



ZIMBABWE NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING COUNCIL

Youth Needs Assessment Report in IPPF Supported Youth Centres



**Midlands and Mashonaland West Provinces,
Zimbabwe**

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Table of Contents

List of Tables	iii
List of Figures	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	v
ACRONYMS	vi
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	vii
1 INTRODUCTION AND JUSTIFICATION	1
2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY	2
3 METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH	2
3.1 Study sites	2
3.2 General approach.....	2
3.3 Research design and sampling framework.....	2
3.4 Sample size.....	3
3.5 Primary data collection.....	3
3.6 Study limitations	3
3.7 Data analysis and synthesis	3
4 STUDY RESULTS AND FINDINGS	4
4.1 Research targets and outputs.....	4
4.2 Demographic characteristics of the respondents.....	4
4.3 Characteristics of sampled participants in the qualitative approach.....	5
4.4 Household characteristics	5
4.5 Spending of leisure time by young people.....	6
4.6 Household food security and poverty	8
4.7 Access to social media and IT	8
4.8 Access to SRH services	8
4.9 Visiting the Youth Centre	9
4.10 Menstrual hygiene.....	11
4.11 Services being provided at the youth centre	12
4.12 Entertainment services	12
4.13 Livelihood projects	14

4.14	Convenience of the youth centre times	16
4.15	Knowledge of youth friendly service providers.....	17
4.16	Access to SRH services	18
5	CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH	18
5.1	Challenges being faced by adolescent girls	18
5.2	Challenges being faced by adolescent boys.....	19
5.3	SRH related problems faced by youth	19
5.4	Causes of these problems.....	19
5.5	Proposed interventions to address youth related challenges.....	22
6	INTERVENTIONS TO ATTRACT YOUTH.....	23
6.1	Activities attracting youth by age group to the youth centre	24
6.2	Income generating projects preferred by young people.....	25
7.	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE YOUTH CENTRES	26
8.	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	28
9.	CONCLUSION	29
	Research Team.....	30
	References.....	31

List of Tables

Table 1: Research Targets vs Achievements	4
Table 2: Demographic characteristics of the respondents	4
Table 3: Characteristics of sampled participants in the qualitative approach.....	5
Table 4: Household Characteristics	6
Table 5: How adolescents spend their leisure time.....	7
Table 6: Visiting youth centre by school status	10
Table 7: Have ever been to the YC in the past month by employment status	10
Table 8: Visiting the youth centre by permission	10
Table 9: Permission to visit the youth centre by age group.....	11
Table 10: Visiting the youth centre by gender.....	11
Table 11: Challenges faced by adolescent girls.....	18
Table 12: Challenges being faced by adolescent Boys.....	19
Table 13: Interventions to address these problems among the youth	22
Table 14: Activities/ interventions to attract youth to the youth centre.....	23
Table 15: Activities attracting youth by age group to the youth centre.....	24
Table 16: Income generating projects preferred by youth.....	25

List of Figures

Figure 1: Ever visited youth centre in the past month by age group	8
Figure 2: Entertainment Services preferred	12
Figure 3: Entertainment Services preferred by Gender	13
Figure 4: Entertainment Services preferred by age group	14
Figure 5: Livelihoods projects preferred by the young people	14
Figure 6: Livelihoods projects preferred by age group.....	15
Figure 7: Livelihoods projects preferred by gender.....	15
Figure 8: Livelihoods projects preferred by school status	16
Figure 9: Convenience of the youth centre times	16
Figure 10: Convenience of the youth centre times during the day	17

Figure 11: Knowledge of youth friendly service providers 17
Figure 12: Access to Sexual Reproductive Health Services 18

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ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ASRH	Adolescence Sexual and Reproductive Health
ATR	African Traditional Religion
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FP	Family Planning
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IEC	Information Education Communication
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
KII	Key Informant Interviews
MoHCC	Ministry of Health and Child Care
PCC	Parent to Child Communication
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHS	Sexual and Reproductive Health Services
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
YHA	Youth Health Advisor
ZNFPC	Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background: Zimbabwean population is youthful and out of the total population of 13 million in Zimbabwe, 32% of them are young people aged 10 – 24 years (2012 Population Census Report). The Government of Zimbabwe, through the Ministry of Health and Child Care developed the first ever National ASRH Strategy (2010 – 2015) in recognition of the critical needs of the young people who are mostly the marginalised, vulnerable and hardest hit groups in the societies. A number of ASRH programmes and initiatives have therefore been developed and are being implemented. ZNFPC and IPPF have been working towards ensuring that there is comprehensive SRHR service provision to the young people through youth centres. Evidence based on service statistics for Kasanze and Mabasa youth centres indicates an unfilled gap despite that the youth friendly centres have been contributing much in realising the anticipated results. ZNFPC conducted a youth needs assessment so as to identify and understand sexual and reproductive health challenges affecting the young people as well as to establish the health needs of the young people in these communities. This would then facilitate for needs based programming for the young people.

Methods: A cross sectional study was carried out using a mixed method approach involving both quantitative and qualitative techniques. Data was collected using multiple approaches including in-depth interviews with key informants (service providers), focus group discussions (FGDs) and structured questionnaire administration with the youth. Simple random sampling and purposive sampling methods were employed during the study.

Results: A total of 218 study participants reported awareness of the challenges affecting the young people. The most common SRH problems facing young people are STIs (Including HIV and AIDS), early marriages, teenage pregnancies, alcohol and substance abuse, rape , child abuse, intergenerational relationships, early sexual debut, prostitution, complications during birth resulting in maternal death of young mothers. Among these, teenage pregnancies, early marriages, rape, early sexual debut and maternal death were the top problems affecting young females while STIs, alcohol and substance abuse were among the top problems faced by male youth. These problems emanate from a myriad factors which include unemployment, poverty, lack of parental guidance, cultural and religious practises, misuse of technology (social media), child protection rights, lack of SRHR knowledge and negative peer pressure among others.

Recommendations: Youth and parents are urging improvement on Parent to Child Communication, creating employment by income generating projects in their communities, upgrading youth centres to suit the modern needs of the young people as well as continue with health education and sensitize parents on the importance for PCC. Entertainment services and youth operating times and days should be tailor made to suite the preferences of the young people. It should also be noted that the young people are not a homogenous group and preferences vary with age, sex and school status.

