

STATE OF THE ART REVIEW OF PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

Conducted by the
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Abstract Prepared by: Dr. Ma. Alodia C. Fontanilla
Professor
College of Education, UP Diliman

Brief Description

This study documented data on Preventive Drug Education in the Philippines during the five-year period (1998 – 2002) in training, research and instructional materials development. The data generated was formulated into policy guidelines in the implementation of Preventive Drug Education in the Philippines as well as ASEAN Member Countries.

The review is expected to develop awareness of the Best Practices among agencies involved, successes and problems in the implementation of the various aspects of the Preventive Drug Education in the Philippines as well as in Asia.

Significance of the Project

The alarming statistics on the use of illicit drugs signals the urgency of reviewing the current drug prevention programs. It is imperative that efforts to arrest the trend and curb the drug menace are properly evaluated with the purpose of focusing on those that are effective and discontinuing those that are ineffective. This could save time and resources (human and monetary) that are otherwise wasted on ineffective programs.

This study is the initial step to document Preventive Drug Education (PDE) efforts in all areas – research, training and instructional materials development. The review is expected to develop awareness of the common practices among agencies involved, successes and problems in the implementation of the various aspects of preventive drug education. This endeavor is deemed an effective approach in consolidating data that will serve as scientific bases for strengthening PDE programs in the Philippines. Research based preventive drug education program will definitely be more relevant, efficient and effective.

Objectives

This study aimed to establish baseline data on Preventive Drug Education (PDE) in the Philippines during the five-year period (1998-2002) in training, research and instructional materials development; integrate data generated and translate the results into guidelines that will assist different agencies in developing policies on Preventive Drug Education (PDE) programs and developing instructional materials in PDE.

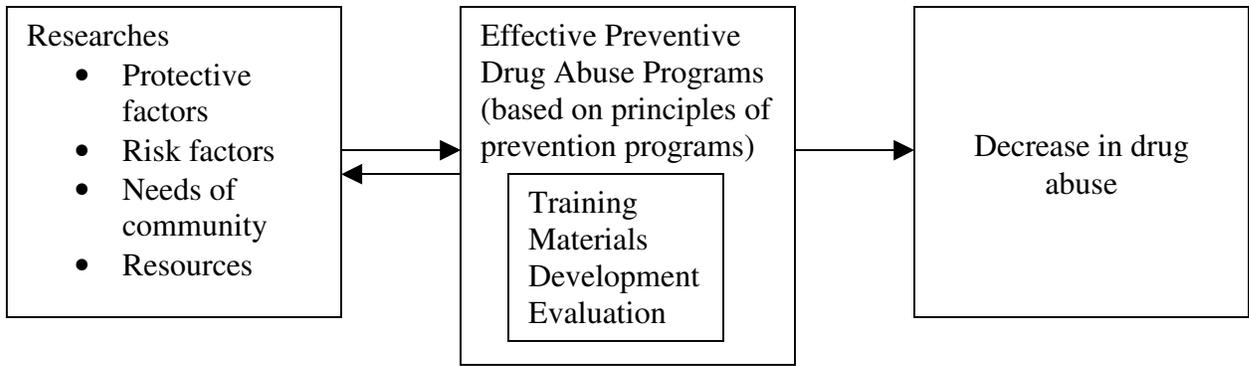
In gathering baseline data on Preventive Drug Education (PDE), the answers to the following questions were sought:

- What drug abuse preventive programs are being undertaken?
- What programs are effective? Not effective?
- Who are the target individuals of the drug abuse preventive programs?
- What organizations/agencies are involved in the drug abuse prevention programs?
- How long have these organizations get funding for their programs?
- Do these organizations conduct needs assessment in designing their training programs?
- Do these organizations evaluate their training programs?
- What are the thrusts of their training programs?
- Who are involved in the conduct of their training programs?
- How often do they conduct the training programs?
- Do these organizations use instructional materials for their training programs?
- Where do they get these instructional materials? Do they produce them?
- Do these organizations conduct research on preventive drug education?
- What type of researches do they do?

Conceptual Framework

This study is based on the following conceptual framework. Two important components necessary in any prevention programs include researches and program packages (training, materials development and evaluation). Research outputs are necessary to determine appropriate and effective training programs, materials to be developed and the evaluation schemes for the programs. Based on the studies done by NIDA, effective programs are those that are based on researches (based on empirical data).

The training, materials and evaluation are elements of prevention programs. In the planning, design and implementation of any program, the principles of prevention should be considered. The evaluation results could then be used to determine other researches needed to improve succeeding programs. This ensures continues search for improvement of any prevention programs. With more effective prevention programs, hopefully less and less people (especially the youth and young children) are into drugs.



Methodology

The research method used was descriptive with survey and focus group discussion as the data collecting techniques. There are two main parts of the research, namely, development and validation of research instrument and the conduct of survey and focus group discussions.

