

HELP & SHELTER WOMEN'S WORLD OF PRAYER GERMAN COMMITTEE PROJECT

EVALUATION OF FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS WORKSHOPS – 23 & 24 MARCH 2011

A two-day joint workshop for religious leaders was held in March 2011. The workshop incorporated religious leaders from the project communities of Covent Garden, Den Amstel and Good Hope.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshops were as follows:

- To explain the nature and dynamics of gender based violence and its relevance to the community
- To commit to facilitating change among members of the FBO and within the wider community with respect to the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours relating to gender based violence

Programme

The programme for the workshops focused on the following main topic areas:

- Exploring Self
- Sex & Gender
- Gender Based Violence/Domestic Violence
- Sexuality, Violence & Sexual & Reproductive Health,
- Promoting Positive Action to Reduce GBV

Attendance, Age & Gender of Participants

A total of 13 religious leaders and members of FBOs attended the workshop, 10/77% were female and 3/23% were male. The age range among participants was between 27 – 54 years

Age Range	#	%
20-39	5	42%
40-59	7	58%
TOTAL	12	100%

(Only 12/92% of participants indicated their ages on the participants' evaluation forms)

Community Plan of Action

Participants went into small groups and came up with the following action plans for reducing DV and GBV at a collective and individual level

- Educate people through short talks at religious functions about domestic violence
- Highlight DV issues in Church to make members aware that DV is wrong and persons do not have to stay in abusive relationships
- Report all DV matters that come to your attention at church and in the community
- Seek out those who are willing to form a support group to help survivors and invite both survivors and abusers to seek help
- Speak out against DV at churches, mosques and mandirs
- Have community walkabouts where flyers and information on DV and GBV are shared out and relevant information given on how to get help
- Assist those in need by listening and offering emotional support, reporting matters to the police, trying to find jobs for persons in need of financial assistance, if in danger having the victim (s) removed to a safe place
- Open up computer training classes originally for children to female survivors of DV
- Become a loud voice in prison against DV and GBV especially the New Amsterdam Women's Prison

Participants' Evaluation

A total of 12 participants filled out and gave in their evaluation forms. Based on these, all of the participants 12/100% said that information was presented in a way they understood, they learnt new ideas and skills and increased their knowledge and understanding of self, sex, gender, gender roles and domestic violence. Similarly 100% of participants also felt that that the workshop was successful in promoting positive action to reduce domestic violence and other forms of GBV in their communities and committed themselves to supporting activities in their communities to reduce DV and other forms of GBV. Facilitation of the workshop was assessed as definitely good and handouts were found to be both useful and informative by all of the participants. A total of 92% were of the view that their plan of action was good and assessed the venue, food and arrangements as good. 83 % indicated that their understanding of sexuality, violence and SRH was definitely increased and 75% felt that there was definitely adequate time for group work and sharing of information while 17% felt that time was somewhat adequate.

Programme Topic	Yes, Definitely	Somewhat	Not at all
Was information presented in a way you could understand?	12/100%		
Did you learn new ideas or skills?	12/100%		
Did the workshop increase your knowledge and understanding of Self?	12/100%		
Did the workshop increase your knowledge & understanding of Sex, Gender & Gender Roles?	12/100%		
Did the workshop increase your understanding of Domestic Violence?	12/100%		
Did the workshop increase your understanding of Sexuality, Violence and Sexual & Reproductive Health?	10/83%	2/17%	
Do you think the workshop was successful in promoting positive action to reduce domestic violence & other form of gender based violence in your community?	12/100%		
Do you think your group/community plan of action is a good one?	11/92%		
Will you give support to activities in your community to reduce domestic violence & other forms of gender based violence?	12/100%		
Did you think the workshop was well facilitated?	12/100%		
Do you think there was enough time for group work and sharing of information?	9/75%	2/17%	
Was the workshop venue, arrangements and food good?	11/92%		
Were handouts useful and informative?	12/100%		

What participants found most useful about the workshop:

- The information, style and knowledge in presenting information by facilitators
- Explanations about differences & similarities among sexes. This knowledge will help to improve personal relationships
- Sharing of opinions and views on domestic violence by different religious leaders and how they will act as 'drivers' to make changes
- The openness and participation at the workshop made me wiser and more knowledgeable on GBV and DV
- The differences demonstrated on ways in which male and females think will be applied to help others
- Understanding that men and women are different in their personalities and ways of expressing love, language, expectations etc will make it easier to understand and relate to both the abused and abusers
- The workshop empowered us with the requisite knowledge and know how on how to engage and deal with issues of DV through the Church and as a religious leader in order to impact the community of Den Amstel positively
- Handouts and visual and verbal information shared

What participants found least useful:

- One participant expressed concern about not being able to determine if the food was prepared according to his religious dietary rules

How participants will use information gained:

- To sensitize and educate others about the evils of DV
- To educate my committee and abused persons
- To educate Church members first and foremost, help and counsel the abused and abusers, to reach out to the wider community through activities highlighting DV and offering help to those in need
- I will try my best to teach in the mosque and in my village where people are suffering
- I will join with the already active group in the community and share this information and also make myself available to help
- To improve my life, the life of my family and the lives of persons living in my community especially survivors of abuse
- I will use the information gained to educate family, friends, Church members, community leaders and all those I come into contact with

Other comments:

- The workshop was well presented, information was empowering and will certainly help us as “drivers” to stop DV
- Everything was good for me! The workshop was well timed, well toned and at the right place. Thank you! God richly bless you, keep up the good work
- Special thanks to all the persons who worked to make the workshop a huge success
- Recommend that H&S hold more such workshops and invite not only leaders but others so they can also benefit
- Development of a power point presentation on DV would be good to help workshop participants in propagating knowledge about DV