Conclusion: Adolescence are a diverse population group. They need special attention to be able to satisfy their needs. Their needs and problems influence their development. Adolescence needs love, freedom and independence as well as self-expression. Parental guidance is a key component in adolescence needs. It is a fact that the successful transition of adolescence is not achieved through detachment from parents but a healthy transition to adulthood is facilitated by secure attachment and emotional connectedness with parents. The ability of parents, teachers, the elders, etc. to sustain a 'goal-directed partnership' with adolescents in their daily hood by all means will help them to remain confident and secure and protect them from all modes of newly emerged social evils like improper and immature usage of social media.

1 INTRODUCTION AND JUSTIFICATION

In 2010, the Government of Zimbabwe, through the Ministry of Health and Child Care and the National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) Coordination Forum developed the first ever National ASRH Strategy (2010 – 2015). A number of ASRH initiatives have therefore been developed and are being implemented. ZNFPC and partners have been working towards ensuring that there is comprehensive SRH services provision to the young people.

Out of the total population of about 13 million in Zimbabwe, 32% of them are young people aged 10 – 24 years (2012 Population Census Results). Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) service providers are increasingly concerned about sexual and reproductive health needs affecting young people in their respective communities. Some of the service providers are attempting to combat these problems by offering youth friendly activities that can be positive, structured alternatives to antisocial behaviours. The question these service providers ask is, "What activities should we offer and how should we offer them?" Youth perspectives are an important element in the answering of this question.

The adolescent health needs assessment was done to provide a baseline which helps to assess the impact of interventions, identify the most effective programmes and policies supporting young people's reproductive health, and also to determine where to focus on whenever planning. This is crucial for decision makers and implementers in designing clear, achievable goals and objectives which meet the needs and address the challenges of the affected communities. The needs assessment includes:

- Assessment of the reproductive health status of young people in Kasanze and Mabasa communities,
- Information on the availability and utilization of reproductive health information and services by young people, including gaps and barriers in these chosen areas; as well as
- Assessment of local, regional, institutional, and national policies that affect the availability and utilization of adolescent reproductive health information and services.

While the youth friendly centres have been reported as contributing much in realising the anticipated results, evidence based on service statistics indicates an unfilled gap. In the context of evidence and needs based programming, there was need to conduct an assessment to identify the needs of these young people and identify opportunities as well as strategies for addressing them. When given the opportunity to make informed choices, young people are receptive to change which leads to long-term and wide - ranging benefits.

It was against this background that ZNFPC conducted a youth needs assessment so as to identify and understand the challenges affecting and the needs of the young people in Kasanze and Mabasa communities.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main purpose of the study was to identify the sexual and reproductive health related youth needs and barriers to increasing access and utilization of SRHR information and services with specifically to:

- a) Identify the priority needs by young people at the selected youth centres;
- b) Identify the key barriers to participation in youth centre based activities by young people;
- c) Determine the socio-economic and cultural challenges inhibiting youth from accessing and utilizing SRHR services
- d) Provide possible actionable recommendations to significantly increase youth participation and SRHR services utilization at the youth centres.

3 METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

3.1 Study sites

The study was conducted in two selected youth centres; Kasanze in Mashonaland West province and Mabasa in Midlands province. The geographical locations from which the study participants were drawn within the selected study sites were all rural residence.

3.2 General approach

A mixed method approach was adopted which entails use of both quantitative and qualitative techniques. Data was collected using multiple approaches. This ensured gathering of evidence and perspectives from multiple sources and triangulation of findings. The methodology also included in-depth interviews with key informants (service providers), focus group discussions (FGDs) and structured questionnaire administration with the youth.

3.3 Research design and sampling framework

A cross sectional study was carried out and simple random sampling was used to select the study participants. Young people age 10 to 24 years participated in this study. Recruitment of participants within the community served by the youth centre was facilitated by the youth centre staff members without violating the participant's right and only those willing to participate in the study were invited to meet the research team. School authorities were engaged in conjunction with recruitment of in school youth participants. The two youth centres, Mabasa youth centre in Zvishavane (Midlands province) and Kasanze youth centre in Zvimba district (Mashonaland West) out of the six being supported by IPPF were purposively selected for the study. They were purposively selected using the available statistics where they were recording very few youth accessing the services at the centres since 2013. The six IPPF youth centres contributed about 37% of all youth reached through youth centres nationwide. For the FGDs and key informant interviews, respondents were purposively selected. Five (5) FGDs were conducted per each selected youth centre.

3.4 Sample size

The optimal sample size was calculated using the formula (Cochran (1963:75)).

$$n = \frac{Z^2 p(1-p)}{\Delta^2}$$
, where n = sample size, Z = maximum allowable risk, p = proportion of youth reached in IPPF supported youth centres in 2015 and Δ =absolute precision.

Using 95% confidence interval ($Z=1.96$), absolute precision of 5% and $p=37\%$.

$n = 1.962 \times 0.63 \times (0.37)/0.052 = 96$. These 96 youth were to be selected using systematic random sampling method at the two youth centre. The total sample size calculated was 358 for all six IPPF supported sites. Then 96 was reached using the probability proportionate to size of the two youth centres to be visited. To account for non-response, a 15% adjustment was made to the sample size to give a total of 110 young people.

3.5 Primary data collection

Primary data was collected from the sampled respondents using the structured questionnaires, in-depth interview guides and FGDs with the target population.

a) *Questionnaire administration*

Questionnaires were administered face-to-face to randomly selected respondents

b) *Key informant interviews*

Key informant interviews were targeting Youth Health Advisors, Youth Facilitators and youth committee member and were conducted using semi-structured questionnaires. The aim was to understand their experiences with regards to the needs of the young people at the youth centres since they are involved in the day to day operations of the centres.

c) *Focus group discussions*

A combined total of 10 FGDs were conducted using FGD guides relevant to the target group. One FGD with parents (both male and females), one with male young people in school; one with female young people in school, one with out of school male young people and the other one with out of school female young people within the surrounding community were conducted per each youth centre. They involve discussions in which groups of 8-12 participants were discussing issues in a checklist identified during the structured questionnaire interviews while using the FGD guide.

3.6 Study limitations

The non-random sampling method which was adopted and that only two youth centres and two provinces selected nationally places limitations on generalizability of the findings.

3.7 Data analysis and synthesis

Content analysis was used for qualitative data from the FGDs and in-depth interviews with key informants. SPSS was used to analyses the quantitative data from structured questionnaires.

