



health

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NEWS

STAY INFORMED

26 July 2018

**YOUNG WOMEN'S DIALOGUE
(SHE CONQUERS CAMPAIGN) AT NQUTHU
SUB-DISTRICT.**



**Learners from Bongumenzi High School during Young Women dialogue
(SHE CONQUERS CAMPAIGN) on 26 July 2018.**



**MS. KESHNEE NAICKER AD-
DRESSING YOUNG WOMEN**



**STAKEHOLDERS DURING YOUNG
WOMENS DIALOGUE**



**MRS ROSE SIBUYA ADRESSING
YOUNG WOMEN'S AT BONGUMENZI.**

FIGHTING DISEASE, FIGHTING POVERTY, GIVING HOPE



Group discussions during dialogue on their knowledge about Sexual Transmitted diseases, Risk behaviors, their knowledge, feelings about HIV/AIDS and implications of HIV/AIDS.

On 26 July 2018 the Provincial Department of Health conducted Young Women Dialogue (She Conquers) at Nquthu Sub District under Umzinyathi. This dialogue conducted at two secondary schools (Bongumenzi and Ndlangamandla Secondary school). These two schools were identified as being one with high number of pregnancy and substance abuse.

She Conquers campaign aims to improve the lives of adolescent girls and young women in South Africa. This campaign is also aimed in providing every adolescent girl and young woman in the country with access to the resources that they need to lead a happy, healthy and successful and healthy life and safe from violence.

The young girls were able to discuss the seriousness of the AGYW challenges and achievements in context of being practical and realistic. DOH teams, uMzinyathi District health team, school health Team and the Clinic committees and hospital board members were excited to be part of the campaign and pledged their support if capacitated and guided accordingly. The chairpersons of the school governing bodies were full of accolades for the team and are willing to work closely with the parents and communities in ensuring that the AGYW and boys have access to the comprehensive package of services and requested that this campaign filter down to all schools in the area.

The principals, Heads of departments, Life Orientation educators, and selected educators expressed their gratitude at the innovative interventions proposed by the campaign and have requested that boys are inclusive due to the intricate and complex behavioral attributes that are trending in the community.

Areas of Concern:

- The rising easy access of cheap drugs “ RG and Scissors” a dagga concoction sold to learners by adults in the community.
- Correctional Services and SAPS including leadership and business men have been identified as some of the men who buy sex from the young girls and even boys and is flagged as a serious issue.
- There is huge “TRUST” issue raised by the communities.
- Parents especially adult women pressurize the girls to sell their bodies in exchange for groceries and material support.
- Adult men in the community have little or no authority in their households as they are unemployed where as their women are favoured by Government grants. This leads to conflict and sometimes serious gender based violence.
- Unemployment is rife
- Inter-general communication is non-existent. The gap is widened by absent fathers and parents who leave their children in the care of old women to work in Urban towns.
- The main issue raised is “Parenting”. Parents provide no love, guidance and interest in their children. They do not attend and participate in school meetings.
- Teen age pregnancy is glamourized and girls are forced to express interest in older men.
- Youth are facing immense mental strain which is complex and varied



Teachers, Learners and School Governing Body of Ndlangamandla high School during Discussion on the seriousness of the young girls challenges on matters pertaining to teenage pregnancy, drug abuse and violence.

With these Dialogue we have learnt that:

- Learners knowledge and information is very good. However they remain text book content and there is difficulty in relating to the youth culture that is trending.
- Girls who in relationships with their peers have negotiated a deal. The boys ensure that the girls sell sex and the monies received is shared between them.
- Girls have sex just because they want to keep the male happy and maintain that relationship.
- Services are not friendly and are very judgmental.
- They do want prevention methods but feel inhibited due to access points in the community.
- Learners require enabling environments to explore and a curriculum that is inclusive of arts, music, crafts. lessons are very much classroom based.
- The main source of sex, relationships and reproductive health is got from friends and peers
- They know about condoms but have no knowledge of how it is used
- Learners are sexually active but parents have their heads buried in the sand.



The Department of Health Team on 26 July 2018 visited Ndlangamandla High School to talk with Principal, Educators, Governing Body and learners about Teenage Pregnancy, substance abuse, Risk behavior and issues related to HIV/AIDS.

What do learners want:

- All sexually learners especially girls must go on a contraceptive until they finish school Access to services in an environment that is friendly and non-judgmental.
- Availability of condoms in schools or in places in the community that is AFYS
- Parents to communicate, be more supportive and understand the changing times
- Establish clubs which offers a variety of activity.
- We are proud of Bongumenzi school where 3 girls placed 2nd in a Science competition in Kimberley representing the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Through this dialogue (SHE CONQUERS) we were able to achieve ambassadors in the school and Assurance of cooperation from all stakeholders especially School Governing Body and school management teams.

Working towards the schools acquiring a Health promotion status. Teams to develop implementation plans which will be supported.

In Conclusion :

The team concluded that:

- An Integrated provincial team shall be convened to engage in matters raised.
- The District teams to provide guidance on the development of the implementation framework which is inclusive of OSS.
- Province presentation to district municipality
- A district documentary to be developed



Ms. Keshnee interacting with Learners from Bongumenzi High School.



Team members preparing topics to be discussed by young women before the dialogue



Ikusasa lami group reporting back to the team on the exercise that were given to them to discuss.



Team Leader (Ms. Naicker) interacting with learners during the dialogue



Ms. Keshnee Naicker giving instructions on what is expected to be done during group discussions.



These three learners who received 2nd position in Kimberly with a Project of saving electricity are Skhulile Mazibuko, Xoliswa Shabalala, and Anele Ntsele.



This was during the closing remarks by the team members after the dialogue at Bongumenzi high school.

REPORT BACK PICTURES OF GROUPS



The Editorial and organizing team : would like to thank the cooperation by School Principals, Educators , School Governing Bodies, clinic and hospital board members, learners, especially the following educators : Ms. Gwamanda, Mr. Shelembe, Mr. Nyofana who were with the team for both two days.

she conquers
 A campaign to empower adolescent girls and young women across South Africa

Empower. Protect. Advance

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