

# Evaluation of the Adolescent Education Programme in India

Recommendations from study to inform HIV/AIDS policy and administration of the Adolescent Education Programme in the National AIDS Control Programme - Phase IV

Young people in India are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection, with current prevalence among 15-24 years old estimated to be 0.47 percent. This compares with adult prevalence of 0.36 percent (NACO, 2007). Prevention of HIV, through safer-sex behaviours among the young, continues to be the most effective long-term strategy in reducing HIV infection.

There is growing recognition in the public health community that sustainable behaviour change of individuals, particularly when it involves stigmatized conditions, is greatly facilitated by the support of social networks and enabling environments. Youth are nested within broad social and environmental networks and structures that impinge on their perceptions, outlooks, and behaviours in both positive and negative ways.

Young people's decisions, actions, and health outcomes depend not only on their own characteristics, but also on the social forces that shape and re-shape the contexts in which they live. Adopting this holistic perspective, the proposed evaluation is designed on the basis of social cognitive theory, which explains the process by which individuals learn by observing the behaviour of others and evaluating the consequences.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Evaluate the effectiveness of AEP in improving knowledge, attitudes and practices among prioritized student population (9 to 12 grades) with respect to HIV/AIDS
- Provide policy and programmatic recommendations for NACP-IV, and
- Understand the needs and problems faced by youth with regard to HIV and sexual & reproductive health



**Country:** India

**Project Name:** Evaluation of the Adolescent Education Programme in India

**Funding Source:** UNICEF

**Project Dates:** May 2011- March 2012

**Intended Audience:** National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), other policy makers in Health and Education department, NGOs and media personnel working on the issues of adolescence, youth and HIV

**Health Focus:** Adolescence and HIV

**Country Partners:** NACO, UNICEF, State Health and Education Departments

## PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

- Background on the epidemiology review of HIV/AIDS among youth in India
- Quantitative assessments of the effects of the AEP on youth psychosocial outcomes and sexual and high-risk behaviours
- A process and content evaluation of the AEP curriculum, focusing on the conformity of the program to behaviour change theory and the fidelity of the program's implementation
- Qualitative assessments of the socio-environmental context in which the AEP operates, and how has that environment been affected by the program
- Policy review in response to what role do the local, state, and national policies play in supporting the AEP
- Public opinion findings based on discussions with media personnel and content analysis of newspaper reports
- Overall recommendations for HIV/AIDS policy and administration of the AEP



## PROJECT EVALUATION RESULTS / IMPACT

Impact will be measured by:

- Deliverables: Epidemiological and Curriculum review, Policy and budgetary review, Quantitative and Qualitative assessment, Content analysis of media, Report on public opinion climate
- Overall recommendations for HIV/AIDS policy and administration of the AEP based on the evaluation questions.

## RECENT NEWS

- JHU.CCP developed quantitative and qualitative research instruments which were pretested during two pilots and are further being reviewed for final modifications
- Curriculum review, epidemiological review and policy and budgetary review completed
- Ongoing discussion with key persons seeking public opinion
- Quality assurance manual to conduct and monitor school surveys, specifying the standard processes for school surveys.



### Website:

<http://jhuccp.org/whatwedo/projects/AEP/evaluation>

### Contacts:

*Baltimore:* Maria Elena Figueroa, Principal Investigator  
[mfiguero@jhuccp.org](mailto:mfiguero@jhuccp.org)

*Field:* Sanjanthi Velu, Country Director, India  
[svelu@jhuccp.in](mailto:svelu@jhuccp.in)