4 STUDY RESULTS AND FINDINGS

4.1 Research targets and outputs

Table 1: Research Targets vs Achievements

Youth Centre	No. of Individual Questionnaires	KII	FGDs
Mabasa	51	4	5
Kasanze	54	2	5
Total	105	6	10

The optimal sample size was calculated using the Cochran formula (1963:75) for the structured questionnaires. A total of 218 participants were interviewed, 98 were females and 120 were males. A total of 105 participants were youth interviewed through structured questionnaires giving a response rate of 95%. Forty three of these were females and 62 were males. Ten FGDs were done in both the communities were a total of 55 females and 58 Males were interviewed.

4.2 Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Table 2: Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Variable		Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Male	62	59
	Female	43	41
Age group	10-14	21	20
	15-19	63	60
	20-24	21	20
School Status	In School	20	79
	Out of School	60	21
Live With Both Parents	Yes	27	26
	No	78	74

A total of 105 youth were interviewed in the respective communities surrounding Mabasa youth centre in Zvishavane, Midlands province and Kasanze youth centre in Mashonaland West province. Out of the 105 youth who were interviewed 59 percent were female and 79 percent fell under the school going category. Twenty six percent are living with both parents while 74 percent are living with at least one parent. The study focused on youth between the age of 10-24 years and the age distribution is such that 20 percent are between 10-14 years, 60 percent between ages of 15-19 years while the remaining 20 % are between the ages of 20-24 years.

The qualitative analysis was from the information obtained from the FGDs and the key informant interviews done with the health service providers, youth centre committee

members and youth facilitators. A total of 6 key informant interviews were done and 10 FGDs were conducted in all the two communities. Information on how adolescence spent their leisure time, challenges/problems being faced by adolescence, SRH problems faced by adolescence, possible causes of these problems, possible interventions to curb the challenges as well as the youth centres in their communities were collected during this study.

4.3 Characteristics of sampled participants in the qualitative approach

Table 3: Characteristics of sampled participants in the qualitative approach

Status	Category	Females	Males	Total
In school youth	FGD	22	22	44
Out of school youth	FGD	22	22	44
Parents	FGD	10	10	20
Key Informants	In-depth interview	1	5	6
Total Participants		55	58	113

A total of 113 participants were interviewed in the qualitative approach as in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. In school youth were ranging from 12-19 years of age while out of school youth were in the age range 16-24. Parents were above 25 years of age. Among the key informants interviewed were youth health advisors at the youth centre, youth centre chairpersons and school headmaster.

4.4 Household characteristics

Household endowments indicate the level of wealth a household has and can also be used to assess the level of access to information by the youth. Most of the households (85) have access to a form of modern energy with solar being the most popular at 73% while 12% reported to have electricity in their households. A greater proportion (68%) reported to have radio as their major source of information. DVDs and televisions are also relatively popular indicating that the communities cannot be classified as that in absolute poverty although pockets of poverty may be there in the communities. This also explains how and where the majority of the youth spend their leisure times while not having school lessons and at home if not engaged in household chores and with parents. The responses were almost similar in the two communities of Kasanze and Mabasa as well as from both the youth and the parents. Table 4 shows the household characteristics of the respondents.

Table 4: Household Characteristics

Household endowment	Available (%)	Not available (%)
Electricity	12	88
Radio	68	32
Solar	73	27
Television	40	60
Mobile phone	30	70
Satellite dish	21	79
Computer	11	89
DVD player	48	52

4.5 Spending of leisure time by young people

Parents from both Mabasa and Kasanze areas reported that young girls usually spend their time doing household chores like washing plates, clothes, cooking and gardening. Some parents indicated that young girls also go to church during their leisure time and the most common churches in Mabasa are ZAOGA, AFM, Johanne Masowe eChishanu, Sabbath, Jesus Followers Ministries, and Roman Catholic. The influence of these churches in the area is almost equal. Reports from the focus group discussions with parents revealed that some young men usually engage in sporting activities during and after school and they have soccer clubs in Mabasa but these clubs are usually dominated by older youth (above 24) so those below 24 play a peripheral role in these clubs. Hence young men end up having nothing to do and loiter at nearby shops/ business centres watching television especially soccer. This exposes them to alcohol and drugs with some of them ending up taking the stuff as was indicated by a 21 year old boy at Kasanze youth centre during a FGD. This was echoed by one parent who said that:

‘kazhinji kacho vana vanonyepa. Hatizozivi kuti vanenge varipi uye vachiitei nokuti anoti ndiri kuenda ku youth centre kunoverenga kulibrary but obva a diverter route yake oendawo kwaanoda ini ndisingazive’

Table 5 shows various activities and places where young people usually spend their leisure time by sex and education level

Table 5: How adolescents spend their leisure time

IN SCHOOL FEMALE	OUT OF SCHOOL FEMALE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoying and making love with their boyfriends at home or school • Taking a walk • Playing with siblings at home • Going to church • Reading-academic books, novels or magazines • Socialising in groups at school discussing about future marriages, type of husbands they want, how to dress, issues to do with growing up of a girl including menses, what a girl child is required to do when growing up (madenhe -Elongating the labia minoras) • Discussing on advantages of going to school and disadvantages of dropping out of school. • Reading messages from whatsapp groups, some involving pornographic material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting others and talking about how they can improve their livelihoods as young women • Going to church • Spending time with their mothers (those who have them) • Just seated, sleeping or reading the bible • Taking a walk and socialising with friends • Guarding the garden against animals
IN SCHOOL MALE	OUT OF SCHOOL MALE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing soccer • Loitering around looking for girlfriends at school or in the community • Listening and playing music at home or shopping centre • Having snacks at the shopping centre from our savings from part time or piece jobs we carry out in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing Ball games • Spending time with girlfriends and lovers • Fishing, swimming and playing draft • Resting, relaxing • Discussing various issues with other boys ranging from politics, girls and how to make money as well as counselling each other on dangers of drug abuse

4.6 Household food security and poverty

Three (3) percent of the youth who were interviewed reported to have eaten only one meal on the day preceding the interview while 97 percent of the youth reported to have eaten at least two meals on the day preceding the interview. This could indicate that youth in the community have access to the minimum food requirements and are not in absolute poverty although pockets of poverty may exist.



