues
- ❖ There is need to have a positive living program to assist positive living students as most students have shown a keen interest in being tested

- ❖ There is need to incorporate MC in HIV prevention Interventions for students
- ❖ There is need for a expansion program targeted at Vocational Training Colleges

Critical Areas

- There is need for a an MC drive in all tertiary institutions
- There is need for target specific IEC material on MC
- There is need to eliminate GBV in colleges
- There is need to create responses for students with HIV
- There is need for supporting college level SRH programs and interventions
- There is need for a database for students who are living with HIV
- Sessions on Policies should be incorporated in gender and SRHR workshops

Conclusion

The Agricultural Sporting gala as outlined in this report is an important platform for information sharing as well as knowledge generation among SRH issues for students from agricultural colleges and vocational training centers in the country. The work that is done during the sports gala should be consolidated with well sustained programs, follow ups, feedbacks and coordination.

Annexure 1 GALA Program 2010

DATE AND TIME	ACTIVITY	Description of activity	FACILITATORS
22/02/2010	Open Air	General SRH questions will be asked with the answers being provided.	SAYWHAT
23/02/2010	Cluster Meeting (Lecturers) Film Aided Learning Question and Answer	The cluster meeting will be a meeting for all health coordinators from Agricultural colleges to reflect on SRH programming. SAYWHAT will be showing SRH films to deepen focus group discussions. Students will have an opportunity to ask SRH questions.	SAYWHAT
24/02/2010	Drama	7 students from each college will showcase a 15 minute drama. Marks will be given for the suiting attire and the more reproductive health challenges and solutions. (There will be a Trophy)	SAYWHAT
25/02/2010	Drama		SAYWHAT
26/02/2010	Quiz	3 students from each college will participate in a quiz competition in the categories of Reproductive Health Rights, HIV Treatment, Care and Support, Male Circumcision and Sanitary Wear, Gender and Contraception.	SAYWHAT
27/02/2010	Candlelight Memorial Public Speaking	The candle light memorial will be in two stages. There will be a procession of at least 600 students that will move around the college. The students will then gather at a venue where the background to the candle light memorial will be shared with volunteers sharing their experiences with HIV and AIDS	SAYWHAT

Annexure 2 Candle light memorial program

CANDLE LIGHT MEMORIAL

27 February 2010

Theme: ***'Many lights for Human Rights'***

(Distribution of Red and White Ribbons)

1800 – 1900 Solidarity Song

Drama

Opening Remarks (**Focal Person**)

1900 – 2000 Keynote Address on Candlelight Memorial

Poems

HIV and AIDS and Human Rights

2000 – 2100 A Tribute to our loved ones!

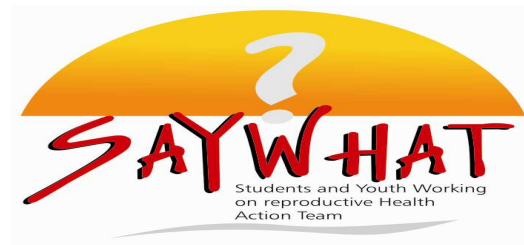
Remembering our loved ones

Lighting of Candles (Song)

March - All

2100 – 2130 Prayer and Closing

***'Scoring against stigma and
discrimination'***



Annex 3 SAYWHAT Drama Adjudicators sheet

Name of college	Stage attire (5)	Voice projection and Stage management(5)	Alignment to the theme (10)	Provision of positive steps-solutions and conclusion(10)	Total