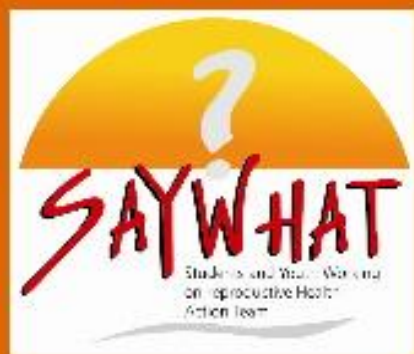




Film Aided Learning

Quarterly report



Jan-April 2010

Acknowledgements

The students and Youths working on Reproductive Health Action Team would like to extend gratitude to its partners SAT, SAIH and FORD foundation for the support rendered which made the film aided learning and discussion forums possible.

SAYWHAT also appreciates the college authorities for allowing this program to be implemented within their colleges and students in tertiary institutions in Zimbabwe for informative contributions

Many thanks to STEPS film productions for the ability to capture issues of positive living, Voluntary Counselling and Testing services, disclosure and stigma and discrimination which are relevant to Sexual and Reproductive Health that students can relate.

List of acronyms

AIDS: Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome

FGD: Focus Group Discussions

HIV: Human Immuno Deficiency Virus

LCC: Local Coordinating Committee

MC: Male Circumcision

MCP: Multiple Concurrent Partnerships STIs: Sexually Transmitted Infections

NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation

SAYWHAT: Students and Youths Working on reproductive Health

SRH: Sexual and Reproductive Health

VCT: Voluntary Counseling and Testing

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Executive summary

Film aided Learning is an approach that has been developed by SAYWHAT to encourage effective discussions amongst students in tertiary institutions. It entails discussions or learning sessions that are inspired by documentaries or films on the different SRHR issues and concerns. This approach improves interaction within SAYWHAT's programming.

Film aided learning does not only serve as a means of entertainment but also stimulate debate around areas of sexual and reproductive health and students can identify with scenarios portrayed in the films.

The sessions in the period under review were conducted in 4 colleges which include Belvedere Teachers college, Agriculture colleges during the sporting gala at Mlezu, Masvingo Teachers college and Masvingo Poly. SAYWHAT reached a total of 842 students with 463 being female students and 379 being male.

Key issues that came out of the film aided learning discussions include multiple concurrent partnerships, positive living, gender, stigma and discrimination, sexual harassment and condom use.

Students highlighted that they were afraid to seek treatment and access VCT due to stigma and discrimination and absence of post test support structures.

Lack of adequate comprehensive information on Sexual and Reproductive Health issues was noted as a challenge and the need for more IEC material was highlighted.

SAYWHAT faced a challenge with erratic electricity supply and could not conduct film aided learning in some colleges including Seke Teachers, Africa University and Morgan Zintec teacher's college`

Film aided learning should be integrated in other activities in the gender and SRHR departments for increased reach out. There is need to conduct training of trainers so that students can have more college based film aided learning sessions that they facilitate on their own.

Introduction

This quarterly report outline the film aided learning activities carried out by SAYWHAT from January to April 2010. Film has proven to be an influential method of inspiring discussions on sexual and reproductive health amongst students in tertiary institutions.

Through Film aided learning, students could conduct frank discussion as they can talk about their personal experiences attributing them to characters in films. Film aided learning initiate meaningful discussion on issues that they would not have naturally talked about.

A red ribbon around my house, Yesterday, Tariro and Living with AIDS were shown to students from Belvedere Teachers, Masvingo Teachers, Mlezu college of Agriculture and Masvingo Poly

The film aided learning sessions targeted various thematic areas including condom education, Concurrent sexual partnerships, gender, VCT, disclosure and positive living

Operating environment

The film aided learning activities were conducted in a time when Zimbabwe is in a process of penning its new constitution so SAYWHAT engaged students to popularize SRH issues and to urge students to advocate for the inclusion of SRHR in the constitution. Film aided learning was conducted in a Zimbabwe which continues to face erratic electricity supplies such that film aided could not be conducted in some colleges. Film aided learning was also conducted during the time when the country is registering increased STI's incidence rate amongst the young people aged 15-24 years. During the research carried out by SAYWHAT in 2009 to assess the state of programming in tertiary institutions on Sexual and Reproductive Health needs for the students, 58% preferred film aided learning. On the other hand 60% did not prefer in class learning and highlighted that they did not get much information from attending lecturers. Although HIV is now an examinable subject in other colleges, HIV information is only acquired to pass examinations and is rarely internalized.