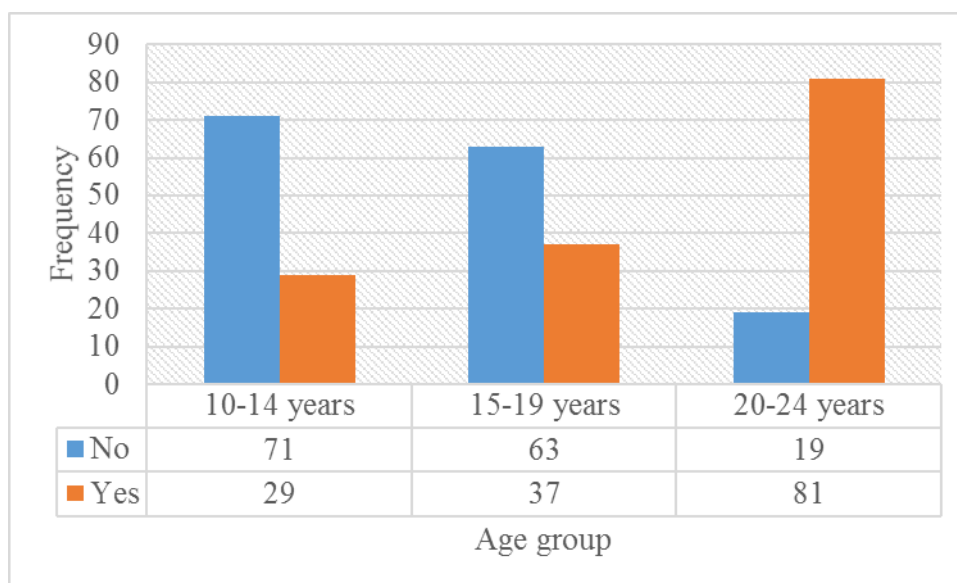
4.7 Access to social media and IT

In modern day today, social media and information technology are now being regarded as the latest forms of information dissemination platforms especially to the youth. If used properly these platforms can be sources of invaluable sexual and reproductive health information to the youth. Availability of internet through computers, and mobile phones is very crucial for the youth to have access to social media and other IT services. Out of the total of 99 youth interviewed, 51% reported to have access and ownership to a mobile phone while 61 percent indicated that they had ever used internet.

4.8 Access to SRH services

Forty four percent of the youth reported to have visited the youth centre at least once in the month preceding the study. Variables such as age, school attendance, gender and whether the youth are allowed to visit the youth centre were some of the contributing factors to the total attendance of youth to the youth centre. Figure I shows the distribution of the total youth who have ever visited youth centres in the past month preceding the study period aggregated by age.

Figure 1: Ever visited youth centre in the past month by age group



4.9 Visiting the Youth Centre

Age of the individual youth indicated that it contributed more on their decision to visit the youth centre as the total number of attendance increased progressively with age. The young people age 10-14 years reported that 29 percent had ever visited the youth centre while the 15-19 years age group reported that 37 percent had ever visited the youth centre in the month preceding the survey. The 20-24 years age group reported that 81 percent of the youth had visited the youth centre in the month preceding the survey. The younger generation are monitored more by their parents and are limited more by the distance to visit the youth centre. Limited availability of age specific recreational and income generating activities can also explain the low turnout for this age group (10-14 years). This could also mean that youth centre activities are more attractive to the older youth than the younger generation

In Kasanze, some male in school youth at Mabvure secondary school reported that they had never heard of the youth centre and do not even know how it operates and the services offered. The youth centre is located far away from their community. They cited that parents and their peers can allow them to visit the youth centre if they knew about it. Girls had mixed thoughts on the issue of visiting the youth centre. Some reported that their parents allow them to visit the youth centre. The main reason for disallowance was the fear that the girls will be encountering with boys or men and become subject to sexual abuse. Parents play a pivotal role on issues regarding a girl's visit to the centre. They decide where the girl should be and at what time and are usually strive to protect the girl child.

Parents in both communities acknowledged that, indeed they encourage their children to visit the youth centre but the challenge with parents in Mabasa community is that most of them are not familiar with services offered at Mabasa Youth Centre hence there is need to conduct more awareness campaigns targeting parents. Those who are not aware of the services offered at the youth centre usually do not allow their children to visit the youth centre. In Kasanze there was consensus from all parents that they play a greater role as they are the ones who grant authority to their children. Parents allow their children to visit the youth centre but what they do along the way to and from the youth centre remains unknown.

A higher percentage of those not attending school (86%) visited the youth centre in the month preceding the study when compared to those going to school or college (33%). While out of school youth maybe little, a higher percentage of them need the youth centre activities than in school youth. In school youth spend most of their time at school and have less spare time when compared to out of school youth who are mostly unemployed. Eighty-six percent of the out of school youth who were interviewed had visited the youth centre in the month preceding the survey; a proportion which is much higher than 33 percent of the in school youth who had visited the youth centre. Table 6 shows the percentage of youth visiting the youth centre by school status.

Table 6: Visiting youth centre by school status

Visiting the youth centre by school status			
Have ever been to YC in the past month?	Are you attending school/College		
		Yes (%)	No (%)
	Yes	33	86
	No	67	14
Total		100	100

As indicated in Table 7, employment status seem not to affect visiting of the youth to youth centre with 43 % of both those who are employed and those not employed visiting the youth centre in the previous month. This could be because most of the youth who are employed work menial and part time jobs which give them some spare time to visit the youth centre.

Table 7: Have ever been to the YC in the past month by employment status

Visiting the youth centre by employment status			
Have ever been to YC in the past month?	Are you currently working?		
		Currently working (%)	Currently not working (%)
	Yes	43	43
	No	57	57
Total		100	100

12 percent of the youth who were interviewed reported that they were not allowed to visit the youth centres by their parents. These youth range from 10-19 years age group. Table 8 shows that, 17 % of the youths reported that they visited the youth centre besides not being allowed to do so. Out of all the youths who were allowed to visit the youth centre 47% did so while 53% did not visit the youth centre.

Table 8: Visiting the youth centre by permission

Visiting the youth centre by permission to visit the youth centre			
Have ever been to YC in the past month	Are you allowed to visit the youth centre		
		Yes (%)	No (%)
	Yes	47	17
	No	53	83
Total		100	100

Table 9 shows the proportion of young people who are allowed to visit the youth centre by age group. Out of the 12 youth who were not allowed, only 2 managed to visit the youth centre. This shows that parents still have an influence on whether the youth visit the youth centres especially the younger one. The proportion of those not allowed decreases as we move from the younger to the older aged.

Table 9: Permission to visit the youth centre by age group

Permission to visit the youth centre vs age				
Are you allowed to visit the youth centre	Age			
	Status	10-14 years %	15-19 years %	20-24 years %
	Yes	81	87	100
No	19	13	0	
Total		100	100	100

The youth centres are attracting more males than female as shown on the Table 10. Out of all the males who were interviewed 50% had visited the youth centre in the last month a figure which is higher when compared to only 35% of all the girls who had visited the youth centres. This could be due to the fact that the girl child is protected more and or the facts that the youth centre activities appeal more to the males than females. Girls are also more involved in household chores as parents have more expectations from them. Only 35 percent of the girls who were interviewed had visited the youth centre at least once in the month preceding the study.

