



Social and Economic Effects of Alcohol and Drugs on Young people, a case study of Teso region - Uganda.

IOGT-NTOMOVEMENT

**Mastulah Kisakye : Alcohol Harm Prevention Project Implementer,
Uganda Girl Guides Association**

Introduction

• Background

Uganda Girl Guides Association (UGGA) is a voluntary organization, non-political, without any discrimination to creed, race or any other circumstance. UGGA is a member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) since 1984. WAGGGS is the largest voluntary organization dedicated to girls and young women in the world. UGGA provides non formal education programs and trainings through the core and fundamental principles of guiding.

• Context on Alcohol Harm Prevention Project

Teso region in Eastern Uganda has one of the highest levels of alcohol and drug use Nationally. A project intervention aimed at preventing harmful use of alcohol and drugs among youth was initiated with support of IOGT-NTOMovement from (2016 -date). The baseline information (2017 & 2023) showed that the high consumption rate of both formal and informal alcohol/drugs had led to increase in prevalence of alcohol related - economic, health and social problems such as;

- > Gender-based violence
- > HIV/AIDS transmission and acquisition
- > Poverty
- > Child neglect and
- > Increased school dropout levels in Soroti and Kumi districts.

Results

- Over 4461 young people were reached through the Girl Guides Clubs with key messages on alcohol and drug harm.
- By laws against alcohol and substance use were formulated
- Teso area is formulating an ordinance against alcohol/drug use.
- Formulation of prevention leadership action teams that enforce by laws
- UGGA supported the formation of community prevention leadership action teams that advocated for a local alcohol/drug policy and enforced the implementation of approved by-laws



Intervention

To promote a safe and healthy environment free from Alcohol and Substance use among young people, three approaches have been applied;

School based approach.

Guiding Clubs are started in schools where the learners are prevention ambassadors both in their schools and communities.

Community based approach

Capacity of peer educators is built in alcohol and drug prevention knowledge and skills to enable them reach their communities during sensitization activities.

Family based approach

The peer educators trained, provide family support and counseling to community members on the dangers of alcohol and drugs and the need for behavior change using the UPC for family-based track.

Conclusion

Capacity building of communities and youth leaders using the UPC modules helps increase and improve community intervention as they are based on prevention science which makes it easier to deliver and utilize the messages. Behavior change communication approaches using UPC targeting all stakeholders are important in the fight against alcohol use hence need to continue.

Special thanks

IOGT-NTOMOVEMENT



ISSUP INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SUBSTANCE USE PROFESSIONALS

Contacts



+256 775 335 886



kmastulah@girlguidesuganda.org



mercykisakye7@gmail.com