

Report over 2005 – the APSA Sexuality Project

(April – December 2005)

Activities done during these nine months (project started only in April)

01. Logistics and official arrangements for Mr. Schaap's stay in India →

- a) Arrangements for house/residence, office space, Foreigners' Registration, et cetera... (April-June);
- b) Application for the extension of the employment visa and residence permit of Mr. Meindert Schaap (October-December).

02. Start of the Sexuality Project in APSA → Introduction of Mr. Schaap and the Sexual Health programme to the APSA staff and children, in various staff meetings as well as in children's meetings and field visits (April-June).

03. Formation of an "APSA Sexuality Core Team" & Conducting a series of 3-hour Training/Input Sessions on sexuality and sexual health intervention with this group →

- a) Formation of the APSA Sexuality Core Team consisting of 11 staff members from the Street Communities, Nammane Children's Hostel and Navajeevana Adolescent Girls' Hostel teams;
- b) First meeting/discussion/input-session with Sexuality Team (12 members): Ultimate Goal setting + Sexual health encompasses... + presentation of their sexual health related activities in the last year...;
- c) Second meeting/discussion/input-session with Sexuality Team: SWOT-analyses, first part;
- d) Third meeting/discussion/input-session with the Sexuality Team: SWOT-analyses, part 2;
- e) Fourth session/meeting Sexuality Team: working with Sexuality Observation Forms (observations on the 'sexual' ("charged") behaviours of the children the staff works with);
- f) Fifth session/meeting Sexuality Team: from observations to intervention – selecting an intervention topic (for a session with the children), plus inputs on how to write *SMART(ER)* learners' objectives
- g) Sixth session/meeting: idem (session 5, continued);
- h) Seventh session/meeting Sexuality Team: review of all the elements covered in sessions one to six;
- i) Eighth session/meeting Sexuality Team: finalizing the Learners' Objectives for the planned intervention sessions of the three project teams;
- j) Ninth session/meeting Sexuality Team: input session on Training Session Design and Exercise Design;
- k) In-between meetings with each of the three project teams that are part of the Sexuality Core Team (Nammane, Urban Homeless, Navajeevan) on their progress regarding designing their intervention sessions;
- l) Tenth session/meeting Sexuality Team: developing the exercises for the Intervention Sessions of the three project teams;
- m) Eleventh session/meeting Sexuality Team: developing exercises for the Intervention Sessions and scoring their expected effect.

04. Series of Input Sessions to the entire APSA staff during monthly staff meetings →

- a) First 2-hours input session / exercise session in the APSA Monthly Staff meetings: Sexuality Cards Game + Slogan...;
- b) Introduction of the Sexuality - QUESTION BOX in the APSA staff meeting (+ small exercise);
- c) Second 2-hour input-session / exercise session: Questions Game...;
- d) Third (3.5-hour) input-session on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs; including the development of factsheets in local language Kannada);

- e) Fourth (3.5-hour) input-session on HIV/AIDS related issues (incl. factsheets in local language Kannada);
- f) Fifth and sixth monthly Staff Meeting Input Sessions on HIV/AIDS and the Organization (using an extensive questionnaire in Kannada; November).

05. Start of the Development of the actual Intervention Programme for Teenage Street and Slum Kids (the Activities Handbook / Workbook) →

- a) Development of a detailed list of all the intervention topics (modules) to be covered in the activities' workbook for teenage street and slum children;
- b) First part of writing/composing the actual exercises for the Workbook (incl. the development of a general format and structure).

06. First Planning for the Pre-tests / Contacts to the pre-test organizations →

- a) Visit to Karunalaya Chennai (Street Children's NGO) -- discussion on the pre-tests + they agreed to be one of our six south Indian pre-test organizations;
- b) Contacts to Navajeevan Vijayawada (Fr. Thomas Koshy);
- c) Introduction of the Sexuality Project to Mr. Daniel Rathnakar, director of YMCA Bangalore, and request for becoming one of the pre-test organizations (answer: positive).

07. Preparations for publications →

- a) Finalizing the Texts of the four earlier Conference/Training Reports 2003/2004 (to be published in early 2006) → The one-day South Indian NGO Conference on Sexual Development and Sexual Health in Teenage Street and Slum Children (NIMHANS) / the three-day July 2003 South Indian NGO Training on Sexual Health Intervention in Teenage Street and Slum Children (Fireflies) / the three-day Second South Indian NGO Training (Follow-up) in February 2004 (Indian Social Institute) / the three-and-half day February 2004 APSA Staff Training.
- b) Meetings with Vinay Chendran to finalize the Design formats for all our future publications;
- c) Development of a detailed instruction booklet on how to use the Streetkids-SRH E-Group;
- d) Start of the draft writing of parts of the Question and Answer booklet on teenage sexual development, sexual health and sexual rights;
- e) Start of the draft writing of parts of the Practical Questions from the Field booklet (a booklet for senior field staff on how to deal with specific situations regarding sex and teenagers in the field).

08. Development and Maintenance of the Project Website → www.streetkids-SRH.org →

- a) Memberships: now more than 250 members from all over the world (average of 20 pageviews per day);
- b) Regular uploading of our materials, so these can be downloaded and used by NGOs worldwide;
- c) Feeding of regular News-messages on sexuality and street/slum children.