Film aided learning

General overview

Film aided learning has an impact in embedding messages in students as well as stimulating debate and breaking the silence on sexual and reproductive health issues. Students were able to relate to issues that were being displayed in documentaries. In total 842 students were reached out to with 463 being female students and 379 being male students

college	females	males	Total reach out	% reach out females	% reach out males
Agriculture sporting gala	221	190	411	53.7	46.3
Belvedere Teachers	28	42	70	40	60
Masvingo Poly	60	83	143	41.9	58.1
Masvingo Teachers	154	64	218	70.6	29.4
Total	463	379	842	206.2	193.8

Agricultural sporting gala-Mlezu college of Agricultural gala

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 her father. 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

“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

A red Ribbon Around my house- Belvedere Teachers College

70 students from Belvedere Technical Teachers College watched a documentary on positive living entitled “A red ribbon around my house”. The film aided learning session reached to 42 males and 28 female students. The documentary premieres Pinky a middle aged women who got infected with HIV while at work who takes it upon herself to disclose her status and teach people about HIV in schools, churches and workplaces. Pinky’s daughter is initially ashamed of her mother’s stance of disclosing. The documentary also shows how people have misconceptions that everyone who contract the virus is only through promiscuity. Three students disclosed their HIV status. The students also requested for mobile VCT.

Discussion

Discussions on Multiple Concurrent Partnerships, Male Circumcision, Disclosure and positive living ensued. Students agreed that there is need for male students’ involvement in promoting the use of the female condom in the absence of self initiated tools for women such as MC in men.

‘This documentary has changed my way of thinking towards HIV. I normally used to laugh and point fingers at people living with HIV and would be quick to think that they got infected because they were being promiscuous,’ said one male student from Belvedere Teachers college

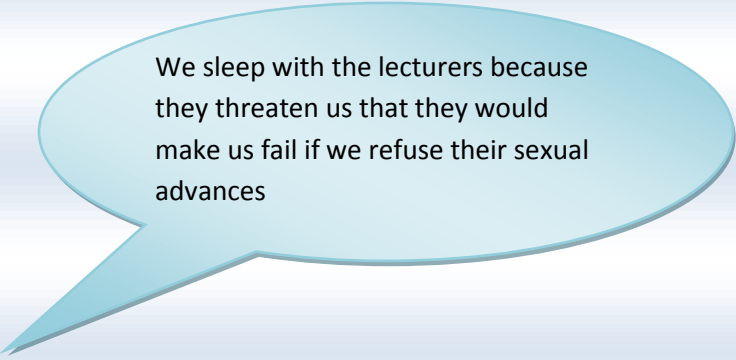
Living with HIV-Masvingo Poly

Living with AIDS is a documentary from Zambia which depicts the lives of people living with HIV and AIDS. This documentary was shown to students to raise their awareness levels. The documentary portrays the several ways in which people contract HIV including having several sexual partners, unprotected sex and inconsistent condom use. A total of 143 students were reached out to with 83 being males and 60 being females.

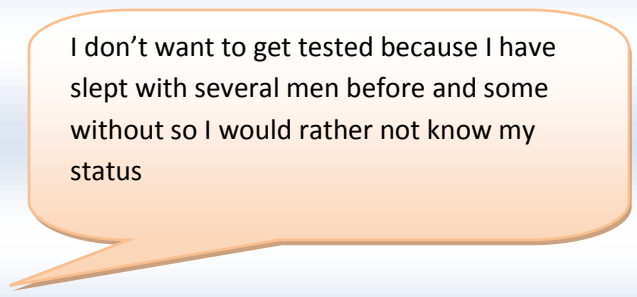
This documentary was used as a prelude to engage students into a discussion on multiple concurrent partnerships, one of the key drivers of HIV. The documentary showed how people live in denial as they go to clinics and seek for treatment for minor diseases such as headaches and fail to tell the nurses their status

