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VCT in my ViCiniTy



30 mins.

OBJECTIVE(S)

- Knowledge: To learn how and where to obtain VCT services locally.

TEACHING METHOD

- Guest speaker, Q&A, Interviewing, Mapping

MATERIALS

- 1 list of possible questions per participant
- 1 box / container to hold anonymous questions
- slips of paper for questions
- pencils / writing utensils

Note: Invite a VCT counsellor or a director of nearby VCT services to speak with your class about the VCT services available to young people in the local vicinity.

UNICEF has found that fewer than 50 percent of young people know where they can be tested for HIV. For this reason, it is a good idea to help the participants learn about Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) services in their area.

1. Introduce the guest speaker and ask her or him to describe the Voluntary Counselling and Testing services available to young people in the local vicinity.
2. Open the floor for participants to ask any questions during a Question and Answer session. Pass around blank slips of paper on which participants can write their questions and then place in an anonymous question box. You can also pass out the list of possible questions to prompt participants to ask about how the VCT services in their area meet the needs of young people.

HOMEWORK

1. In pairs, find the names and addresses of HIV testing services nearby. Find out if they meet the needs of young people by interviewing staff, interviewing people who have used the services and are willing to talk about their experience, reading pamphlets, getting a test yourself, or other research methods you can think of.
2. As a class, draw a map of your community and plot on the map the locations of VCT and other sexual health services for young people.
3. Develop a rating system to rank the sites by which best serve adolescent needs.

Possible Questions about Voluntary Counselling and Testing Services for Young People in Our Vicinity

- How can we be assured of privacy? (For example, Is there a separate room or facility for young people? Will it be obvious to others that we are there for an HIV test?)
- How do you make sure the test results are confidential?
- Will our result be shared with anyone, like medical staff or the government?
- Do we need our parents' consent to get an HIV test?
- Can we be counselled with a friend or partner?
- How long do we have to wait for the result?
- How much does the service cost?
- What kind of follow-up services are there after we receive our HIV test results, if we test positive? And if we test negative?
- What if our test is indeterminate?
- Have the counsellors been trained to counsel young people our age?
- Will we have the same counsellor before and after the test?
- Are young people involved in the delivery of local Voluntary Counselling and Testing services? Are there opportunities for young people to become involved, for example, as peer educators?