

Amidst laughter, play and hard work the youngsters from three poor neighborhoods and one rural town undertook the task of offering their ideas, concerns and problems during intense discussions. Coordinators of the task were amazed at the eagerness with which the young people were willing to attend the workshops in comparison to other groups which are usually reluctant to participate.

One of the greatest concerns among youth is the quality of education and their ability to pay for it. There are not enough educational centers to cover the demand. However, the most serious problem they confront every year is the frequency of the teachers' going on strike. The youth groups also complained of abuse, discrimination and situations of preferences to particular students. There is a lack of educational materials, supplies and laboratories that hinder the effective learning response in the students. Poor school infrastructure and a lack of a sanitary environment is also a great discouragement amongst students. Nevertheless the main discouraging issue is the students' demands in learning skills to improve the opportunities of acquiring a job.

Some of the desires among the youth are to be taught with patience and would greatly appreciate if their teachers were on time and had better management of the daily hours spent teaching them to enable a better quality in the delivery of their education. Hence workshops where they could be taught how to do things in a more efficient manner would greatly be appreciated.

In spite of the different approaches to teach and raise awareness amongst the youngsters about STDs, HIV/AIDs and early pregnancies they are still prone to unwanted pregnancies and STDs due to the lack of support from their parents. Therefore a good communication with parents as well projects for youth would help things along. A clear example was a testimony from one of the girls who shared how she volunteers with Save the Children in teaching kids how to prevent pregnancies and HIV/AIDs but notwithstanding her fifteen year old sister now has a two month old baby.

The youth also raised the need to have access to part time jobs that would provide them with some type of income given the lack of resources and the high levels of poverty while they educate themselves. Youth would like to have jobs that are well paid but for right now the best would be to have part time jobs that would enable them to study as well.

Even though some would like to start their own businesses there are no financial resources available because of the limited access to credit from private banks and other financial institutions.

Both violence and alcoholism within the families threatens what the youngsters cherish the most: a happy, loving and caring family.