1. Development and Validation of Research Instrument

The research team developed a draft of the survey instrument, which was presented to the ATCPDE committee members for comments and suggestions. Based on these, the survey instrument was finalized and validated by experts.

The final instrument is composed of two parts, Part I and Part II. Part I includes items on basic information about the respondent such as name, number of years in existence and in drug abuse prevention program, type of agency and on the general information on the respondent's program. On the other hand, Part II has items on the specifics of the respondent's instructional materials, training programs and research activities for the past five years.

After the survey, a focus group discussion (FGD) was done to clarify answers to certain parts of the questionnaire. A member of the research team conducted the FGD.

2. Sampling

a. Survey Sites

Six sites covering the major regions of the Philippines were selected, namely: Baguio City (Northern Luzon), Metro Manila (Central Luzon), Laguna (Southern Luzon), Cebu City (Central Visayas), Iloilo City (Western Visayas) and Davao City (Southern Mindanao). Aside from their strategic positions and accessibility, these sites are the location of UP campuses where key informants were selected. This ensures easy coordination through email with less expense.

The survey questionnaires were administered in three sites, Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao from July to August 2003 and from October to December 2003 in Los Baños, Laguna, Iloilo City and Baguio City

b. Samples

For each site, the coordinator identified and selected respondents who were program planner/implementer with at least 5 years exposure to preventive drug education.

There were 12 respondents distributed as follows:

- 2 (two) Non-government Organizations
- 2 (two) Government Organizations
- 2 (two) Local Government Units
- 2 (two) School-based Organizations
- 2 (two) Civil/Religious
- 2 (two) Professional Groups

Major Findings

The following major findings could be derived from the survey results.

1. There is an equal percentage of agencies in existence for fifteen (15) years as well as less than five years. For those agencies existing in less than five years there is more non-government agencies than the rest of the categories of the sample respondents.
2. The target clientele of most agencies are students, out-of-school youth, parents and community leaders.
3. The vision and mission of agencies were focused on eradicating drug abuse thru information, education and communication campaign.
4. Education and guidance counseling are two most common services rendered by the different agencies.
5. Majority of the respondents from agencies perceived community-based programs are more effective than school-based programs.
6. Best practices on Preventive Drug Education recognized by the agencies are: (a) conducting seminars, lectures, forum, conferences and (b) strengthening and integrating drug prevention activities in schools.
7. One half of the respondents/agencies produced instructional materials mostly in printed form such as posters, pamphlets, flyers and advertisements. Their major source of funds includes donations, local funds and various benefactors. None of the agencies produce multimedia materials.

8. All training programs of agencies were planned in conjunction with the objectives of Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and Philippine National Police (PNP) towards a drug free Philippines.

9. Participants of training programs of agencies are mostly parents, teachers, students and community. Information about drugs and its effects to the person and society; and youth and the vital role of the family are the most common concern/topics discussed.

10. There is a dearth of researches done in most of the agencies. As a matter of fact there are no funds allocated for research as well as items for research personnel.

11. Mostly descriptive, survey types of researches were done as shown in the listing of a few agencies.

Recommendations

1. On Conceptualization of Programs

Although it is good practice to focus on the mandate of the organization and on the mission/vision of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and other lead agencies, it is of advantage that researches are done to properly identify the needs and gaps in drug prevention. The research findings will also be an objective basis to identify the appropriate target groups and the most suitable program for them.

The different organizations and agencies involved in drug prevention programs should be provided guidelines on the conceptualization and delivery of programs to ensure alignment with the thrust of the government, quality and cost effectiveness. Although there'll be guidelines, these organizations and agencies should be given freehand in determining programs that are suitable to the target audience in the community where these organizations and agencies are operating.

2. On Mode Delivery

It is recommended that school-based programs be strengthened even if community-based programs are perceived to be more effective. Many of the children in schools especially in elementary school levels are equally susceptible to drug abuse in the future. Considering the high dropout rate in elementary schools, many children would drop out and the only opportunity to increase protective factors is before they leave school. It is recommended that planning between school-based program coordinators and community-based coordinators be done so that these programs reinforce each other.

3. On Training

Most of the training programs conducted are one-shot deal. It is recommended that training programs be designed as series of training to ensure continuity and greater impact.

4. On Instructional Materials

Agencies conducting training programs should have provisions for the production of their own instructional materials to make sure that these are suitable to the target audience. In most cases when organizations and agencies use commercially available materials, the content, design and mode of delivery of the materials are not suitable to the target audience resulting in less effective instruction.

Implications to ASEAN

The results of this preliminary survey in the Philippines show the strengths and weaknesses of the present preventive drug education programs in the Philippines. These could be used in revising existing programs and in planning and designing future programs. The ASEAN member countries are also implementing their own preventive drug education programs. Similar studies could provide inputs on what programs may be effective under certain conditions to the member countries. Moreover, the survey in the ASEAN region could establish the profile and extent of problem to be addressed in the region. It is believed that the drug problem is not the domain of one country but the shared responsibilities of different countries toward a peaceful and progressive global community.

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