Table 10: Visiting the youth centre by gender

Visiting the youth centre by gender			
Have ever been to YC in the past month	Gender		
	Status	Male (%)	Female (%)
	Yes	50	35
No	50	65	
Total		100	100

4.10 Menstrual hygiene

Out of the 40 girls who were interviewed 39 reported that they were already on their menses. Tampons and cotton wool were the most popular methods with only two girls indicating that they used pieces of cloths. All the girls indicated that they were very likely going to access sanitary wear at the youth centres if it were to be provided for free.

When asked whether the participants would welcome the idea of having sanitary wear being provided for free at youth centres, the majority (99%) of the respondents indicated that they

would support that idea. The idea was supported by the majority of the participants although they emphasised the need to sensitize and educate the parents. Sanitary wear is a basic need and should be accessible to everyone regardless of social status. It was noted that most youth in the areas use cloths during menstruation as part of their sanitary wear. They all cited that sanitary wear will be an attraction to the youth centre since it's very expensive to buy for the general population in the community. Sanitary wear would lure more female youth since some are failing to get proper wear during their menses due to poverty. *(Echoed by both in and out of school females as one way of attracting female youth to the youth centre. Most youth use sanitary pads but may get them from other ways other than their parents. Other girls sited that other organisations like Cam fed were providing sanitary wear to girls in some schools).*

4.11 Services being provided at the youth centre

Of all the youth who visited the youth centre in the previous month 83 percent managed to get the services they had come for and only 8 percent could not access the services. Youth centres are therefore to an extent managing to offer the services they currently have to the youth. However those who did not manage to get the services they needed reported that they could not find condoms and some text books in the library

4.12 Entertainment services

Youth were asked on the entertainment services they prefer to get when they visit the youth centres. They were asked to choose best four services out of a list of nine services. The most popular entertainment services amongst the youth are soccer, television and internet. More than 50% of all the youth who were interviewed prefer these services. Volleyball, pool table, chess, radio and darts are also relatively popular as more than 30 percent of the youth also highlighted them as part of their top four priorities. However these choices were affected by age, gender and other factors and hence there is need to analyse these as well.

Figure 2: Entertainment Services preferred

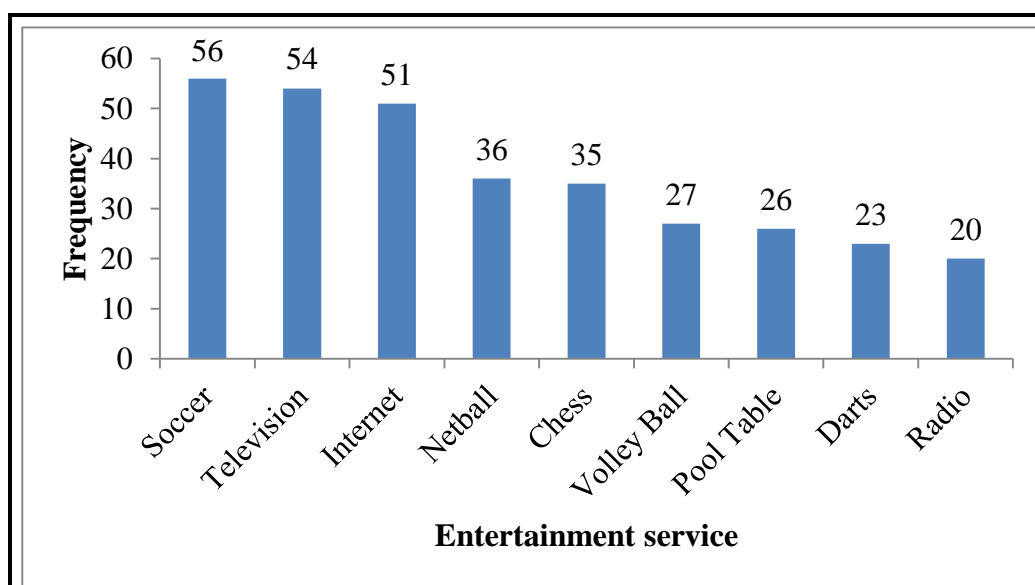
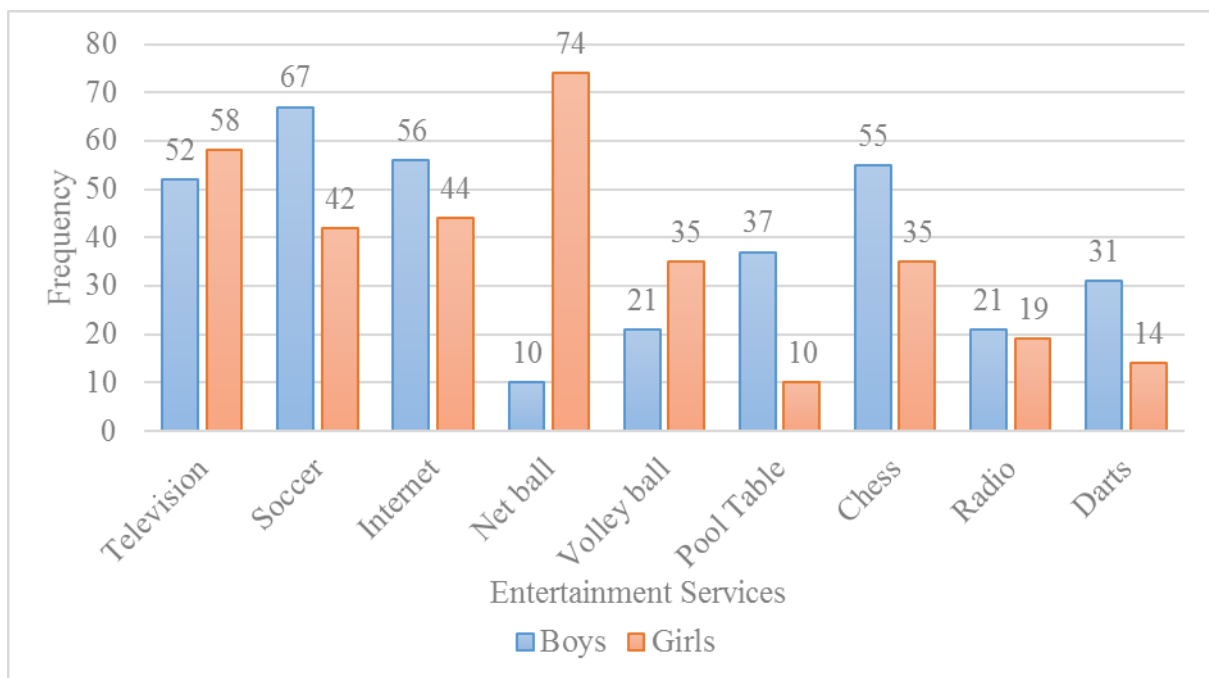


