

Module 5: HIV/AIDS and young people - Adolescent health and development with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health - Assignment

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Groups of young people in Ethiopia who should be targeted with HIV interventions

The group of young people to be targeted for the intervention of HIV/AIDS prevention and control issue in Ethiopia should include but not limited to:

- Young people at secondary school.
- At higher learning institution.
- Out of school young people who are at most risk for the problem.
- Young people at refuge.
- Substance users.
- Young people engaged at daily labour work such as construction and agricultural activities.
- Traditional risk groups of young people who engaged in sex work and high way travel.
- Homeless on street young people.
- Young people who participated in mobile shopping services.
- Displaced young people.
- Academically dismissed university students among one of the most at risk.

These groups of young people become at risk for many reasons. To mention some:

- For example, if we take students at the university levels in our country come from different parts of the country with various socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. When they join the university campus, they found many new issues. Unlike many countries in the world, Ethiopia offers boarding services for university students that bring them closer in a campus for long time, which may expose them for many new practices. Some studies show that significant proportion of students start sex at the university campus. The study conducted in our university also revealed that 12% of our university students out of who ever had sex started in the campus. The condom utilization rate is very low. Some of the university students mentioned that they had sexual contact with commercial sex workers without condom. The reasons for their sexual débuted include: physiological desire, competing with others, peer influence, substance use and abuses, feeling of freedom, considering that joining university is one success that they need to enjoy life.

- Street children are at risk as there is no one objectively take care of them that they are the one to exercise substances abuse, behave on contrary and engage in risk sexual behavior. It is very common for female street young girl to be raped, which would expose to HIV infection.
- For others, lack of comprehensive knowledge, ignorance, persistence substances abuse and other factors put them at most risk.

Interventions

There is no one magic bullet for effective prevention intervention but effective HIV prevention programming may focus on the critical relationship between the epidemiology of HIV infection, the risk behaviors that transmit HIV and the cultural, institutional and structural factors that drive risk behaviors.

Successful tailoring requires:

- Understanding the unique characteristics of the epidemic.
- Taking context into consideration.
- Detailed understanding of the most appropriate interventions for the particular setting-packages.

Combination prevention

- Structural
- Biomedical
- Behavioral
- Cross cutting

Structural interventions

- Laws
 - Decriminalization of behaviors
 - Inheritance laws
- Policy
 - 100% condom use
 - Care settings
 - HIV testing protocols
 - Allocation of resources
 - Task shifting
- Community
 - Addressing stigma and discrimination

- Empowering MARP groups
- Economic
 - Income generation activities

Behavioral Interventions

- Behavior change communication
- Community outreach
- Peer-based outreach programs
- Increased condom availability
- Increased condom use
- HIV counseling and testing
- Prevention for positives

Biomedical Interventions

- STI diagnosis and care
- Medical male circumcision
- HIV counseling and testing
- Referrals to substance abuse counseling and treatment
- Emerging technologies

Cross cutting Interventions

- Collection and use of epidemiologic data
 - Behavioral risk
 - Size estimation
- Program Monitoring and Evaluation
- Laboratory
 - Mobile services
 - Rapid tests
- Care and treatment
 - Facility, community, and mobile services
 - Health care worker training to reduce stigma and sensitize to special needs

Assignment document

1. [Ferguson J. HIV/AIDS and young people. Paper presented at: Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research; 2010 Sep 26; Geneva.](#)