



ONLINE LESSON FOR LIFE

With the end of week one discussion, came the beginning of week 2. It was time to put all the planning into action. It was brought up that one person's plan of action can not be the same as another. The fact is that not every plan will work everywhere. It is just a matter of trial and error to see what works best for you.

The use of Drama seems to be a popular choice to spread awareness. Drama production can be used to educate and entertain all ages which is a great tool when fighting this disease. Different types of drama were mentioned in the first week, such as plays, short stories, poems.

Another use that was brought into mention was school presentations. Where else can you get a large group of youths together in a learning environment? But in order to reach these youths you need to bring them something that they will like. Making presentations entertaining as well as up to date with today's technology are very good ways to grab the attention of today's youth. The idea of using a PowerPoint production in schools was brought up. This can be a great way to go about it. There is a lot of information out there on the internet and a PowerPoint is a great way to bring all this information alive.

Another more creative way to put our ideas into action was through the use of sports. With the gathering of youth and adults alike, provides a great chance to spread awareness on HIV/AIDS awareness. By finding ways to spread the message in a creative way during these activities will allow for a large audience who you won't have a hard time getting their attention.

Not all ideas in the first week were thought of as being useful when educating youths. Lectures and facts are not always the best way to go about spreading awareness to youths. If you can get the attention of youth and make them interested in the fight against HIV/AIDS, then they will have more of an interest to go learn about the facts. Creating interest in the subject is just as important as throwing facts out. The youth are the leaders of tomorrow and it would be really nice if these leaders had an interest in HIV/AIDS awareness.

One problem that was brought up when trying to do many of these actions was money. Everything that is done usually comes with some cost. As leaders we need to find ways to reduce these costs. We need to start pressuring governments now rather than later. Now is the time for change. Now is also the time for HIV/AIDS NGOs to step up and help the youth in anyway. When youth speak up they are seldom heard, but with more support we can make sure that they do get heard.

Well that is it. I hope everyone enjoyed the two week discussion. I know myself and Justin had a great time hearing all of your ideas and would like to thank each and every one of you who took part. Also we would like to thank UNICEF for hosting this great event. Without your support none of this could happen. Thanks.

I will leave you all with this powerful quote by one of our participants:

"We will soon be called into power where we can initiate change and there will be hope and rejoicing as we finally begin to defeat the pandemic of HIV/AIDS. But the time is sooner than we think. We may be the leaders of tomorrow, but tomorrow will soon become today." - Kels

Ryan Clarke
Youth Moderator