



The role of young people in ensuring social accountability: A case of Kisumu County

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Background:

Young people have been empowered with skills, information and knowledge to be able to put leaders to task and ensure social accountability. Empowering young people to become meaningful participants in Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights policies and service delivery by increasing their advocacy capacity through equipping them with skills on how to come up with advocacy messages and presenting them, media advocacy and budgetary advocacy. Participation prevents local elites and opinion leaders from imposing their ideas and value on ordinary citizens thus ensuring that the unheard voices of the youths are involved.

Methodologies:

Youth advocates in Kisumu county involvement in promoting governance among local leaders in the county has been done through use of media, where youths share stories on SRHR issues are shared on platforms like twitter and Facebook and using them to bring that nationwide attention to an issue and holding responsible leaders accountable to answer to certain issues that are not being addressed. Involvement of youths during public participation, submissions being presented to policy makers. Youth advocates presenting their issues to the Members of County assembly on current issues affecting young people, the roles and responsibility of the policy makers and how they can help improve the policies around health.

Results:

Increased budgetary allocation for health in Kisumu County from 15% to 33% for financial year 2018/2019, Community health volunteers are now receiving monthly stipends. Having two youth friendly centres that meet the national guidelines on provision for youth friendly services.

Conclusion:

Empowering young people to become meaningful participants in SRHR policies can help increasing social accountability, the attention that contraception deserves and budgetary allocation to family planning and increased focus on sexual reproductive health in general.