

**A REPORT ON AMERICAN STUDENTS FIELDWORK WITH SAP SECRETARIATE
AND THREE COMMUNITIES FROM 9TH - 12TH MARCH 2009. By Rebecca Nanyonjo.-
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Introduction:

These students were studying on Africa taking their studies on Gender and Development as a course with Makerere University.

This was a two weeks course: the first week was class room based focusing on basic concepts and approaches of gender and development.

The second week addresses the practical experience of what has been covered in class.

This part was expected to expose students to the practical aspects of gender and development in one of Kampala's slum areas, or other Gender focused projects in one of Kampala suburbs.

This exercise was to provide the opportunity to try out the gender analysis framework.

The selected site for field work was Slum Aid Project focusing on sexual and Gender based violence, Human rights, Reproductive health and HIV/AIDS issues.

For the past years SAP has been hosting different groups of American students at her secretariat and in the communities from the school of International training. They come in a group of 6-12 people twice a year.

This year from 9th – 12th March 2009, SAP received a group of 6 students all female studying Gender and Development at the secretariat and in its communities of operation to carry out their field work study. The students visited communities of Katwe, Naguru and Nakulabye.

The main purpose of the visit was to enable these students draw on what they had learnt, to analyze Gender issues in order to contain a practical view of what they had learnt from class, to analyze Gender issues in a practical view through field work study.

Day one at SAP Secretariat

The group was received at the secretariat for introduction to SAP secretariat.

They reached in time where an AGA meeting was going on, it was then suggested by the Executive Director to allow them attend the meeting after all it was in our local language. Before the end of the meeting, they were given a chance to introduce them selves.

There after they were also briefed with an overview of the organization historical background, mission and vision, objectives, staffing, programs and activities.

They were also introduced and given a chance to access SAP resource centre where most information about SAP activities is, for example Gender based violence, HIV/AIDS issues, child labour and child sexual abuse, Human rights, Reproductive health, our Country and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Day two in Katwe

The students visited Katwe parish, and a warm welcome was given by both KCVs and members of Katwe. The focus group discussion on Domestic violence and HIV/ AIDS

was held. Many issues on HIV/Aids and Domestic violence were talked about. Members noted to the students how SAP programs and activities had made a great impact on the community, that's to say reduction of Domestic violence cases and a need for more activities targeting child sexual abuse, child labour and negligence cases which increases everyday.

Drainage channel cleaning was also done, this channel is in Nawangu zone.

In the afternoon, three home visits on cases of Domestic violence, HIV/AIDS and child abuse and negligence were done.

The students had a case study discussion about a 6years old child who was abandoned and again raped by a 30years old man

Some of the key issues noted from the study.

- Defilement (child sexual abuse)
- Vulnerability of a girl child
- Child negligence.

Day three in Naguru Go-Down

This place is where you can find each and every kind of tribe. It was noted that people who live in Naguru Go-Down are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Northern Uganda and Karamoja. These are low income earners (most men are security guards,) who earns 50,000/= per month.

Field visits for interviews and discussions with internally displaced persons from Northern Uganda were done. There was a focus group discussion with Naguru support group members and here the focus was put on Family planning methods. It was noted that most members of the community don't want this practice.

Students were also taken to a local Waragi brewing place "factory" where it was observed only women brewing. This kind of work justified changing gender roles where women are now bread earners, "Gents were playing pool table while ladies at work, it was discovered that women does the most work."

There was also Community School painting where students engaged in and participated very well.

Day four in Nakulabye.

SAP key community volunteers together with SAP staff, the RDC, community Inspectors and community health workers had organized a general cleaning match but this act was disguised by the students and this made a bad impact on them.

A number of members were not happy with it because most of them had left their office work and had scarified their time in order to make students field work study successful, we advise that should be inform us in advance about the activities they want to engage in, in order to avoid such embarrassments to the organizers and the community as well.

There was also a 30minutes discussion where by students were taught different methods of family planning, their advantages and disadvantages and how the public responds to the sensitization about the use of these family planning methods.

It was noted that many cases of Domestic violence arise due to family planning. People mostly uneducated men in Nakulabye responds negatively to these methods claiming that Western people undermines their customs, norms and traditions.

Home visits were carried out and a focus group discussion on child sexual abuse was held where one of the victims was showed to the students. Members noted to the students how SAP programs and activities had made a big impact on the community hence reduction in domestic violence and child sexual abuse, and a need for more activities targeting child labour and negligence cases which are on the increase.

The students also engaged in the activity of distributing condoms to community members.

Final wrap up and evaluation comments;

Field work provided the students with an experience to conduct interviews, analyze gender issues and general observation.

The field work study provided the students with opportunity to see all the gender issues, and provided concrete examples to illustrate what they had studied in class.

SAP should design more projects with more sensitization programs that will attract outside funding.

More research should be carried out to evaluate the success of SAP activities.

These are key issues noted at the end of the field study.

A number of people in Katwe and Naguru expected aid from these students especially in form of materials and money.

There is changing in gender roles where women are “bread earners”

Conclusion.

The field work study was successfully done with the help of Key Community Volunteers, Human Rights Advocates and other Volunteers.