

MOVEMENT BUILDING AROUND GBV PREVENTION. KIVULINI WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATION'S EXPERIENCES.

Building a movement on prevention of GBV includes building a critical mass of the communities which view GBV in different perspectives and act against it according to their own local initiatives or otherwise.

Kivulini works on creating a critical mass from school children, teachers, government authorities, non government authorities, religious institutions and customary settings and facilitate it in prevention of GBV. Formation of different groups in the communities with the aim of preventing GBV creates a visible movement with a clear goal.

Establish a Network of State and Non-State Actors: Kivulini creates a strong network of state and non-state actors across the Lake Victoria Regions that is active in the prevention of and response to GBV. The Network members who gradually build a movement include: government agencies, service providers and community leaders, these are involved in Kivulini's programs. Network members are familiar with and are in regular contact with each other, creating a strong voice across the Lake Victoria Regions for violence prevention. With proper and careful documentation of the process, we aim to demonstrate how in a relatively short period of time, an entire region (the Lake Victoria Region) can be transformed from being relatively passive and unresponsive to persons experiencing GBV to one that is active and engaged and develops infrastructure that is visibly demonstrating prevention and response to GBV.

Movement building at the community level: Kivulini's core mandate in prevention of GBV is to initiate movements for social change at the different community levels. Our approach recognizes that change is a process and that organizations can be more effective by being aware of change and striving to systematically and effectively facilitate the same in communities. Prevention efforts recognize community members in their own thinking and moves along with them to change attitudes and behaviors that are harmful to women.

Community leaders and community activists are independently managing domestic violence cases and have set up mechanisms of protecting women and girls facing violence and exploitation through the creation of awareness, media and community dialogues. With the demonstration from the communities' role models in prevention and responding on GBV, communities are moving from harmful behaviors, practices and cultures that perpetuate Violence against women.

Consultative meetings and trainings: Kivulini conducts consultative meetings with key community members to assess the type of support required from

Kivulini in order for these communities to sustain their prevention initiatives. Kivulini also works to build up the working relationships among various stakeholders so that a strong network can exist between community members for violence prevention support. By strengthening the capacity of community volunteers, community action groups, in & out of school youth led groups, and village/street & ward tribunals the movement for social change is formed and actively engaged in prevention.

Local Activism: Raising awareness is a necessary tool for informing women and girls on their rights. Unfortunately national campaigns are often not accessible to the poorest and most marginalized members of the community. Kivulini encourages the community groups and sectors that it works with to join in and initiate awareness activities within their own environments. These activities include community dialogues, in out of school debates, video sessions, community theatre, community festivals and Domestic Violence Awareness Week (during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence from 25th November to 10th December each year).

Conclusion

Kivulini adds its voice to various other processes and campaigns related to women's rights and GBV. As a member of several local, district, national and regional networks and pressure groups, Kivulini is advancing the rights and interests of women through active participation in relevant forums, networks and campaigns including relevant networks working on GBV.

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