Building Resilient and Protective Factors through Health and Family Life Education

CARICOM Secretariat

VISION

Empowered, Healthy and Free Young People in a United and Safe Caribbean
Risk Factors

♦ Early Sexual Initiation
♦ High and growing rate of HIV/AIDS infection among adolescents/youth
♦ Growing incidence of substance use, abuse among adolescent/youth population
♦ Cultural practices that endorse/facilitate social acceptance of physical and sexual abuse
♦ High incidence of rage/aggression/antisocial/crime/violence among adolescents and youth
♦ High rates of unemployment and poverty among adolescent/youth population

Impact on Development

♦ Loss of Human Capital
  Death, incarceration
  migration

♦ High financial and economic cost to governments
  Health, Education, Labour, Tourism

♦ Dis-integration of societies
  Low/no social capital
  Broken families, communities at war
Life Skills Approach

- An approach that seeks to develop skills in adolescents to build needed competencies for healthy development and positive behaviours to deal with the challenges of life
  - Social and Interpersonal Skills
  - Cognitive Skills
  - Emotional Coping Skills
Background and Process for Securing Political Support

♦ 1994 - Resolution passed by CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers of Education

♦ Support solicited and received from UN Agencies

♦ Establishment of CARICOM Multi-Agency HFLE Project

♦ 1996 - CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers of Health and Education reaffirmed commitment to HFLE

♦ Sixth meeting of COHSOD in April 2003 endorsed need for urgent strengthening of the HFLE programme

Goals of the HFLE Programme

♦ Empower children and young people with the knowledge, life skills, attitudes and values that would enable them to meet the health challenges which confront them;

♦ Develop their capacities to the fullest so that they can live, learn and work in dignity, participate in development, and improve the quality of their lives.

♦ Train teachers so that they can be adequately prepared to effectively deliver the Life-skills-based HFLE Curriculum;

♦ Enable parents/guardians/community members to provide nurturing and supportive home/community environments for children and young people
Objectives of the CARICOM HFLE Initiative

♦ To develop policy, including advocacy and funding, for the overall strengthening of HFLE in and out of schools

♦ To strengthen the capacity of teachers to deliver HFLE programmes

♦ Equip parents/guardians with knowledge and skills to effect good parenting practices

♦ To develop comprehensive life-skills based teaching/parenting materials

♦ To improve coordination among all the agencies at the regional and national levels in the area of HFLE

Strategies for Implementing the HFLE Model

♦ Capacity Building

♦ Curriculum Development

♦ Supportive Environment

♦ Community Initiatives
Building Resilient and Protective Factors Against Substance Abuse: An Integrated Approach

Challenges

♦ Cultural Practices/Religious Beliefs
♦ Support Systems/Community Resources
♦ Coordination of HFLE Programmes

Next Steps

♦ Piloting of HFLE Parenting Project in 3 CARICOM Member States
♦ Mobilizing Resources for Regional Drug Demand Reduction Strategy
  – Proposal for Education and Prevention developed
♦ Review and Revise HFLE Core Curriculum being used in Teachers’ Training Colleges
♦ Review and revise Training Manual for Teachers’ College
♦ Develop/revise National Curriculum using Regional Curriculum Framework