

HIV/AIDS Program

Creative Communication



Aim:

To reduce the impact and spread of HIV in Vietnam

Objectives:

To increase family self-esteem through self-help groups for seropositive mothers, their children and other affected family members

Background:

MCNV has been providing support since 2004 to women infected and affected by HIV and illicit drug addiction. Members of these support groups, the Sunflowers and Cactus Blossoms, have gained confidence through a combination of interventions: access to medicines, income generating activities, psychosocial support and training in creative communication.

Learning to share experiences and listen to others are particularly important skills for peer support groups. These skills have been built through communication training by an international creative communication consultant and by hands-on practice. For the groups it is very motivating to develop a collaborative artwork, such as radio documentaries based on the more open communication that comes from the project exercises.

In such artwork(s), each person can make a personal

Achievements:

- Increased confidence and skills for support group members to communicate with each other and with authorities
- CD of radio documentary, life stories of HIV positive women, made by themselves
- Short fiction film based on the life stories of the HIV positive women, broadcast on television in Vietnam and internationally
- Three collaborative art works and performances in Hanoi, Thainguyen anh Quangninh with >5000 persons attending
- Exhibition of installation art in the National Women's Museum in Hanoi
- Two rap music DVD made by female former drug users about their lives
- 20 core members have learned to be trainers and training assistants
- 120 group members have better understanding of inclusive and exclusive communication behaviours in the group

Feedbacks:

"We spent an unforgettable time together during the course in creative communication. During this time, we worked happily, sharing happiness and sorrow, encouraging and helping each other. The common goal brought us together and we no longer felt shy, hesitant or inferior." (*Sunflower group, Cao Bang*)



contribution with the support and guidance of an experienced artist. This combination of therapeutic exercises that open up personal stories and ideas with the technical inputs from experienced artist(s) to develop a harmonious project supports both individual and collective development of the group, and is also artistically interesting.

Main activities:

The program provides creative communication training, training of trainers, hands-on coaching training, implementation of collaborative art work and performances, collaborative rap clip and film making.

"We were able to share our circumstances freely, our lives of drugs and sadness. After the training, I happily told myself: "My friends and I can still learn, be creative and useful to society". Since that success, I gain confidence as each day goes by to thrive in life." (*Cactus Blossom group, Hanoi*)
"The training course taught me how I could live better and do my best to be confident enough to stand up in front of people. The meetings with group members and other Sunflower groups increased my knowledge and life experience."
(*Sunflower group, Hanoi*)

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