Discussion

Students were able to identify with some of the characteristics that were portrayed in the documentary especially the inconsistent use of condoms in established relationships. Students highlighted that it was common in students to seek treatment of an illness they do not have if they realize the nurse is not friendly as shown in the film. The facilitator highlighted that 'sugar daddies' can be lecturers and cited low risk perception, intergenerational sex, concurrent sexual relationships and low or no condom use as key drivers for HIV in Zimbabwe



We sleep with the lecturers because they threaten us that they would make us fail if we refuse their sexual advances



I don't want to get tested because I have slept with several men before and some without so I would rather not know my status

Yesterday-Masvingo Teachers college

A total 218 students from Masvingo Teachers were reached out to with 154 being females and 64 males. The documentary is on the life of a young woman, Yesterday, who contracts HIV from her husband who works in a mine in Jo'burg. The documentary depicts how she suffers due to stigma from community members who disassociate themselves from her because she is HIV positive. The documentary manage to capture Yesterdays initial fears after testing positive but her attitude changes with counseling and she supports and care for her husband who initially beats her when she revealed her status. The documentary manages to depict unprotected sex as one of the key drivers of HIV

Discussion Points

Married students raised their fears over the behaviour of their partners when they are away at college for a minimum of three months. The facilitator shared the dual protection method which prevents one from contracting STI's and unintended pregnancies and deliberations on condom negotiation were conducted. Students attributed long distance from loved ones as one of the reasons why people have more than sexual partner

Multiple Concurrent Partnerships

About 58 % of students from the colleges visited, highlighted that at one point during their college life engaged in an extra affair and some of them of an intergenerational nature. Distance from loved ones, poverty and peer pressure were cited as chief factors why students have more than one sexual partners.

Female students indicated that some of the relationships are forced as male lecturers threaten them that they would make them fail their courses.

Students urged the government to re-introduce the pay out system to reduce the vulnerability of students. They argued that with pay outs more students would desist from intergenerational and transactional sex where in most instances they ate not able to negotiate for safer sex

Gender

All the documentaries shown to students depicted that women are vulnerable to HIV due harmful cultural practices that do not give them an upper hand to negotiate for safer sex. Students conceded to advocating for the use of a female condom to empower women and alluded to the fact there is need for male students involvement to increase the female condoms acceptance. Students who watched "Living with AIDS" and "Yesterday" agreed

that women are more at risk of contracting HIV in the absence of self initiated HIV prevention measures for women.

The documentary, Yesterday stimulated debate on issues of empowerment of women and female students were of the notion more women will continue to be affected by HIV if they are not self sufficient economically as they will stick to their husbands even when they are promiscuous as in the documentary, Yesterday contracted HIV from her husband who was working in the city.

Students also alluded to the fact that culture also has an influence in increasing the vulnerability of women as women are not allowed to be exposed to issues of sex and leave the duty of HIV prevention for men while they concentrate on issues of contraception.

Some male students raised concern over how SRH issues affecting men have been neglected by programmers such that it has been difficult for them to get attention from implementers dealing with HIV

VCT services

Students from all the 4 colleges highlighted that there is need for Voluntary Counselling and Testing devices in colleges and these should be incapacitated to offer post test support including counseling and psycho social support. Students agreed that colleges could make use of mobile VCT services as it is essential for their general health plans. Students at Masvingo Teachers were encouraged by the documentary 'Yesterday' and called for SAYWHAT to assist with providing VCT services

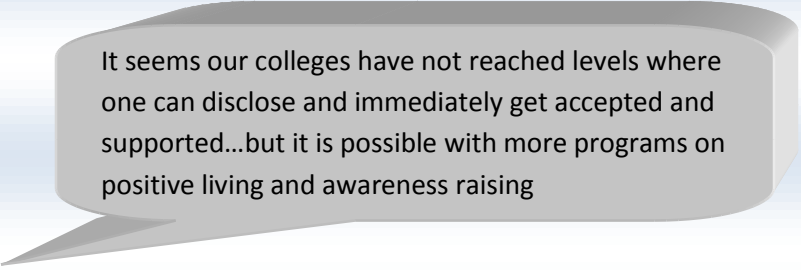


Stigma and Discrimination

Students from all the colleges cited stigma and discrimination as the chief reason why they do not seek treatment or seek VCT services and expressed the need for widespread positive living awareness campaigns and interventions to address stigma if access to prevention, treatment, care and support is to be obtained by many youths who are in tertiary institutions.

