

# Evaluation of the Soul City HIV and AIDS social intervention programme for the youth in the Northern Cape, South Africa

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# INTRODUCTION

*“...a significant amount of national effort is wasted when motivated social work professionals and field workers working within the HIV and AIDS field, start working in settings only to find out they have insufficient authority or skills to implement the services for which they are responsible. This often leads to feelings of frustration, hopelessness and inevitably burnout...”* (Miller, 2000:90).

- ***“...The decline in accurate HIV-prevention knowledge has implications for efforts to reduce new HIV infections in the country. There is no longer a strong HIV-prevention programme(social) to encourage the population to take HIV more seriously The focus has primarily been on biomedical interventions such as ARV treatment, VMMC, HCT, PMTCT and less on social and behavioural interventions”*** (HSRC, 2014:117).

# STRUCTURE

- Study rational
- Theoretical framework
- Study goals and objectives
- Research methodology
- Findings and conclusions - quantitative
- Findings and conclusions – qualitative
- Conclusions
- Recommendations

# Rationale for study

- **2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) was unattainable**
- **Youth 15 – 34 yrs. = 34.8% of population Northern Cape**
- **Highest HIV prevalence in province amongst youth**
- **HIV most prevalent amongst youth and women (DSD, 2015:18)**
- **Social-behavioural programmes are often implemented in isolation, insufficiently tailored and lacking in rigorous evaluation (UNAIDS, 2013:14)**
- **Challenge to translate HIV awareness in behavioral change amongst youth**

# Theoretical framework

- **Ecosystem perspective: Holistic perspective on peoples social environment :e.g. individual(meso); family/group(meso); exo(community) and societal(macrolevel) factors all interact and influence individual social functioning negatively or positively.**

# GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH STUDY

- The **goal** of the study was to evaluate the content, implementation and applicability of the Soul City social intervention programme with regard to HIV and AIDS targeted at the youth in the Northern Cape within the context of the ecosystems perspective.

## To this end, a key objective of the study were :

- To provide guidelines for the content, applicability, implementation as well monitoring and evaluation of the Soul City social intervention programmes for the youth with regard to HIV and AIDS within the context of the NSP 2012 - 2016, in order to enhance efforts to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS among the youth in the Northern Cape.

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Quantitative data  
collection and analysis

Qualitative data  
collection and analysis

Quantitative data + Qualitative data  
results are compared and  
interpreted

**Exploratory mixed method design (Delpont and Fouché, 2011:441)**

# SOME RESEARCH FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

## Quantitative study

The 9 sections of the questionnaire were:

- Biographic details of respondents;
- Objective attainment of the SCP in the Northern Cape;
- Applicability and relevance of the content of the SCP
- Knowledge gained through attending the SCP;
- Impact on attitudinal change;
- Programme delivery;
- Programme content;
- Programme facilitation methods, and
- General



## SOME RESEARCH FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

### Quantitative study continues...

- SCP contributed to respondents achieving their personal life goals;
- SCP impacted positively on youth lives;
- SCP succeeded significantly in achieving its goals and objectives
- Youth indicated a need SCP to focus on: poverty alleviation strategies; negative cultural traditions ;involving important stakeholders e.g. youth leaders.
- Limited male programme attendance
- Repeatedly clear: need for SCP's continuation and sustainability, because of its apparent value.

## **SOME KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE QUALITATIVE STUDY**

### **Nine main themes and 37 sub-themes generated from the data collected from field workers**

- Theme 1 - Working experience
- Theme 2 - Recruitment of youth
- Theme 3 – Focus areas of programme
- Theme 4 - Process of programme implementation
- Theme 5 - Types of projects
- Theme 6: Choosing relevant dialogues
- Theme 7: Limitations
- Theme 8: Evaluation
- Theme 9 – Participants' recommendations

## KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE QUALITATIVE STUDY CONTINUES...

- Consistency in topics presented and methodology
- Limitations regarding implementation : no formal M &E tools; funding challenges, ineffectiveness of once-off dialogues; cultural resistance; political interference, gender stereotypes/discrimination, lack of national/top level support from the SCI ;fluctuating community support. Monitoring limited to attendance registers

## Some recommendations for practice

- Programmes e.g. SCP needed to stay in communities for longer periods
- Greater technology usage e.g. social media to spread HIV prevention/education
- More funding for more dialogues and implementing resolutions
- Introduction of formal M&E tools;
- Gender sensitivity/tolerance
- More males to be targeted
- Youth support beyond dialogues;
- More local/provincial government financial support;
- National SCI ground level involvement;
- Youth programmes for specific youth sub-sections
- More programme implementation tools e.g. audio-visual -needed especially amongst deep rural villages.
- Less reliance/dependence on foreign donor funding to ensure programme sustainability
- Structured individual/group supervision ,emotionally support and on-going capacitating of field workers in e.g. M& E; NSP 2017-2022 etc.

THANK YOU !

