

HIV/ AIDS, ALCOHOL & GENDER
A Strategic Communication perspective
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Intervention strategies
of the GVRC

Sam Thenya, Nbi hospital, gvrc



BACKGROUND

- The Gender Violence Recovery Center is a registered non profit-making, non- partisan charitable trust of the Nairobi Womens Hospital.
- The institutional capacity of GVRC has grown from 1 staff member to 14 employees.
- Since inception, GVRC has treated over **7400** survivors of sexual assault & domestic violence, where out of the total 6051 were rape and defilement, 1349 were cases of domestic violence. 45% of the survivors were children below 18 years, and 6% were men and the rest were women (49%).

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Medical examination
- Laboratory testing and X-rays include (HIV/AIDS, High Vaginal Swab, Hepatitis B, Pregnancy and Venereal Diseases testing)
- Collection of samples, Preservation of Evidence & Expert testimonies in court.
- Access to pregnancy prevention medication & PEP treatment
- Hospitalization
- Accommodation-24 Hrs
- Professional counseling on one on one basis and social work follow up

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- Support group sessions for survivors of rape
- Networking and referrals to other organizations for long term shelters, legal aid and economic empowerment
- Gender Violence Monitoring Unit provides statistics to GBV stake holders & other interested parties
- Dissemination of information pamphlets to partners, public and other agencies.
- Media publicity and awareness creation for preventative approaches to Domestic Violence
- Training & Capacity building to health workers, law enforcement officers & community leaders etc

CHALLENGES/ SURPRISES ENCOUNTERED IN THE PROJECT

- Limited Financial Resources
- Despite the work, the number of rape cases reported keep increasing
- Lack of Space
- Lack of adequate human resource
- Sodomy cases are on the increase in schools
- The Dilemma of handling consensual sex among school going children

CRITICAL STEPS/ PROCESSES WE WOULD REPEAT

- **Govt Lobbying-** GVRC together with other Civil Society Organizations lobbied the government to convert some of the police stations to set up gender and children desks. This led to the conversion of Kilimani police station to exclusively handle gender based violence meted on women and children.
- **Sexual Offences ACT:** GVRC provided statistics which were used in the lobbying and advocacy of the sexual offences act. The Act has helped in reforming the law and it enhances harsher punishments for the sex offenders.
- **Rape Red spots:** Bill boards were initially put in the sites to educate people about rape. The red spots e.g. Globe cinema, Railways have been transformed to Bus termini with each having a police post.

STEPS THAT WE WOULD NOT REPEAT

- Implementation without proper planning
- Implementation without a stable source of funding that has caused a deficit
- Monitoring and Evaluation of the program should be done at all stages of the program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The project is viable and tremendously important in our communities today.
- Sustainability of the project would be wise to ensure continuity.
- Donor sensitization of the need to support this project