

Wasat two days youth camp training November 2023

The training was conducted during long school holidays, the training took two days in order for the youths to have enough time to interact with the mentors who were the facilitators to these sessions.

Purpose of the youth camp

Raising awareness about dangers associated with FGM, child marriage, teenage pregnancies and promotion of girl child education and reproductive health

To Equip the youth with life skills

To highlight the consequences of child marriage and teenage pregnancies on wellbeing of the youths

To provide youths with life skills that can help them make informed decisions about their future life

Present during the training

Boys 49

Girls 39

Mentors 2

Total 90

Topics

- Reproductive health
- FGM
- Basic human rights
- Importance of education
- Teenage pregnancies and child marriages
- FGM model presentation
- Life skills

The meeting started with introduction and prayer this was followed by facilitation on anatomy reproductive health talk, the facilitator tackled on changes during adolescence in both boys and girls. The youth were advised to refrain and abstain from having sexual intercourse which might result into pregnancies

FGM training was the origin and the effects with demonstration by the model. The participants gave their local understanding of the origin of FGM, where they stated that it was inherited from the fore grandmothers. On asking about the initial purpose of FGM, the response was that:

- Mutilation was a rite of passage
- That a woman is ready for marriage
- Source of wealth to the family
- Social gathering ceremonies for distance relatives
- It makes a woman to be braver and bolder in handling family issues

Different types of mutilation as part of introduction were discussed at length as follows:

1. Clitoridectomy: this is the partial or total removal of the clitoris or the prepuce
2. Excision: involves total or partial removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora.
3. Infibulations: this is narrowing of the vaginal orifice with the creation of a covering seal by cutting and a positioning the labia minora or the labia majora, with or without excision of the clitoris.
4. Unclassified: These involve any other procedure that causes any injury to female genital organ for instance pricking, clitoris stretching of clitoris, piercing, incision, scraping among any other injury.

life skills

life skills provide practical tool for personal development in decision making, effective communication, building self-esteem and confidence.

Model presentation:

With the use of model (wooden structure), FGM procedure for type three

(infibulations) which is practiced among pokot community was very clear and that it was the worst type of mutilation.

Consequences of FGM that was discussed was as follows:

- over bleeding
- shock
- acute anaemia
- infections e.g. HIV and tetanus
- death
- fistula complication
- difficulty during child delivery
- keloids
- urine retention
- painful sexual intercourse
- school dropout
- early pregnancies
- earl marriage
- stigmatization
- Deformed genital organ
- Scars
- Body not ready for pregnancy
- Traumatization
- Gilt
- Anger

Conclusively the youths agreed that fgm is outdated practice that should not be accepted in this generation and rather focus of education and modern life style.

Early marriage

Child marriage is a common phenomenon in pokot community and has really affected life of many young girls. Through the facilitation a number of negative effects about child/early marriage was discussed at lager this includes:

- School dropout
- Difficulty during child birth ○ Complication during mother hood period ○ Lack of personal and social development ○ Forced into marriage as they are married by old men ○ Lack of love and communication in the marriage ○ Malnutrition among the children ○ Poor health of the mother

Teenage pregnancies were another challenge among the youths, this was evidenced during corona pandemic where young girls got pregnant either by their fellow youth or adult persons. It was clear that most of these pregnancies do happens during social gatherings.

Youth camps and Kwarakwara(night functions).other avenues are boda-boda riders taking advantage of girls during their menses. Lack of parental guidance was other factors contributing to high teenage pregnancies.

The facilitators encouraged them to abstain from sex or use protection such as condoms so that they can have time to achieve their dreams through education. It was also surprising that some of the youths had never seen condom and how it is used. Negative effects of teenage pregnancies was also discussed and this were some of it

- Leads to early marriages
- Forces one to undergo fgm so that she can be married
- School dropout
- Stigmatization
- Poor health of the mother and the child
- Being married to a old man
- Among others

The youths were also taught about basic human rights that included Right to

- Education
- Medical care
- Food
- Shelter
- Clothing's

Other rights were right equal oppportunity by government such as

- Good roads
- Schools
- Health facilities
- Having a voice to fight for your right as a person and community at large

The youth camp was a success though with a lot of reactions from all sites, some of it was as follows

- That more training be conducted every school holiday
- That office should be close to the project site so that many youths can get access to services on time
- School advocacies and sensitization be conducted during school calendars to meet many youths
- That we should have school clubs for the youths to encourage themselves