Students related the stigma portrayed in the documentary, Yesterday where Yesterday's husband was asked to leave the village because he was critically ill and had HIV to their own college based experiences

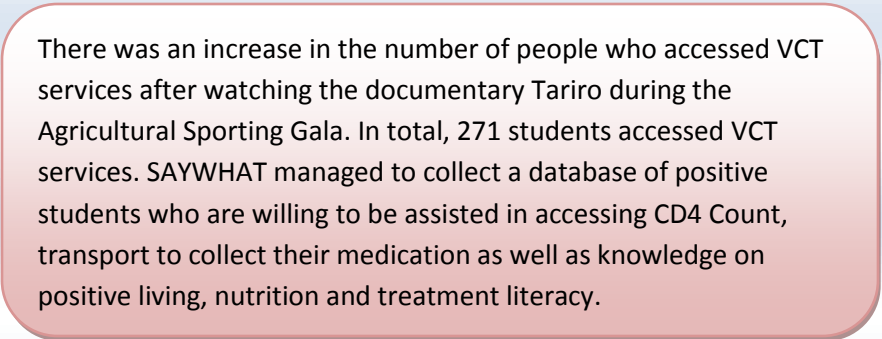
The facilitator shared with students that there is need strengthen college based advocacy to ensure implementation of college HIV policies which can address issues of stigma and discrimination



It seems our colleges have not reached levels where one can disclose and immediately get accepted and supported...but it is possible with more programs on positive living and awareness raising

Positive Living

Students from the four colleges raised concern over the limited number of implementers who are working on programs on positive living for students. There was a general call for increased support mechanisms that promote positive living on campus which include psycho social support, good nutrition and youth friendly services in colleges. Students also highlighted on the need to increase the capacity of college clinics to treat STI's and Opportunistic Infections and to be functional after normal working hours when students will be having academic commitments. Through the documentaries like Tariro which was shown at the students at the Agricultural Sporting gala, more students were able to access VCT services



There was an increase in the number of people who accessed VCT services after watching the documentary Tariro during the Agricultural Sporting Gala. In total, 271 students accessed VCT services. 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.

Condom education

Students from all the colleges despite the differences in documentaries watched, generally agreed that there is low condom use in established relationships. Some female students who have more than one sexual partner revealed that they sleep with other partners with a condom but their boyfriends. Female students decried the unavailability of female condoms which are also expensive as compared to the male condoms, one of the reasons why they do not use them regularly. 40% of the female students in these 4 colleges had used a female condom but only did so on experimental basis

The facilitator shared with students the importance of using condoms correctly and consistently as they serve a dual purpose of preventing one from contracting STI's and unintended pregnancies

Discussions were followed with condom demonstrations. The facilitator requested a male student to demonstrate correct female condom use and disposal and a female the male condom. This was done to provoke both male and female students to view the issue of condoms as a subject that requires shared obligation as well as to build the capacity of female students to speak openly about issues of sex and other reproductive health matters



Challenges

- During the period that film aided learning sessions were conducted there were power cuts such that film aided could not be conducted in some colleges like Morgan Zintec
- The number of session conducted are minimal due to financial implications
- Most colleges do not have equipment to conduct film aided learning

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 and be incorporated in health lectures
- There is need to train student facilitators on film aided learning
- Film aided shall be mainstreamed in other programmatic areas such as gender and SRHR
- There is need to evaluate and validate film aided learning to produce a model on film aided learning for students in Zimbabwe

Action Points

- SAYWHAT shall engage other stakeholders and source for other SRH related documentaries
- Training of college based film aided facilitators shall be conducted

M& E

After the training of facilitators periodic reports shall be compiled per college. Participant forms shall also be used to compile data on college based film aided learning activities. Facilitators shall be equipped with activity evaluation forms which will be used to assess students understanding and knowledge levels. Periodic visits to colleges shall also be done

Conclusion

Film aided learning remains a critical component in SRH programming as it encourages participants to speak out on issues that are normally kept silent about. Students can also identify with behaviours portrayed in documentaries and can use characters in the documentaries as scapegoats and open up about their sexual experiences