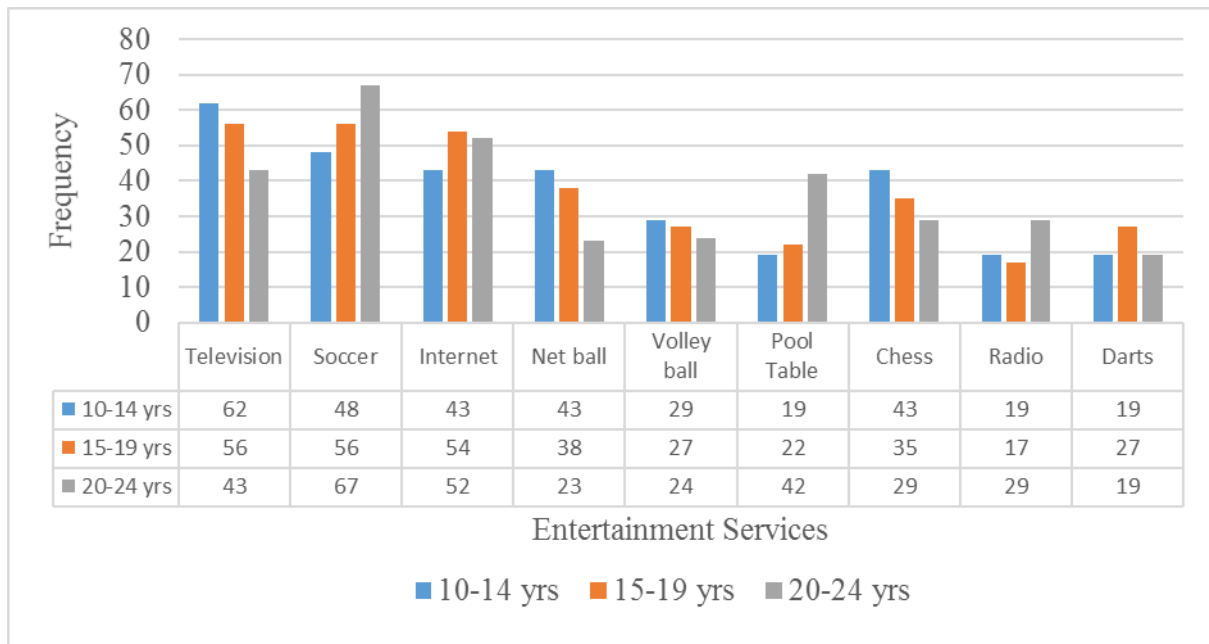
Figure 3 shows types of entertainment services preferred by young people disaggregated by gender. Netball is by far preferred by girls more than boys and this is expected since it is mostly gender specific. Girls also prefer volleyball and television more than boys. With the advent of women soccer more than 40 percent of the girls also highlighted that they prefer soccer but were outweighed by boys since almost 70 percent of the boys highlighted that they are more interested in soccer. It is also noted that girls have fewer options of entertainment activities than boys as shown on the graph since boys outweigh the girls in most of the entertainment activities they prefer.

Figure 3: Entertainment Services preferred by Gender



As the youth grow older they become less and less interested in television and chess and become more and more interested in soccer. Pool is much more popular with the older generation 20-24 while internet services are more popular with the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups.

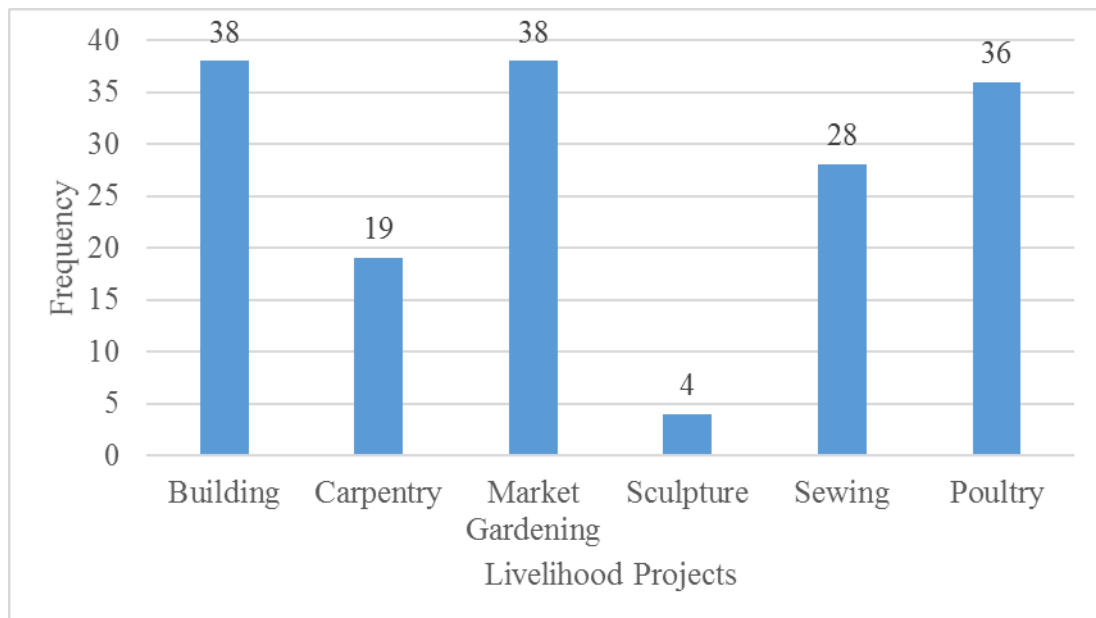
Figure 4: Entertainment Services preferred by age group



4.13 Livelihood projects

Youth were asked to choose livelihood projects they would want to undertake suppose the youth centre initiates their provision. The two youth centres currently do not have any of these projects under implementation.

