



Soul Buddyz Club and HIV Prevention

Mexico International Symposium 2 August 2008

What is Soul City?

- ☺ An NGO established in South Africa 15 years ago, operating with 9 other health and development communication partners in the SADC region
- ☺ SOUL CITY uses a combination of mass media, social mobilisation and advocacy for social change
- ☺ In South Africa, Soul City started a children's drama, Soul Buddyz, in 2000

Soul Buddyz Club

- ☺ Partnership between Soul City and SABC Education and Department of Education
- ☺ Rolled out to primary schools and public libraries in January 2003
- ☺ Aimed at children between the ages of 8-12 years
- ☺ To date 5000 Clubs
- ☺ Over 80 000 members



Why Soul Buddyz Club?

- ☺ Inspired by children at grass roots level
- ☺ Influx of requests from children yearning for a platform
- ☺ To extend impact of Soul Buddyz Drama
- ☺ Engage with peers
- ☺ Be supported
- ☺ To learn more about health and development issues affecting them
- ☺ In order to take action
- ☺ Make a difference in the community

☺ Me and my friends need something to do. We want to start a group like the Soul Buddyz. Please tell us where to start

Girl13: Khayelitsha.

☺ We are the Soul Buddyz biggest fans. We are 12 in our group. We are not just any group. We are like the Soul Buddyz team. We sing and talk and help one another

Boy: Eastern Cape



OBJECTIVES

- ☺ create a forum where children's needs and voices can be heard
- ☺ create an environment for ongoing learning with peer and intergenerational support
- ☺ mobilize children to participate in taking responsible action to shape their lives and that of the community, now and in the future

- ☺ to promote schools and libraries as community resources
- ☺ provide a positive alternative for young people
- ☺ encourage young children to have fun and be creative
- ☺ support young people as agents for change
- ☺ to provide young people with Life skills with a large focus on HIV/AIDS

Principles

- ☺ children's rights and responsibilities
- ☺ children as active participants in society
- ☺ child participation

Benefits of Soul Buddyz Club

- ☺ Support materials to compliment Life Orientation activities within schools – often used in school
- ☺ Opportunities to integrate Life Orientation in real life
- ☺ Extra curricula activities – especially in under resourced areas
- ☺ Fosters and nurtures child participation

What do Soul Buddyz Club do?

- ☺ Regular Club meetings
- ☺ Discussing debating themes and issues from Soul Buddyz
- ☺ Work through Soul Buddyz Club units
- ☺ Research at schools and in community
- ☺ Engaging with newsletters and posters
- ☺ Entering competitions
- ☺ Projects



Examples of projects

- ☺ HIV and AIDS vulnerable children
- ☺ Caring for the environment
- ☺ Establishing food gardens and soup kitchens
- ☺ Story-telling sessions with senior citizens
- ☺ Awareness raising through community meetings and community radio stations
- ☺ Income generation projects



Buddyz on the Move

- ☺ Reflecting action of Soul Buddyz Clubs
- ☺ Challenging norms – like gender issues
- ☺ Building confidence



Soul Buddyz Club and HIV prevention

- ☺ Improves self efficacy
- ☺ Improves knowledge
- ☺ Skills development
- ☺ Gender challenge
- ☺ Hope for the future
- ☺ Managing relationships
- ☺ Support group
- ☺ Close contact with adult mentor (facilitator)
- ☺ Trained facilitators – with new generations

Impact

- ☺ Children belonging to a Soul Buddyz Club were 3 times more likely to give the correct answer when asked if one could get HIV by having unprotected sex than those who did not belong. (controlling age, sex and place live)

Impact

- ☺ Children who belonged to a Soul Buddyz Club were almost 4 times more likely to disagree that if a boy wanted sex he has the right to get it, than children who do not belong to a Soul Buddyz Club

Impact

- ☺ Having started Soul Buddyz Club activities had a positive impact on
 - knowledge relating to getting HIV infection from unprotected sex (OR: 2.88);
 - sharing of needles (OR: 2.85)
 - and an unborn child getting HIV from its mother (OR:1.68).

Impact

- ☺ There was also a positive impact on
 - knowing that you can't get HIV by touching someone (OR: 2.88);
 - that AIDS is not caused by witchcraft (OR: 2.67);
 - that HIV causes AIDS (OR: 3.09);
 - and that you can reduce the risk of getting HIV by having fewer sexual partners (OR: 1.72)

Impact

- ☺ Soul Buddyz Club also impacted positively on willingness
 - to be friends with someone who has HIV or AIDS (OR: 2.22);
 - to be friends if their parent has HIV or AIDS (OR: 2.98)
 - to care for a family member who has AIDS (OR: 4.35)

