

Techno-peer Intervention

Project title:

Techno-peer intervention for improving sexual self efficacy among the adolescents and youth of Pune District, Maharashtra

Need for the intervention:

Adolescent and young people, aged 15-24 years, are the most vulnerable for acquiring HIV. With more than 40% new infections occurring in general population, focused intervention for youth from general population is critical for HIV prevention efforts. In order to reach out to the 'at risk' youth from general population, narratives of HIV prevention messages, which largely are fear based narratives of risk, need a paradigm shift. More positive and empowering discourse on sexuality is needed to address health issues among young people. Therefore creating intervention which not only provide correct knowledge but builds self-efficacy of young people are needed. Self-efficacy is an individual's belief to be able to achieve something in a given circumstance. Sexual self-efficacy refers to the perceived behavior control that one has to engage in pleasurable, responsible, and safe sexual behavior and also to avoid and resist unwanted sexual activity.

Intervention:

The proposed intervention tries to approach HIV prevention issue as embedded within the wider issue of human sexuality. The approach would work towards improving self-efficacy of adolescents and youth to make healthy choices including decisions regarding HIV and sexual risk behaviours. Through this intervention, context specific audio-visual e-Learning resource material would be created through active participation of adolescents and youth. The e-Learning resources would be disseminated to the target population through organizations working with youth with the help of trained peer supporters. Organizations working on issues other than sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) would be identified in order increase cross-sectoral linkages. The intervention would be implemented in Pune district of Maharashtra, India.

Aim of the intervention:

The overall aim of this intervention is to improve self-efficacy of adolescent and youth (15-24) to protect and promote their sexual health.

To achieve this aim this intervention project will work on the following objectives:

1. Create e-Learning, audio-visual resource material through active participation of youth, on different issues related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) including HIV for building their self-efficacy
2. Campaign for inclusion of SRHR e-Learning among organization/groups working with youth
3. Build capacities of peer supporter to disseminate e-learning resources among youth, and facilitate linkage of youth to appropriate SRHR services (including HIV testing)

The duration of the study is two years commencing from 02.04.2018