



Capacity building workshops for participatory HIV prevention and research with immigrant communities in Germany (PaKoMi)

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Summary

A workshop series for capacity building on community based HIV prevention and research with immigrant communities is described. The curriculum was developed as part of an ongoing participatory research project (PaKoMi) in Germany. The workshops are tailored to members of immigrant communities, community leaders and community-based HIV/AIDS service providers.



Issues: Why we need capacity building

In Germany, some immigrant groups, including immigrants from African, Central and Eastern European countries, are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. To date, these groups are only marginally involved in HIV prevention and research. Community-based participatory research provides a valuable tool for involving immigrant communities in creating knowledge for HIV prevention and health promotion. To enable members of immigrant communities, community leaders and community-based HIV/AIDS service providers to work together and conduct community-based research for improving HIV prevention services and strategies, a workshop series was developed. The curriculum is described.

Context: How the curriculum came about

The curriculum was developed as part of an ongoing research project: the PaKoMi-Project is a national demonstration project dedicated to improving the participation of immigrant communities and the collaboration of service providers in the context of HIV prevention for immigrant communities in Germany. It is conducted by the national association of community-based AIDS service organisations (Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe e.V.) in collaboration with the Social Science Research Center (WZB) and local community partners and service providers. The project partners developed the curriculum based on a needs assessment study AIDS service organisations (Poster THPE0677).

Curriculum

To build skills and capacity for participatory forms of HIV prevention and research with immigrant communities, a workshop series was developed for community-members and service providers. There are five modules (see below). Each module contains a 2-day workshop designed for 20-25 participants. The workshops apply a range of tools for participatory learning and action: e.g. storytelling, small group work, role plays, simulations, presentations, group discussions, open space, etc..

Workshops-Modules:

1. "Multi-cultural, inter-cultural, trans-cultural?!" Approaches and good practice examples for participatory HIV prevention and research with immigrant communities
2. Working with communities: Using "community mapping" as a participatory method to analyze the situation, needs and assets of immigrant communities
3. Participatory intervention planning: Clarifying partners, aims and resources for HIV prevention with immigrant communities
4. "Building bridges": Tools for intercultural communication and cooperation in community-based HIV prevention
5. "Peer research", "photo voice" and other participatory research methods



Workshop Aims

- Foster mutual learning and exchange
- Create inter-/transcultural competence
- Build skills and capacity for participation and cooperation
- Enable participants to conduct participatory HIV prevention and research with immigrant communities



Lessons Learned

The PaKoMi project is still ongoing. As of July 2010, the first three workshop modules have been conducted – modules 4 and 5 will follow suit in September and November 2010. So far, the workshops have been very well received by the workshop participants. The interactive and participatory approach to learning, prevention and research works very well. Also the diverse composition of workshop participants has been crucial: involving members from different immigrant communities and service providers (with and without migration/ethnic minority background) while making sure that ethnic minorities are in the majority and gender is balanced.

Next steps

- The remaining two workshops will be conducted in the fall of 2010.
- The workshop series will be evaluated in a participatory way to see whether its aims have been met.
- The workshop curriculum including methods, practical examples and lessons learned will be published as a manual.



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