

VACAP

Violence, Anger, and Conflict Awareness Program



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Objectives

- Give a brief overview of the VACAP Project
- Demonstrate a component of VACAP
- Report Project Evaluations and Outcomes
- Address Achievements and Challenges
- Consider issues important to the Muslim Community and Muslim youth in addressing violence, anger and conflict
- Look at next steps for VACAP



Partnerships



National Crime Prevention Strategy
Community Mobilization Program

Ontario Multifaith Council

Province wide Multifaith Institution
providing resources to faith groups
and government



Muslim community agency with track
record in institutional services

Description of Project

Target Community:

Muslim youth aged 16 – 25 living in the Greater Toronto Area

Program Objectives:

- Increase your level of understanding and awareness about Anger Management and Violence
- Develop your capacity to effectively manage your anger, conflicts and defuse potentially violent situations, particularly as young persons
- Acquaint yourself with tools, strategies and ideas for discussing and managing anger and conflict with your peers/colleagues



Project Outcomes

Project Delivery:

5 Weekend Intensive Programs
2 Mini-VACAP Workshops

Youth Impacted:

- 40 Youths (Weekend Intensive)
2 female, 3 male groups
- 65 Youth (Mini-Workshops)
1 segregated male/female group
1 mixed male/female group



Evaluations

Objective 1

- *Increase your level of understanding and awareness about Anger Management and Violence*

98% of respondents Agreed (30%) or Strongly Agreed (68%)

Objective 2

- *Develop your capacity to effectively manage your anger, conflicts and defuse potentially violent situations, particularly as young persons*

97% of respondents Agreed (28%) or Strongly Agreed (69%)

Objective 3

- *Acquaint yourself with tools, strategies and ideas for discussing and managing anger and conflict with your peers/colleagues*

98% of respondents Agreed (27%) or Strongly Agreed (71%)



Evaluations

Content and Format

- *Workshop Content was relevant*

100% of respondents Agreed (40%) or Strongly Agreed (60%)

- *Exercises and Activities worked well*

100% of respondents Agreed (29%) or Strongly Agreed (71%)

Overall Facilitator Review

- *Facilitator Clear in Presentation*

100% of respondents Agreed (24%) or Strongly Agreed (76%)

- *Facilitator Knowledgeable about subject*

100% of respondents Agreed (29%) or Strongly Agreed (71%)

- *Facilitator managed group discussion well*

97% of respondents Agreed (24%) or Strongly Agreed (73%)



Planned Outcomes

- Young people will learn to identify, avoid or mitigate conflict laden situations in their lives
- The criminal justice system will be less impacted by violent Muslim youth
- Muslim youth will carry a commitment to non-violence with them at the end of this project
- This project will address unmet needs in a part of the minority and immigrant population in the Greater Toronto Area



Unexpected Outcomes

- Enthusiastic participation by girls and young women in the workshops

RESPONDING TO THE UNEXPECTED

- Empowerment of Muslim females
 - Autonomy
 - Seeking their permission
 - Their unique approach to working
 - Adjusting male-centered role plays



Unexpected Outcomes

- Participants came from diverse parts of the Muslim Community

RESPONDING TO THE UNEXPECTED

- Shifting gears to accommodate recent immigrants
 - Using different learning styles
 - Utilizing speakers of foreign languages to translate
 - Cultural interpretation by other youth



Challenges

- Lack of participation by wider and more traditional segment of community. Unaware that violence, anger and conflict was an issue
- Lack of tangible incentives for youth
- Inability to quickly ramp up to deliver workshops
- Some youth had to work on weekends
- Need for a youth worker
- Some community agencies could not accommodate an entire weekend workshop



Essential Learnings

- Program needs to be seen as neutral to all of the divergent views in the Muslim Community
- This type of program can be a vehicle to empower traditionally marginalized parts of marginalized communities (new comers, women, secular/non-practicing/ostracized)
- New models of partnerships can be developed
- How do you eat and elephant? One bite at a time!
- Provide outreach and training in local settings and utilize local people



Essential Learnings

- Be aware of culture of the community you are addressing
- Muslim youth have parents who want to be involved, consulted and engaged
- Religious practice is a strong component in many Muslims' lives, (check it out)
- Media is an important partner in getting the message out



New Possibilities

- VACAP is seeking new opportunities for partnerships and funding
- We would like to broaden the youth project to include other ethno cultural groups
- We are further developing the mini-VACAP workshop model
- ICSC is seeking to develop expertise and specialization in the field



New Project



Muslim community agency with track record in institutional services



The Olive Tree Foundation is a philanthropic organization that promotes community development through the collection of endowed funds.



Thank you

