

Principles of Research Design in Public Health (part III)

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Module 1: Research Methodology, Unit 11: Community Methods of Research

Building capacity and community resilience to HIV: a project designed, implemented, and evaluated by young people in ...

A partnership formed between a mass movement, a national HIV committee, and an international agency, implemented an HIV capacity building project in the youth sector. Involving the local community in situation analysis, strategic planning and skills-building was a key focus of the project. District project teams were trained in proposal development, and implementation of HIV prevention activities. Young village volunteers were trained in participatory research, analysis, and behaviour change communication. After 6 years, the partnership used qualitative methods to evaluate local project outcomes. Evaluation found that the teams and volunteers had improved skills in the areas in which they had been trained. Communities and local government staff increased understanding of the HIV situation in their districts, expressing a sense of ownership over their activity plans. Young people more readily acknowledged personal risk of HIV infection and were more comfortable talking about sexually transmitted infections. Although there were challenges to sustaining project activities in some areas, the approach helped to engage youth and build their resilience to HIV in this low prevalence country .