

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

EVALUATION OF SECOND COVENT GARDEN PEER EDUCATOR WORKSHOP - APRIL 2009

The second Peer Educator Workshop scheduled for the community of Covent Garden was held on the 22nd & 23rd April, 2009. Due to reasons beyond Help & Shelter's control it was not possible to host this workshop in the month of March 2009 as was done for the other project communities of Kaneville, Den Amstel and Good Hope.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- To evaluate the community plan of action
- To examine the dynamics of peer education, relationships and child abuse
- To sharpen the facilitation skills of potential peer educators

Programme

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

- Review of Topics from 1st Workshop: Self, Gender, Domestic Violence
- Feedback on Group Activities in the Community
- Role of the Facilitator
- Role of the Peer Educator
- Role Play: Self, Gender, Domestic Violence
- Healthy/Unhealthy Relationships
- Child Abuse
- Plan of Action

Attendance/Gender

Covent Garden's second Peer Educator's Workshop was held on the 22nd & 23rd of April, 2009 at the Covent Garden Secondary School with mostly Fifth Form students of the school. The total attendance at the workshop was twenty (20) over the two day period. Of the twenty (20) participants, ten (10) were female and ten (10) were male. On the first day sixteen (16) participants attended and on the second day nineteen (19) participants attended. Seventeen (17) participants or 85% attended the workshop on both days.

Age

Participants' ages ranged from sixteen (14) years to seventeen (17) years as follows:

- 14-15 years – 3 persons (17%)*
- 16-17 years - 15 persons (83%)

*Only eighteen (18) persons out of the twenty (20) persons who attended the workshop recorded their ages on their evaluation sheets.

Community Educator's Evaluation

Review of Topics

Domestic Violence -In their presentation on domestic violence participants were able to adequately present aspects of domestic violence, such as where it occurs, who it can affect, the different forms of domestic violence, signs of domestic violence and the entrapment process, however the reasons for its occurrence had to be reinforced during the assessment of presentations. Another aspect which was left out of the initial presentation was the names of agencies and organizations where abused persons can go to for help. Participants also agreed that

an important message to always convey in discussions domestic violence is that no one deserves to be abused and don't blame the victim for the abuse.

Sex & Gender - in their presentations, participants demonstrated a fair knowledge of the difference between sex and gender especially on the aspect of gender roles. They were able to identify the different stereotypical roles placed on women and men e.g. men must be the breadwinner/women should be caring.

Self -the presentations reflected the need to respect yourself, take pride in yourself both for outward and inner qualities and the need for self improvement through changing negatives into positives.

Feedback on Group Activities

The peer educators did an excellent job in educating their peers.

Group Unity Alliance- This group had four (4) members, three of them did awareness talks with the basketball team on different types of abuse including domestic violence, gender and HIV. As a result one (1) member came to this follow up workshop and spoke about the one-on-one intervention with his peers and how it made an impact on his life. During the awareness talks with members of the basket ball team forms of abuse witnessed or experienced were:

- kneeling on a food grater
- kneeling on raw grains of rice
- beatings with barbed wire

Group World Changers- The second group had fourteen (14) members, ten were active. They made badges for their group members, designed posters on the 'Cycle of Abuse' and 'Web of Abuse' which were put up in shops and on lantern posts in the community. The group also photocopied 40 Help & Shelter Domestic Violence leaflets and distributed them.

The peer educators also did an awareness session with the School Bible Club on domestic violence and presented a drama on domestic violence at school which the students loved.

Challenges- some of the posters made were torn down and some of the initial planning was poor
Successes- Group 1 encouraged one basketball player to join the group. The team was empowered and felt confident while interacting with their peers and they was very good involvement of team members in activities. *

Roles of the Facilitator & Peer Educator

Role of the Facilitator-The session started with the facilitator asking participants the question – who is a facilitator? Responses given were- someone who educates, someone like a teacher, someone who teaches you what you need to know, someone who is outspoken. The facilitator then gave an outline of the role of the facilitator including paying attention to room arrangements, the setting of ground rules for participants and facilitators, need for careful planning of workshops or awareness sessions, use of ice-breakers and warm up activities, need to develop good listening skills, evaluation of the session at the end and good presentation of topics.

Role of the Peer Educator- Identifying who is a peer educator and the role of a peer educator was discussed with participants. The facilitator at the end of this discussion felt that the participants gained new knowledge about peer education but recommended that more work needs to be done in this area.

Role Play: Self, Gender, Domestic Violence

The role plays reflected the various aspects of the topics discussed in fun ways. The issues of domestic violence, self and gender were clear. The group that acted out the issue of domestic violence was adjudged the best by the participants.

Healthy/Unhealthy Relationships

A quiz on questions and answers on relationships was used to open up the discussion on this topic. Questions such as – Girls like boys to be aggressive and in control/Jealousy is a sign of caring love/If a girl doesn't fight back it's not rape/Once a boy is turned on he has to have sex-were some of the questions posed. It was noted that some of the girls indicated that they liked boys to show some aggressive behaviour as they did not want boys to be 'soft' all the time. However they were able to understand that being soft spoken, kind and respectful were not signs of weakness. On the issue of jealousy there were mixed views, male participants revealed that if they were dating a girl they would not want her talking or interacting in too friendly a manner with another guy. Male participants also said that the more they liked a girl the more jealous they felt about her this view was also shared by some of the female participants. The facilitator reinforced the need for relationships to be premised on mutual trust, respect, communication, and individual self confidence if there are to be healthy.

