INCLUSION OF ADOLESCENTS IN THE IMPAAACT NETWORK

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BENEFITS OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Direct youth involvement offers potential benefits both to youth and to the organizations that serve them.

• Youth gain experience and confidence
• Organizations gain a fresh perspective on youth culture
• and organizations develop more effective outreach.
BENEFITS TO AN ORGANIZATION

• New perspectives on decision making, including more relevant information about young people's needs and interests
• Candid(outspoken) responses about existing services
• Additional human resources as youth and adults share responsibility.
• More effective outreach that provides important information on a peer to peer basis.
...BENEFITS TO AN ORGANIZATION.

- Greater acceptance of messages, services, and decisions because youth were involved in shaping them.
- Enhanced credibility of the organization to both youth and advocates.
- Equal or balanced representation that is beneficial to communication between youth and adult populations.
BENEFITS TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE

• More likely to feel connected to their communities and, do better in school, and are less likely to engage in risky behavior.
• Increased status and stature in the community (recognition)
• Improved competencies and increased self-esteem
• Stronger skills and experience as leaders
...BENEFITS TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

- Greater knowledge and understanding of other cultures
- Increased self-discipline and schedule management
- Greater appreciation of the multiple roles of adults
- Broader career choices.
FACTORS THAT MOTIVATE ADOLESCENT INCLUSION IN THE IMPAAACT NETWORK.

Factors that have been reported by the youth as influencing their need for and willingness to be a part of a greater good through involvement. These include:

• Feelings of efficacy, the need to be valued and taken seriously by others in the CAB community,
• Increasing their own self-esteem
• Being given responsibility towards issues relating to them in both their peer and adult CAB groups (as part of transition)
OBSTACLES TO SUCCESSFUL ADOLESCENT INVOLVEMENT.

• Lack of communication and awareness of opportunities
• Youth fears of speaking out.
• Lack of diversity, and adulthood, or the systematic misrepresentation of youth simply because of their age.
• Lack of transportation and time
• Lack of interesting programs.
• Lack of knowledge about programs, and cost.
• Lack of forum that allows adolescents to be vocal i.e. conference calls, face to face meetings.
There are eight general steps planners can follow to assist youth in becoming leaders and active participants within their community.
1. Provide youth opportunities to contribute.
• Consider new ways to involve youth and allow them to offer input during decision-making, problem-solving, and action-taking activities.
• Active collaboration with youth will engage them in ways that will open doors for them to contribute.

2. Increase involvement of youth.
• Allow youth to work with adults in active collaboration toward local community development.
3. Partner with youth.
   • In order to make this a successful venture, adults must first recognize and develop their own existing capacities, motivations, and barriers to partnering with youth.

4. Engage youth actively.
   • In order to engage youth, adults must understand the invaluable impact of youth involvement.
   • This includes; respecting youth culture, getting youth involved on all levels, and respecting their invaluable contribution to society.
STEP 5-6

5. Link youth to planning and policy efforts.
   • This can be accomplished by involving youth in the examination of existing policies as well as determining and evaluating potential policy alternatives.

6. Allow youth to identify their own interests.
   • Within the greater social framework of community network development and policy making, youth may have expertise or interests in a specific topic.
7. Involve youth in confronting more serious social problems.
   • This will allow them to see themselves as community development agents capable of transforming their environments.

8. Assess, evaluate, and readjust.
   • This will help in identifying strengths and capitalizing on them, as well as identifying weaknesses and addressing them in order to improve the overall effectiveness of youth engagement within the network. Evaluating data will also enhance more meaningful youth involvement in community development.
YOUTH AND ADULT PARTNERSHIPS

• Working partnerships also acknowledge the contributions of all participants - youth and adults. In theory, creating such partnerships sounds good and makes a lot of sense, but putting such partnerships into practice is not always easy. Because of:
...YOUTH AND ADULT PARTNERSHIPS...

• Cultural norms, may make it difficult for young people and adults to feel comfortable working together.
• Years of formal instruction in school often teach young people to expect answers from adults. Some youth expect their own ideas to be largely ignored.
• Adults are also accustomed to making decisions without input from youth, even when youth are directly affected by those decisions.
• Therefore, joint efforts toward solving problems can be difficult, requiring deliberate effort on the part of both adults and young people.
One researcher developed the 'Spectrum of Attitudes' theory and identified three different attitudes that adults hold toward young people.

These attitudes affect adults' ability to believe that young people can make good decisions.

These attitudes also determine the extent to which adults may be willing to involve young people as significant partners in decisions about program design, development, implementation, and evaluation.
Ask Yourself.

• Who are you?
• In which position?
• Do you have a right answer?
• How do you know?
First Attitude Represent Seeing

1. Youth as Objects
   • Adults who have this attitude subscribe to the myth of adult wisdom.
   • They believe adults know what is best for young people. They attempt to control situations in which young people are involved.
   • They believe that young people have little to contribute.
Second Attitude Represent Seeing

2. Youth as Recipients

• Adults who have this attitude believe that adults must assist youth to adapt to adult society.

• These adults usually delegate to young people trivial responsibilities and tasks that the adults do not want to undertake.

• Adults who see youth as recipients usually dictate the terms of youth's involvement and expect young people to adhere to those terms.
Third Attitude Represent Seeing

3. Youth as Partners
   - Adults who have this attitude respect young people and believe that young people have significant contributions to make now.
   - These adults encourage youth to become involved and firmly believe that youth involvement is critical to a program's success.
   - These adults accept youth having an equal voice in decisions. They recognize that youth and adults both have abilities, strengths, and experience to contribute.
   - Adults who have this attitude will be as comfortable working with youth as with adults and enjoy an environment with both youth and adults.
   - One example might be hiring a young person to participate from the beginning in developing a proposal to be submitted to a funding institution.
Activity

Dream kite become useful and simple way to help and remind young adults to follow and achieves their goals/dreams.
“Together We Rising” By Moshi Health Youth CAB

Together we rising
Together we riding
We about to get there
Ya know which crew on player?
Moshi Health Youth CAB on air
Having funny learn a lot hey is it clear?
Work hard play fair on the protocally
Is it far? ...Naaah wh’ya duplicate automatically
We chase the dream somethin’ pop on my mind
Oops it’s terminologies, hopes those short terms
C.A.B, P.H.D now let’s say F.H.I 360

Nah S.M.G to cut breath.
Yes, A.R.V! Nah A.R.T
To shoot H.I.V?
We need pedicure, nah, AIDs cure!!??
How smart we are sparklin’ inna mind
What the message behind bar n’ hard to find?
We need to crack the mind storm, to check the blood stream
Shake the steam, let’s we run the system
IMPAAACT team, impact life esteem
Put down the fork join the walk don’t be shock we got to block AIDs disease
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Recommendations
Thank You