09. Management & Planning →

- a) Regular planning meetings with Meera Pillai and/or Kshithij Urs to structure this phase (Phase 2 -- 2005-2006/7) of the Sexual Health project;
- b) Discussion on the outcomes of the team's SWOT-analysis for sexual health – related work;
- c) Recruiting for the new position of 'Assistant Program Manager & Trainer' to the sexuality project (job profile, searching and selecting applicants, assessment day; to ensure continuity / long-term sustainability of the project);
- d) Introducing the new Assistant Program Manager and Trainer into the work (plus extensive coaching).

10. Contacts to Donor Agencies – continuing fundraising →

- a) Writing of content and financial reports over Phase-1 of the project (2002-2004);
- b) Additional financial request (incl. new budget proposal) and project proposal to Stichting Kinderpostzegels (Children's Welfare Stamps Foundation, for the amount of €10.000; granted as per November 2005);
- c) Meeting with Mr. Sebastian Von Peter, chair of BalSeva-Germany (one of our smaller donors; October));
- d) Writing and sending of the Six-months Content Report to all the donors (October 2005);
- e) Meeting with Mrs. Julie Love – Cordaid (November 19th);
- f) Meeting with Mrs. Karin Matthijsse – Children's Welfare Stamps (November 23rd);
- g) Visit to APSA by two official evaluators from the MFO-Consortium Netherlands (major donor agencies, funded through the Dutch Government) → several presentations and discussions with Sexuality Project management, Core Team members, other staff members of APSA and Dr. Shekhar Seshadri.

11. Networking and PR →

- a) Start of the development of a Contacts Database (relevant NGOs India, multilateral agencies, central and state government bodies, international NGOs, et cetera);
- b) Sent out about 40 New Year greeting cards to our network, as well as uploaded the greeting card as an E-Card to the website;
- c) Short presentation on the Sexuality Project to a group of 30 MSW Students from Mangalore (December).

12. Participation/Presence in Workshops and Conferences →

- a) Presence during the celebration of Childline – 10 years (Children's Meet in NIMHANS);
- b) 1,5-hour presentation/workshop on intervention methodologies in the international consultation conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Development (organized by APSA; November 7th);
- c) Participation in the two-day Inchara GAMES Workshop (November 10th and 11th) + idea for the publication of a Games Booklet (joint venture of Inchara and the Sexuality Project);
- d) Participation in the conference on declining sex ratios in India / Karnataka (organized by Vimochana Bangalore; December 30).

13. Research and Study →

- a) Continuation of international Literature Study on street boys' emic perceptions of sex (to be used to ensure that our interventions are properly evidence-based).

Challenges for the first half of 2006

- How to fully integrate the sexual health project into the entire APSA organization / all the APSA projects;
- How to develop and implement workplace policies relating to HIV/AIDS and sexual health (in APSA);
- How to create more sense of ownership and responsibility in the sexuality core team (take up tasks besides the input sessions and homework);
- How to finish the development of the Exercises Workbook in time → approximately 150 exercises need to be ready by June 2006...;

- How to effectively prepare (and train) the pre-test organizations (the seven organizations throughout South India, including APSA (!), that will field-test the activities' workbook for children as well as the staff training module (which are being developed by the Sexuality Project));
- How to set up a proper research design for the effect study on the pre-tests;
- How to effectively re-establish contacts to the broader, international and Indian (NGO) field and build effective networks (incl. linkages to international/multilateral organizations and governmental bodies), plus make sure that the relevant people in these organizations know the details of our work;
- How to keep up with the very (*too?!!*) tight time schedule for this phase of the program (2005-2006: development of intervention + field-tests + effect study + publication of manual and handbook + national conference);
- How to ensure that Shadakshari T.S. (the new Assistant Program Manager & Trainer) is most effectively coached/guided, so he will indeed be able to really run the entire project by the end of 2006;
- How to set up a proper financial accounting system to keep track of the various financial cost entries (with Guruswamy);
- How to ensure proper continuation of the program from 2007 onwards (sustainability);
- How to find time to write the 'official' scientific research reports and literature review (to the University of Amsterdam; to be written by Mr. Meindert Schaap);
- How to ensure the renewal of Mr. Meindert Schaap's Employment Visa and Residence Permit with (at least) one more year.

Impact till now (as of end of December 2005)

- more than 250 organizations and individuals from all over the world have signed up as full members to the project website → international attention and awareness + international network!;
- there is more and more openness in APSA towards the issue of sexual health / sexuality in teenagers, and comfort/confidence levels of individual staff members have increased a lot;
- increasingly, proficient attention ('more eye for') is being paid towards the sexual health of the teenagers with whom the APSA staff are in contact;
- the importance of sexuality and sexual health issues, both to the organization and for the APSA beneficiaries, is more and more recognized;
- knowledge and attitude levels of APSA staff on HIV/AIDS, STIs and sexuality issues have improved a lot;
- core team members have learned many new skills on designing training sessions and designing effective intervention exercises (through the 'Training of Trainers' input meetings);
- during external meetings, workshops, conferences and the website, the importance of, and approaches to effective (sexual health) intervention have been shared widely;
- a process towards the development and implementation (in APSA) of workplace policies relating to HIV/AIDS and sexual health has started.