Child Abuse

In discussing this issue the different forms and signs of child abuse were outlined. The use of correct names for female and male genitalia was also emphasized and recommended that these be taught to children. During the discussion on this issue a number of participants disclosed the types and severity of physical abuse they had experienced as children. These included being beaten with shoes, brooms, PVC hoses, tree branches, clothes hangers etc. One male participant shared his story of being beaten at the age of 9 by his aunt with the rubber lining from a pressure pot after returning from catching fish with his friends. Another male participant was told by his father to take off his jersey, then held on the ground and beaten on his back mercilessly; he said he felt like running away after this beating. Another boy revealed that at the age of 10 he was repeatedly beaten either with a bamboo stick or a leather belt wrapped in scotch tape by his father until he threatened to injure his father if he dared hit him again. Other participants disclosed being made to kneel on a food grater as a form of punishment. One of the participants shared the situation of the family living next door to him where the children aged 3-12 go to school very irregularly and when one misbehaves they are all beaten, cuffed or kicked, sometimes they are even put in a plastic barrel of water and covered down. The mother of these children is also physically and verbally abused by her husband/partner and has threatened to commit suicide on many occasions. One of the members of the project management team promised to report the matter to the governmental probation and welfare department. During the session two of the girls became very emotional in relating an incident where one of their friends who also attends this same school was sexually abused by her stepfather. The matter was never reported to the authorities and the girl is now living with her grandmother because her mother has taken back the same man who sexually abused her daughter into the house. One of the facilitators spoke privately to the girls who disclosed the matter after the session and will be following up the matter with them and the girl in question. This incident took place last year 2008 and the child has never received any counselling just support from her close friends. Another female participant also revealed that she has never got over her father's death and is finding it hard to cope.

Community Action Plans

Unfortunately due to time constraints it was not possible for participants to complete their plans of action during the workshop. Instead it was proposed that the participants meet after the workshop to prepare and implement their plans of action and the facilitators will meet with them in one month's time to get an update.

Analysis of Participants' Evaluation Forms

A total of nineteen (19) forms were filled out and returned representing 95% of the total number of participants attending the workshop. All of the participants agreed definitely that information was presented in a way they understood, their knowledge and understanding about healthy/unhealthy relationships and child abuse had increased and that the workshop was successful in promoting positive action to reduce domestic violence & other forms of gender

based violence. Between 95% -89% of all participants indicated that they definitely increased their knowledge of facilitation, the role of the facilitator and facilitation skills, including the qualities of a peer educator. Facilitation of the workshop was assessed as definitely good and handouts useful and informative. A total of 16 participants or 84% agreed that they had definitely gained new knowledge about peer education and the workshop venue, arrangements and food was good. The lowest approval rating was given was in relation to adequate time for group work and sharing of information only 68% of participants definitely agreed that this was achieved.

Programme Topic	Yes, Definitely	Somewhat	No, Not at all	No Response
Was information presented in a way you could understand?	19/100%			
Did you learn new ideas or skills?	16/84%	2/11%		1/5%
Did the workshop increase your knowledge and understanding of Facilitation and the Role of the Facilitator?	18/95%			
Do you think you have learnt more skills to be a facilitator at this workshop?	17/89%	2/11%		
Did you gain new knowledge and understanding of Peer Education?	16/84%	2/11%		1/5%
Do you understand the qualities and work of Peer Educators	17/89%	1/5%		1/5% %
Did the workshop increase your understanding and knowledge about Healthy/Unhealthy Relationships?	19/100%			
Did the workshop increase your understanding and knowledge of Child Abuse and the different types of Child Abuse?	19/100%			
Do you think the workshop was successful in promoting positive action to reduce domestic violence & other form of gender based violence in your community?	19/100%	1/11%		
Do you think the plan of action for the community is a good one?				
Will you give support to the plan of action?				
Did you like the way the workshop was facilitated?	17/89%		1/5%	1/5%
Do you think there was enough time for group work and sharing of information?	13/68%	5/26%	1/5%	
Was the workshop venue, arrangements and food good?	16/84%	2/11%		1/5%
Were handouts useful and informative?	17/89%	2/11%		

What Participants Found Most Useful

Among the things that participants found most useful about the workshop were the following:

- healthy and unhealthy relationships was the thing I found most useful
- education us about violence which is prevalent in society
- that a relationship isn't all about sex
- I learnt about sexual abuse and peer education
- More information about domestic violence
- Peer education
- Understanding each other and how to deal with immediate matters e.g. child abuse
- Facilitators were friendly and knowledgeable
- I personally found everything useful

What Participants Found Least Useful

Among the things that participants found least useful were:

- ice breakers and most of all the time for discussion on child abuse

Participants Ideas for Improving the Workshop

Suggestions for improving the workshop were:

- more workshops and for more days
- more ice-breakers and a little more time for explaining
- More time limits
- Having more handouts and materials
- One persons speaking at a time
- Promote programmes on radio & TV

Additional Comments of Participants

- Everyone gave their full attention and facilitators did a great job
- The workshop was a good one and it was very beneficial to me
- Thank you for being here for us
- I loved the workshop