

PPE 617 PM - Young female sex workers peer education project

Executive Summary

- Aim and Objectives

The ultimate aim of this project is to enhance the awareness of safer sex practice and promote the culture of condom use and HIV tests in the young female sex workers community by peer education.

- Project design

The project target young female sex workers under 25 years old who work in hidden places of sex industry, such as night clubs and internet. Young women who are selling sex through internet are in less accessible establishments, they are vulnerable from HIV and other STD infection because of their nature of underground and lack of sexual health knowledge.

Young female sex workers were trained to be peer educators of this project. They were or currently sex workers. They had been trained for HIV prevention and basic counseling knowledge. Peer educators and young female sex workers shared similar experiences, background, they are the people who understand young female sex workers most, and so they are very convincing to our target population. They joined the outreach with the worker on Internet and at nightclubs, and the worker could following up on the HIV test and safe sex education with non-judgmental approach.

The project also used a lot of new tools, including smart phones, different types of instant message tool and application, to make sure we get closer to the community, and provide HIV prevention education which are practical for their situation.

- Target population

The project target young women who are selling sex under 25 years old, especially who work through internet. They are mostly young, new in the sex industry, the mobility is very high.

- Main achievements

The project was successfully built a network between female sex workers who are selling sex on the Internet. 15 trained peer educators and the project officer worked approached young female sex workers over than 3900 times, 644 female sex workers and provided 208 times of HIV test.

According to the statistics, 22% more of the young female sex workers performed safer sex after the project engagement. This result reflected that the project was successfully get into the young female sex worker community who are selling sex online.

- Conclusions

The project was successfully create a network among young female sex workers as peer educators. Also, the project raised their awareness of HIV prevention in a non-judgmental approach. They are in less accessible establishments, new in the sex industry and also young, which means they are more vulnerable when they are problems with sex trade clients or questions on HIV and other STDs. This project stepped into their community and hope to change the current situation. The result is encouraging, and also shown that there are a lot of rooms to improve and work with this community to prevent HIV.