

ONLINE LESSON FOR LIFE

For the first week of this discussion (15 – 26 November, 2004), we were asked to find ways to help fight the battle against HIV/aids. Many great ideas were thrown around over the past couple of days. One main idea that seemed to be brought up a lot was Education.

Education is the key to awareness. If a person can't understand what is being said or what they are reading, then they will not learn. As well, education has to catch the mind, especially when teaching the youth. If their attention isn't caught then the message will most likely not be understood. There are many ways to get over these obstacles, such as:

Presentations - Guest speakers, PowerPoint's, films and workshops

Demonstrations – Real life (how to use a condom, how to practice safe sex), through plays, stories, poetry, paintings and drama

Indirect awareness - Making HIV/aids aware to young children by using the subject when teaching things such as literacy, health and other subjects.

Peer to peer – Peer teaching and motivation is a great way to teach youth. Youth with knowledge can go along way.

Media – Message boards, posters, brochures can all go along way in this fight.

Obviously there are many more ways of fighting this terrible illness. As well all these ways will not work for everyone. Each country has their own way of passing on awareness of this disease. But that is why we are here these two weeks. To share ideas, which will allow us to try new ways in order to see what works for you and what doesn't?

There are many reasons why some of these steps won't work. Illiteracy, poverty, religion, negative views...etc. One of the major reasons though is because of the taboo place on sex. We need to continue to work hard to get rid of this taboo, but in the mean time we need to find ways to work around it. If we can't talk directly about sex, let's use other methods. One great way which was discussed is putting a humanistic view on HIV/aids. By doing this we could almost put it into a story to teach young children.

In the end youth can make a huge difference on the impact of this disease. But we can't do it alone. We need to reach out for help from organizations like UNICEF and from our governments. If we can all come together and work as a team to fight this illness we will be one big step closer to fighting it off.

I know I didn't include everyone's ideas in this summary. Doesn't mean your ideas weren't great. It is only a rough summary. I try to make it a lot better at the end of the week. But for now know this is something to go by. Please feel free to give me your opinions on it in order to make it complete. Thanks

Ryan