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Empowering reproductive and social health education elements (PEERS) in primary and secondary schools

1. Project description

The Federation of Reproductive Health Associations, Malaysia (FRHAM) has received funding from Ministry of Education (MOE) to conduct a pilot program on empowering reproductive and social health education elements (PEERS) in primary and secondary schools.

This workshop was held in collaboration with the Health Education Unit, Curriculum Development Division, Ministry of Education Malaysia and has been attended by 80 teachers from 40 primary and secondary schools from around Kuala Lumpur and Selangor.

The target participants are teachers who teach the subject of Health Education and Physical Education (PJPK), Islamic Education, and also Counseling Teachers. This is because the PEERS policy is the basis of reproductive and social health education that applies to all walks of life regardless of age.

Objective

- To increase teachers' awareness on the importance of reproductive and social health education;
- To build up educators among Islamic / Moral and Health Education subject in carrying out sexuality education elements in their daily lesson or related subject; and
- To empower the method of teaching and learning of sexuality education in curriculum and in any programme related to sexual and reproductive health education.

2. Activities

FRHAM facilitating staff led by Deputy Chairman Dr Kamal Kenny and seven FRHAM officials presented current topics on adolescent reproductive health issues as well as conducting group activities to help teachers address these issues so that they can handle the topics contained in their subject without any difficulty. The discussion covered several topic from the Reproductive Health of Adolescents Module (RHAM) which include Physical Growth and Emotional during Puberty, Taking Care of my Health, We are Equal, Reproductive Rights and Responsibilities, Me and My Values, My Friends and I, as well as My Family and I.

After the group activity, Dr Kamal and Ms Tan Huey Ning had their dialogue sessions with the teachers. This dialogue session was held specifically to discuss on issues that were encountered by teachers throughout their learning and teaching session at school.



Group activity



Group Activity



Group Activity



Group Activity



Dialogue session with Dr Kamal



Dialogue session with Ms Tan Huey Ning

3. Results

In line with the objective of the workshops, FRHAM achieved the goal in stepping up the teachers' awareness on the importance of reproductive and social health education. Based on the feedback, most of the teacher agreed that the content was appropriate, useful, important, clear and informative. They mentioned that the session in the workshops provided them with a lot of new information which can be replicated in PDPC.

Besides, FRHAM managed to inject educators with elements of sexuality education especially among the Islamic/Moral and Health Education teachers. The teachers did mentioned that they learnt lots of new information during sharing session and stated that contributing opinions were able to improve the ideas from all aspects. They were glad to be able to share their experiences which has also made the session more interesting and interactive.

To add on, in terms of empowering the Islamic/Moral and Health Education teacher in implementing the sexuality information and element in their subjects, FRHAM had conducted a dialogue session to have a discussion with the teachers. Most of the teacher stated that the session had provided them with lots of useful information in dealing and approaching their students. In addition, the session with Ms Tan Huey Ning had provided them with useful ideas to be implemented in PDPC learning session. They also mentioned the group activity had improved and open up their knowledge about PEERS in a broader views. This will surely help them in understanding and deal with the issues that evolve among students nowadays.