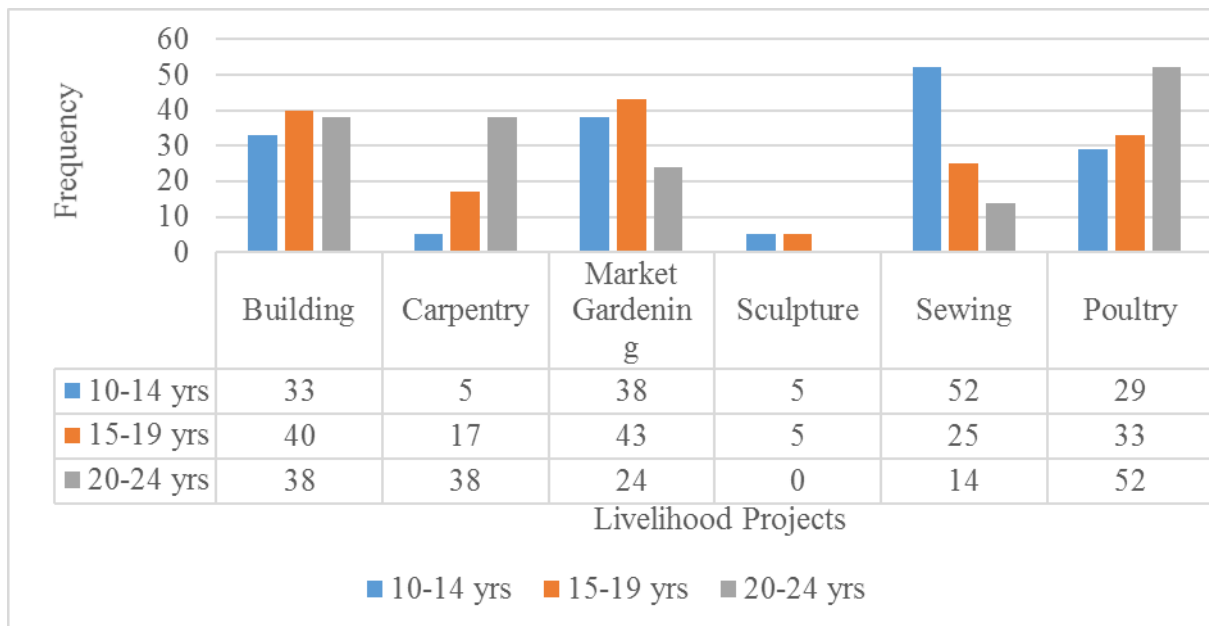
Figure 5: Livelihoods projects preferred by the young people



The most popular livelihood projects among the youth are building, gardening and poultry with more than 35% of the youth reporting that they prefer these. Sculpture is very unpopular with the youth as it has a response of below 5 percent. Carpentry and sowing though low is

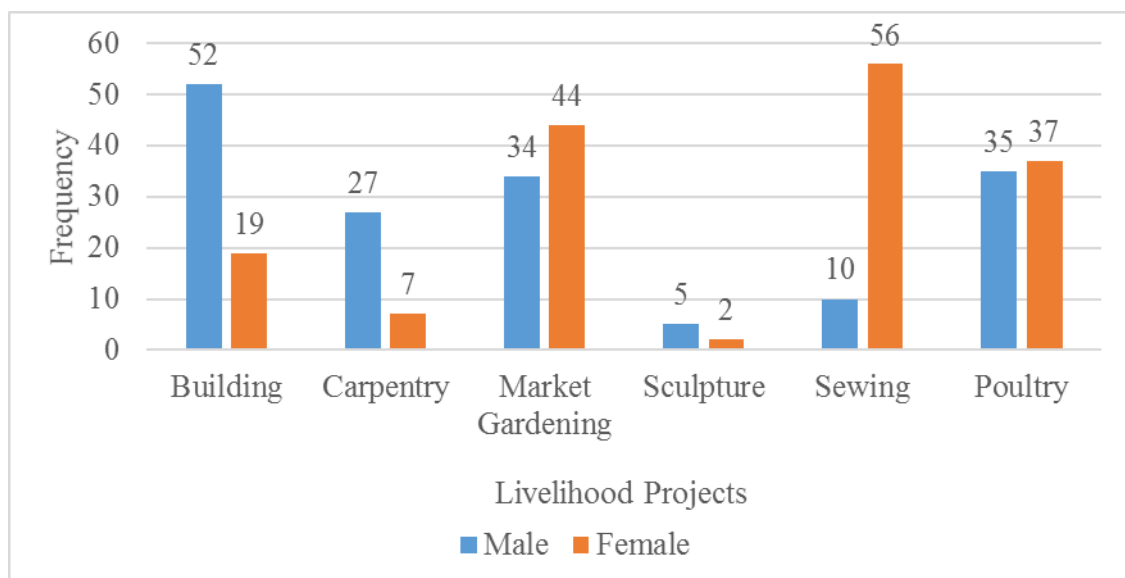
also popular with the youth as it was preferred by more than 15% of the youth. Choice of livelihood projects can be influenced by the age, gender and school status of the youth.

Figure 6: Livelihoods projects preferred by age group



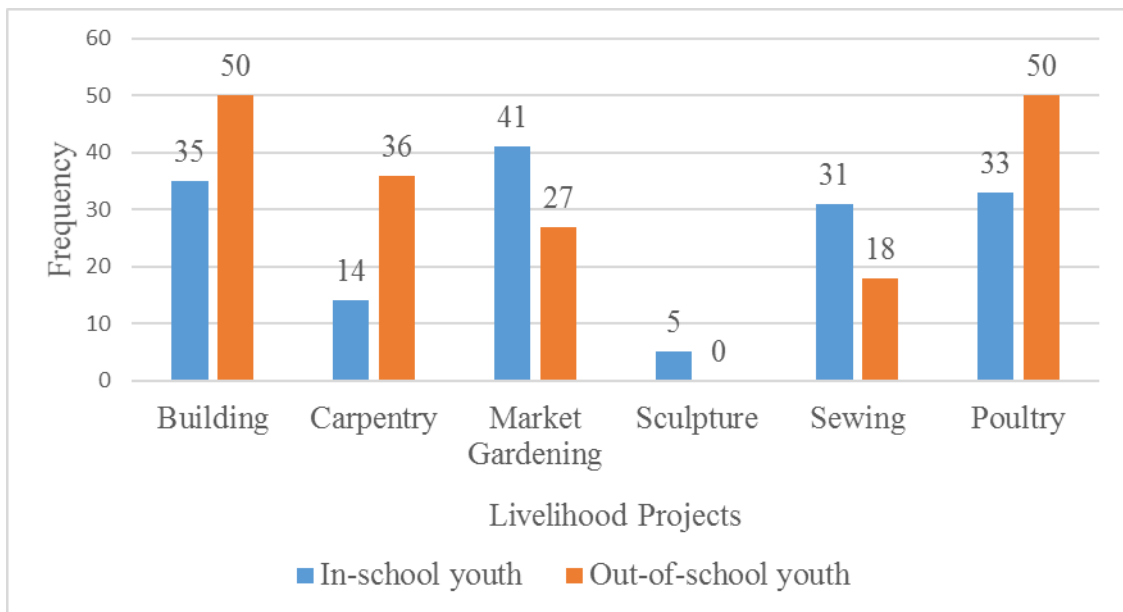
The age that is crucial for livelihood projects amongst the youth is the 20-24 years age group. This is mainly because it is made up of mostly out of school youth who will be trying to earn a living. Poultry is the most popular livelihood project amongst this age group followed by carpentry. The 10-14 years age group is much more interested in sewing. Although the frequencies slightly vary building is equally preferred by all the age groups.

