

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : Effectiveness of the Youth Camp Project for Avoidance of Drugs and AIDS; A Case Study of the Local Youth Studying at the Informal Education Center in Tambon Sra-Yai-Som, U-Thong District, Supahanburi Province.

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The Study evaluated the effectiveness of the Youth Camp Project for avoidance of Drugs and AIDS; A case study of the local youth studying at the informal education center in Tambon Sra Yai Som, U-thong District, Supahanburi Province.

The evaluation focused on the three aspects of the project : 1) knowledge about illegal drugs and AIDS of the project participants, 2) their realization of the seriousness of the drugs and AIDS problems, and 3) their application of the knowledge to real life. The data were collected from 200 youths who joined the Youth Camp Project for avoidance of Drugs and AIDS. The youths were selected by accidental random sampling. A questionnaire was employed as the research instrument. Percentage and mean were used to describe the data.

The finding were concluded as follows

1. The number of male youths and that of female youths, were equal. Half of the samples (50%) were 15 – 20 years old. Nearly all (93%) completed secondary school. Also, almost all of them (97.5%) lived in U-thong District, Suphanburi Province.

2. The youths who participated in the Youth Camp Project had a moderate knowledge and realization of drugs and AIDS problems and applied the acquired knowledge to real life at a moderate level. It could thus be concluded that the Youth Camp Project was moderately effective : knowledge of drugs and AIDS (\bar{X} = 33.86 out of 42), realization of the seriousness of the drugs and AIDS problems (\bar{X} = 3.83 out of 5), and application of the acquired knowledge (\bar{X} = 4.02 out of 5).

Recommendations

1. In training, the trainees should focused on the meaning and causes of drug addiction and AIDS.

2. More instruction aids should be used in teaching the youth about the danger of drugs and AIDS. The youth should be given a chance to meet drug addicts to have a clear understanding of the problem.

3. The youth should be taken to visit and talk to AIDS infected patients at hospital so that they will realize the harmful effects to the disease.

4. The youth should be informed clearly about drugs and AIDS through exhibitions at school.

5. The project should be regularly evaluated and followed up to see its effectiveness.