Addressing Issues of HIV/AIDS in St. Vincent & The Grenadines

Between April and May, WAND implemented a pilot project to identify and better understand critical areas of vulnerability of girls and young women to the deepening public health and development crisis created by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The project, which had a research component, was also meant to enable the participants to better cope with their present life circumstances and protect themselves from HIV/STI infections.

This 10-week UNFPA-funded project targeted 20 girls and young women between the ages of 15 and 25 years. Implemented in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and in keeping with the Millennium Development Goals, the project had the following objectives:

- To identify the key factors in the history of its participants that contribute to their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.
- To increase knowledge of HIV/STIs transmissions.
- To increase the skills on prevention of HIV/STIs.
- To develop/enhance basic life style skills of the participants.

This is a pilot project which is expected to be replicated throughout WAND’s community after post project evaluation.

International Women’s Day Message

This year’s International Women’s Day message, WAND paid tribute to all women of faith who have contributed over the years to the social advancement of women, but whose contribution have gone unnoticed.

In acknowledging the voices of women from all walks of life in the Caribbean, WAND found it necessary to recognize the sterling contribution of these women which has gone unnoticed by the political women’s/feminist movement and some women’s organizations. A call was also made to all Caribbean women to renew their resolve to work together in the spirit of solidarity, as represented by Mary and Elizabeth, to actualize our goals of justice, peace and progress.

International Women’s Day was celebrated Tuesday March 8, 2005. WAND also participated in a seminar entitled “Women in the Media: Promote a Balanced and Non-stereotyped Portrayal of Women” hosted by the Bureau of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs, Barbados.

The basic tenet of justice: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
WAND/BARNOD Project Comes to an End

The WAND/BARNOD programme “Media Literacy for Women with Disabilities” came to an end in December 2004. The five-year partnership saw some 50 women and men with varying disabilities benefiting from courses in Computers, Accounting and Writing Skills.

Areas of studies included: Introduction to Personal Computers, Windows 98, Introduction to Keyboarding, MS Publisher 98, MS Word 2000 Level I and MS Excel Level I, QuickBooks 2000, ACCPAC General Ledger as well as punctuation and writing skills. The training for participants of the WACC-funded project was provided by the Academy of Learning (Barbados) which is recognized internationally. The first set of 20 students participated in this programme during the academic year 1998/1999. WAND has also over the period of partnership, provided funding for training in the areas of personal and social development, floral arrangement, radio production techniques and disorders which disable.

Through this programme WAND worked with BARNOD to provide opportunities to promote full participation of persons with disabilities in the development process. BARNOD is the only cross-disability organization in Barbados. It is managed by and for persons with disabilities. The membership comprises blind and visually impaired, persons wheel chair users, people with mental and hidden disabilities, the mute and the deaf.

Bay Primary Parenting Project

WAND’s parenting project, “Parenting, the Naked Truth; Enlightening, Encouraging and Empowering Parents to Cope with the Everyday Challenges of Child rearing in the 21st Century” took a new form. Instead of workshop sessions, presentations on relevant topics were made to be made at the monthly Parent/Teachers Association meetings. However only one presentation was done, “The Anacondas in our lives”. The need for the change of format resulted from the need to reach more parents.

This project faced some disruptions due to the dislocation of the school’s operations experienced during the academic year. Also affected was the “Men as Parents” sessions of which none was held.

From the Reference Library...

Visitors to the Library have increased with students from the University seeking information on women and gender, women and human rights, teenage pregnancy and other similar issues. Materials and advice were given as students were sometimes overwhelmed by the information provided.

Referrals were also made when WAND could not meet the request. Telephone enquiries were also on the increase. It is expected that this trend will increase as most of the visitors were referred by previous visitors.

New Materials by WAND


Copies of this publication have been distributed. It will also be available on the website. Hard copies are available @ US $10.

Working with Women at Risk: Practical Guidelines for Assessing Local Disaster Risk. (Power Point Presentation)

These guidelines were developed to assist managers, non-governmental organizations and women’s groups in their planning and management of disasters. It offers an approach to disaster management through “the eyes of women”. The Power Point presentation has been developed as tool to be used in promoting the guidelines.

WAND Notes

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