Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Regarding Tobacco and Alcohol use of At Risk Immigrant Youth Residing at Youth Villages in Israel
Dylan Green

Project Partners
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- Yemin Orde Initiatives, Israel
- Dr. Anita Nudelman- Applied Anthropologist, Adolescent Health

Populations/Communities Served
Youth Villages in the Yemin Orde Initiatives Network
- Yemin Orde
- Kedma

Progress to Date
- Conducted a literature review of tobacco and alcohol prevention and cessation interventions for youth.
- Assisted several youth in language and cultural preparedness for international experiences in the USA.
- Completed 18 in depth interviews
- Preliminary transcription and assessment of interviews revealed common themes reported by staff including:
  - Many youth arrive at the village having already used or are using tobacco or alcohol.
  - Those who start using tobacco from 14-16 likely due to peer pressure.
  - Those who start using tobacco from 16-19 likely due to life pressure (Military service, culmination exams, etc.)
  - Alcohol use (particularly abuse) linked largely to family issues.
  - Alcohol use and tolerance differentiation between ethnicities.
  - Violence (alcohol related or not) is not a pressing concern.
  - Youth lack both information resources to tobacco and alcohol related risks as well as coping mechanisms to avoid pressures to use or abuse these substances.
- Debriefed findings to leaders at Yemin Orde and discussed next steps.

Next Steps
- Complete analysis of collected data
- Develop educational pamphlets to be distributed by Youth Villages.
- Develop curricula containing group exercises, games, and other engaging activities to educate youth about risks of tobacco and alcohol use as well as aversion methods.
- Continue to work with Yemin Orde and its partners to carry out and evaluate tobacco and alcohol interventions to improve health among the youth attending.

Project Goals
Assess knowledge, attitudes and practices of youth regarding tobacco and alcohol by:
- Conducting interviews of youth counselors, peer educators, and informal education program developers regarding patterns of youth behavior and knowledge gaps surrounding tobacco and alcohol, and suggested methods of education and behavior modification.
- Engaging youth while working alongside them performing daily chores and fulfilling village needs (cooking, maintenance, gardening, etc.)
- Engaging youth through English and scholastic tutoring.

Expected Outcomes
Develop information resources for youth surrounding the health effects of tobacco and alcohol use.
Develop age and culturally appropriate informal education curricula to be utilized by youth and peer counselors on the topics of tobacco and alcohol use and risks by:
- Collaborating with experienced educators who are familiar with the village youth.
- Collaborating with public health professionals experienced in youth education and prevention.
- Using proven tactics and approaches identified through a review of the literature.

Project Timeframe
- May 2010: Establish project goals.
- June 2010: Meet with Youth Village leaders to discuss expectations and schedule interviews.
- July 2010: Interview staff, educators, and counselors.
- August 2010: Review preliminary findings with Youth Village leaders and develop action plan and timeline.
- December 2010: Reveal first draft educational materials and curricula.