



Community response actions to reduce teenage pregnancies in Busoga and West Nile

ACTIVITY REPORT

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING OF BOYS AND GIRLS IN SCHOOLS

Activity:	Continued guiding and counseling of boys and girls in schools
Date of the Activity:	1/6/2024 to 10/6/2024
Venue/ Location:	Kamuli and Luuka district
Organised by:	
Target group/ Participants:	School going boys and girls
Reported by	

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

The impact of speaking to the young boys and girls relating to sexuality and sexual reproductive health is key in preventing teenage pregnancies and preventing exposure of young boys and girls engaging sexual behavior at an early age. Exploring this avenue, ECOV, conducted counselling sessions to these groups aimed at encouraging them to speak freely on matters concerning sexuality and sexual reproductive health.

In order to effectively conduct successful counselling and guidance sessions, Echoes of children's voices organized an activity on guidance and counseling in the 5 schools to reach out boys and girls as followup of the previous awareness sessions conducted in the visit. The main aim of the session was to introduce to the young boys and girls and equip them with the basic knowledge about sexual reproductive health, focusing on the sexually transmitted disease, prevention of pregnancy and children rights.

ACTIVITY METHODOLOGY:

Using the question and answer facilitation strategy, the young boys and girls were engaged on matters concerning developmental stages of their lives and effect of bodily changes that influence sexuality and reproductive system and subsequently behaviour.

Pre-printed photographs of teenage mother carrying pregnancy at their tender age were used during the session. The question and answer approach required that the young boys and girls interpret the what they see on the photograph relating it sexually and asserting whether it is the better option for the child of that age to make that decision of getting pregnant at an early age.

The sessions were supported by senior male and senior female teachers who were given recording books where they were supposed to record or register the names of children every time, they held subsequent guiding and counselling sessions. This data was used to capture data for those that reach out to the teachers for consultation and also request for guidance.

We had a target of five schools reaching out to 25 children in a term and in a school this has been achieved.

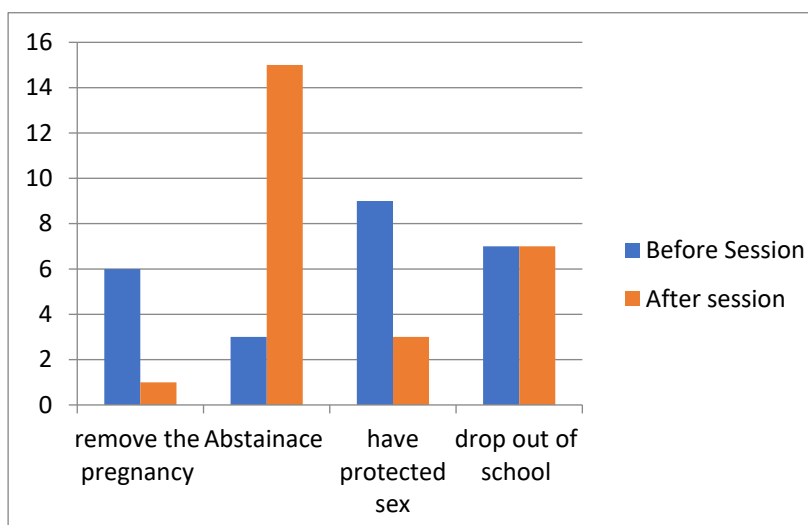
Total number of children	Girls	Boys
25	15	10

These sessions are carried through the terms.

THE ACTIVITY RESULTS:

The guiding and counseling sessions has helped the children speak freely and get more knowledge about teenage pregnancy.

As indicated by the graph, there was great improvement in the knowledge levels about sexual reproductive with over 50% of the students choosing



abstinence as strategy to reduce teenage pregnancy,. About 5% the students after the session indicated that they will remove the pregnancy given the harsh parents that they said will punish them for conceiving a pregnancy. A larger group expressed fear that they will leave school because they cannot cope up with the stress at school with peer stigma associated with the pregnancy therefore dropout of school.

A post conference with Senior teacher and mother was held to brainstorm on the way forward focusing on how to handle the mixed responses from students to ensure healthy sexual reproductive practices at school aimed at controlling teenage pregnancies and eliminate school dropout rates associated with teenage pregnancy.

The schools visited were kimato primary school, biguno primary school, Nabyoto primary school in luuka and in Kamuli district malugulya primary school and Bulimira primary school.

All of the 5 schools were visited and every school was given two record books, and forms to capture every information that they could on these children as a followup by the senior man and mothers

CHALLENGES:

Some of the schools were not happy because they were not considered but we had to encourage them that it's a continuation and everything was taught we needed to keep up with the system already in place.

LESSONS LEARNT DURING THE ACTIVITY

The schools that we have worked in have adjusted to the guiding and counseling sessions and they are being carried out in the schools. which had been a tradition to them

RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMMEDIATE FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:

The teachers requested to help in equipping the students with life skill beside the guiding and counselling sessions.

ANNEXES

ACTIVITY PHOTOGRAPHS: Please add activity photographs with a good description of what the photo is all about.



One of the guiding and counselling session

OTHER ANNEXES:

STORIES OF CHANGE

When the session began,

I was excited to be part of the session because I have always asked myself many questions about myself. Last week I saw some little blood in my private parts but when I asked my father he was not able to tell what could be happening with me instead he told me to ask my auntie who lives very far in the next village of Buwenge subcounty

This made me so scared about what could be happening with me and in fact that night I did not eat and slept awake the whole night waking up to check what could have happened. At one point I felt like I am so dirty and the end of the world was coming. What surprised me is that my "SUSU" was not painful but I kept on thinking what was happening.

The next morning I was unable to go to school, my dad left me home and left for work. This time in the morning I just felt a little of the red thing and by afternoon it had stopped. I kept on wondering what could be happening and for fear that it may come back, I didn't go to school the whole week.

Over the weekend I didn't feel anything and decided to come to school on Monday that's when I had there is this learning session organised by Echoes of Children's Voices and was very happy because this was the second time I was hearing about them. ECOV facilitators explained a lot about the reproductive system and the different stages of development. The staff were able to explain to me about the menstrual cycle and pregnancy and how to prevent pregnancy.

This session has helped to understand what was happening to me during last week and how to care for myself in case it happens next time. I am very happy for the staff of ECOV preparing these sessions and will continue attending to learn more about sexual reproductive health



Nambi Hellen p.6 East

SUMMARY OF TRAINING EVALUATION

- The learners are always willing to participate in the training sessions
- This activity calls for engagement with learners to achieve behavioural change
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