

Building Resilience for Sustaining Development

Convention on Comprehensive development for building resilience of adolescent girls



Madurai Symposium 2017

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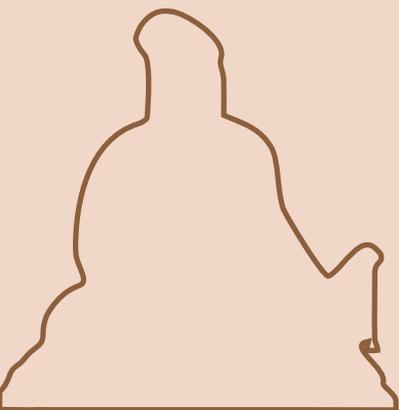
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DHAN Foundation



SUHAM Trust





Background

Adolescence (from Latin word adolescence, meaning "to grow up" is a transitional stage of physical and psychological human development that generally occurs during the period from puberty to legal adulthood (age of majority). The period of adolescence is most closely associated with the teenage years, though its physical, psychological and cultural expressions may begin earlier and end later. Adolescence is a time of rapid growth and inconsistent change that varies widely among individuals. In general, the approximate ages of 10 through 14 are characterized by: Physical growth and hormonal development, bone, muscle, brain, sexual characteristics, stature, social and emotional growth, including awareness of others, sense of fairness, social consciousness, sense of purpose, personal identity (who am I?), peer bonding and sudden, intense emotions.

Why we need to focus on comprehensive adolescent development?

India has the largest population of adolescents in the world being home to 243 million individuals, as per the 2011 census aged 10-19 years, the country's adolescents constituted 21 per cent of the world's 1.2 billion. In India the sex ratio among adolescent girls has little increase from 882 to 898 and attained decadal growth of +12.5 per cent compared to 2001 census. Investing in this segment of population is the best way to leverage the nation's competitive advantage – it is a demographic dividend to the country's development. The literacy rate of adolescents was increased considerably and consistently which leads to increased knowledge and exposure. Adolescents are generally considered healthy by themselves, their families, even health care providers and society at large. But lot more challenges especially life skills,

health, nutrition and hygiene yet to be addressed. Life skills in this context need to be defined as psycho-social abilities that enable individuals to translate knowledge, attitude and values regarding all the concerned issues into action. These may not be confined to only those related to formal education, health & nutrition, mental health, hygiene and sanitation, sexual development, HIV/AIDS and Drug abuse. Life skills development empowers learners to observe the process involving “what to do, why to do, how to do and when to do”. It encompasses the ability to build sound, harmonious relationships with self, others and the environment, the ability to act responsibly and safely, the ability to survive under a variety of conditions, and the ability to solve problems.

Need for paradigm shift

SUHAM Trust works with 2 lakhs adolescent girls in six states of the country. The Trust works on five major areas of adolescents especially RCH includes anaemia, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation, skill building and adolescent savings. Over a period of 10 years, every component of adolescent development was included based on the need. An exclusive institution for adolescent girls could provide platform for bringing all efforts to attain comprehensive development involving areas such as health, nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, education, career counseling, skill building and life skills through convergence with mainstream players. This paradigm shift would focus on girls and boys from single individual component to multiple factors. As a result, the adolescents would receive more opportunities for learning and better performance with deliverables.

The Convention

Adolescent girls depend on their families, their communities, schools, service providers and their workplaces to learn a wide range of knowledge and skills on health, education, important skills and leadership qualities that can help them to cope with the pressures they face and make the transition from childhood to adulthood successfully. The stakeholders' convention is organised involving various stakeholders and participation of 400 adolescent girls to understand and appreciate their felt needs and experiencing the efforts taken by them and stakeholders towards addressing it. The convention would



bring declarations on the comprehensive development of adolescents.

Objectives

The focus of the convention will be towards the following objectives;

- To review the existing status of adolescent girls on various development indicators
- To understand the various opportunities available for adolescent girls with different stakeholders towards achieving comprehensive development
- To explore the various skills and capacity of adolescent girls towards promoting institution as a demand stream at grassroots

Participants

The event is organized with the participation of adolescent girls from Madurai Urban(WSI Project), Madurai Rural, Dindigul, Salem and Tribal Hilly Blocks,

Tamil Nadu under Birla Sun Life. The other participants will be: Professionals working in SHG federations, community leaders, representatives from Panchayat, health associates from community federations, officials from health, ICDS and education department etc. The delegates from state and district level would provide special address.

Programme content and structure

- Sharing the experiences and learning's by adolescent girls
- Initiatives and experiences of different stakeholders on adolescent girls development
- Special address by the guests and speakers
- The declarations on comprehensive adolescent development would be derived to set future directions and setting up of demand stream would be the major focus areas of this convention. The medium of deliberations will be in Tamil.

For further information, please contact

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