Community of Practice (CoP) Project Spotlight

Celebrating CoP Intervention Projects

Project: Project Respect

Organization: Victoria Sexual Assault Centre

About the Program

The goal of Project Respect is to prevent dating violence by shifting school culture to one of consent.

Programming included:

- **Healthy Relations & Consent workshops for high school students.**
- **Safer Spaces training for educators.**
- **Youth leadership programs, such as Youth Council, Youth Social Action Camp, and Black Youth Empowerment.**

Program Delivery Learnings

The program was delivered to over 20 schools and community centres.

Having teachers trained through the Safer Spaces program helped create supportive and engaged classroom environments. Adult participants appreciated the support, resources, and tools provided.

Program success depended on meeting students where they are at in their different levels of awareness, understanding, and experience.

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Program Evaluation Findings

570+ youth involved

60+ professionals & service providers

16 schools & 5 community sites

- **1 in 3 students reported being survivors of dating violence in the last 12 months.**
- **After receiving the program, 64% of youth reported an increase in knowledge about consent, and 55% of youth reported an increase in confidence in their bystander intervention skills.**
- **After taking Safer Spaces workshops, 87% of professionals and service providers reported gaining or strengthening skills & 89% reported an increase in confidence in their ability to create a safer supportive environment for students.**
- **The positive response to the Black Youth Empowerment program shows the importance of engaging youth in creating and delivering culturally relevant content that values their lived experiences.**

Impact of the CoP

The Share and Solve sessions and Research and Sustainability groups facilitated collaborative problem-solving.

The literature offered by the CoP helped with the design of evaluation tools and in enhancing the overall effectiveness of the program.

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