

TITLE: Engaging Community Stakeholders to Develop a Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Education Program for Youth in Botswana

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Sexual and reproductive health/ researchers, health educators, program developers

ABSTRACT: Botswana has a population of 2.3 million, and currently, Botswana has the third highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate (22%) in the world. Botswana's youth face many challenges, including limited or misinformation about sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues. Currently, there is no SRH education program available for youth or adults in Maunatlala- a small village community in Botswana. Youth present an optimum point for comprehensive SRH education to ensure their health and reverse the trend of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Botswana's government strongly supports non-government organizations working with the government to provide comprehensive SRH education. Research on the development and implementation of comprehensive SRH education endorses both school-based and family-focused interventions, especially for youth ages 10-15. Our goal is to engage key community stakeholders in Maunatlala to develop a SRH education program. This poster highlights the key findings of our collaborative work with community stakeholders to create a curriculum that is youth-centered, locally relevant, and sensitive to Maunatlala's cultural norms and values, as well as compatible with Botswana's education and health systems. We hope that our program will be eventually used as part of school based SRH training for students and home-based SRH training for parents in Botswana.

OBJECTIVE(S): Identify the key components needed to create a comprehensive SRH education program

Design a comprehensive SRH education program that is locally relevant, culturally sensitive, and empowering to the community
