

Dream Cast

DRAMA GROUP

Introduction

Theatre drama training was conducted between 12 to 23rd of July 2005.

The training was funded by Oxfam International Youth Parliament

The project was Coordinated by myself (Kennedy Folasi) with the support from Save the children Staff and Community youth Committee.

The project was targeting unemployed and out of school youths in the multi-ethnic community that I lived in. (Tuaruhu multi-ethnic Community)

Nine female and eleven male unemployed and out of school youths from different ethnic back ground and religion in the community registered their names to join in for the training.

One of the main issues we are targeting is unemployment and education by seeking opportunities for the young people in the group.

The program was facilitated by Save the Children Australia (SCA) peer educator, Family support centre Drama team leader, and Solomon Island National Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) Radio drama specialist.

We had to add two extra days for presentation of dramas and certificates and recording radio drama at the National Radio Station which was provided for by the management of SIBC (Solomon Island Broadcasting Corporation). Overall, the participants enjoyed the two extra days, although this was not in the plan of action, as they enabled the youths to learn and experience new skills.

The community youths were aware of the program because it was announced in the church and through posters stating the target group of the project and who would participate in the training.

Getting youths to participate is no problem, and several of the left outs are eager to join the drama group and have approached the drama committee for permission, so now the number is increased to 23 participants,

So we split the group into two groups of eleven youths..

The Drama group has been mobilized by Save the Children Australia youth outreach program to dramatize issues affecting young people in the communities around Honiara.

Issues dramatized were:

Lack of information about-

- Teenage pregnancy
- Unwanted pregnancy
- Unprotected sex

- Lack of self esteem
- Substance abuse

Story of Banny and Sophie

- Child abuse
- Child rights
- Domestic violence

Impact

Young people involved in the Dream Cast drama group have shown a lot of progress in their behavioral attitudes and are now empowered to make the right decisions..

- Drama group has formed a committee to work on the programs and coordinate the next programs
- The participants' parents were impressed with their children's slight change of attitude.
- Participants are now skilled in script writing and public performance.
- Five (2 female and 3 male) are now employed at the Honiara Beautification; they are involved in beautifying the Honiara town by planting trees and flowers around the town.
- Two males from the group have decided to go back to school this year.
- One female has trained with Save the Children Australia as a Volunteer peer educator for the community and has been involved with the drama group as a peer educator in the community.
- The drama group won first prize at the World AIDS Day on 1st of December 2005 dramatizing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV.
- Solomon Island Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) conducted interviews with each of the drama participants and recorded and broadcast two radio drama pieces written by the participants themselves
- Young people are now confident to do drama in public setting.

Activities Dream cast organized for the youths in the community

The Dream cast drama group organized Sport activity once a month in our own community for our young men and women, a Karaoke night in the community, and hike along the mountain tracks, 36 young people from the community participated in the walk and clean ups around the community. Including fundraisings to sustain the programs dream cast organized in the community for the young people, Police talks (crime prevention) .

Next Mission.

Dream Cast drama group's next mission is to conduct more drama performances in the community around Honiara and publish radio drama in the media. Dream Cast has established a strong link with Save the Children Australia (SCA) here in the Solomons and The National Radio station (SIBC). Dream Cast will be using the SCA network in the communities and schools in Honiara and will be performing radio drama on air; 21 unemployed/out of school young men and women will be participating in the program as well as our own community programs.