Figure 7: Livelihoods projects preferred by gender



Community gender roles influence the livelihood projects preferred by each of the sexes amongst the youth. As expected building and carpentry is more popular with boys while sewing is more popular with the girls. There is no significant difference in the preference of gardening and poultry by sex.

Figure 8: Livelihoods projects preferred by school status



Out of school youth are much more interested in poultry, building and carpentry while gardening and sewing is more popular with the in school youth. Sculpture is not popular at all and only a few in school youth reported to prefer it.

4.14 Convenience of the youth centre times

Figure 9 shows the reported convenient days for opening the youth centre. Fifty-eight percent reported that Saturdays would be convenient for them, 10 percent on Sundays and 32% during week days.

Figure 9: Convenience of the youth centre times

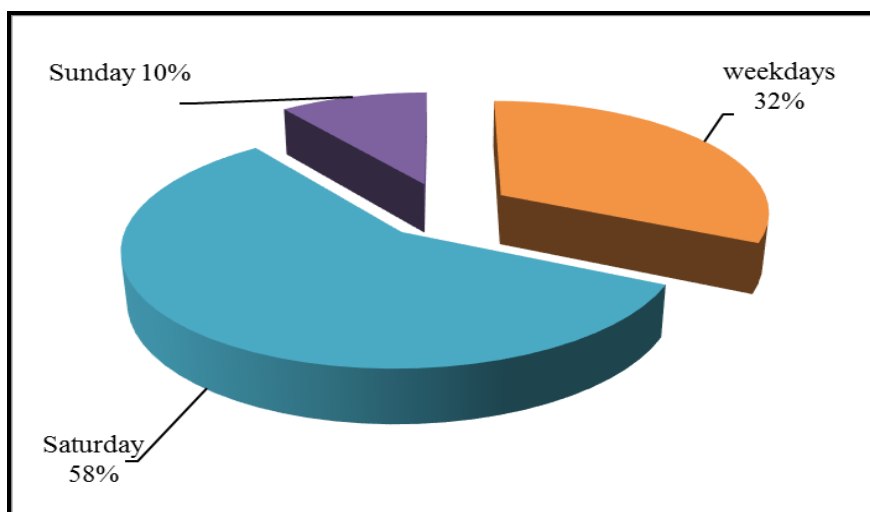
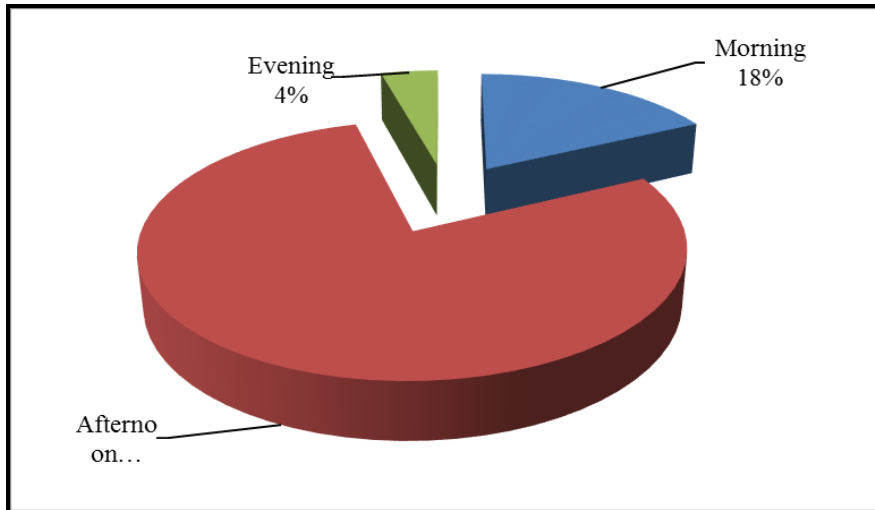


Figure 10 shows the convenient times to the youth for opening the youth centres. Most youth prefer to visit the youth centre in the afternoon as reported by 78% of the youth. Mornings are preferred by only 18% while only 4% prefer the evenings.

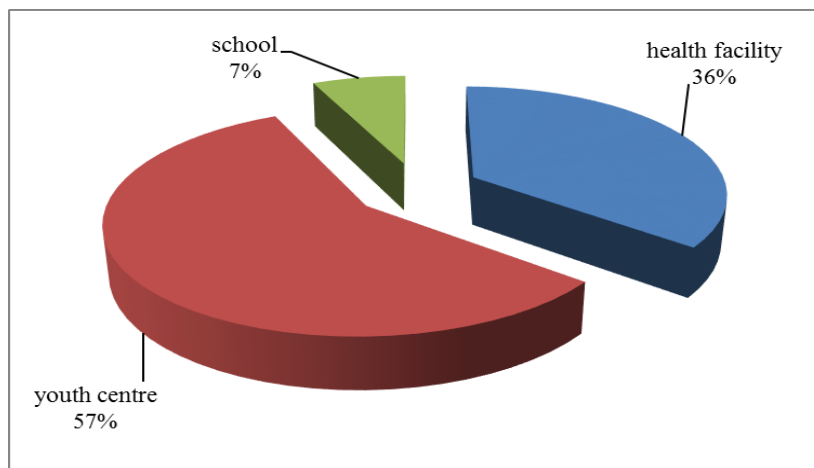
Figure 10: Convenience of the youth centre times during the day



4.15 Knowledge of youth friendly service providers

Figure 11 shows knowledge of source of youth friendly services by the young people. Ninety six percent of the youth who were interviewed reported that they are aware of a place they can get youth friendly sexual reproductive services. Fifty-seven percent reported the youth centre as a source for youth friendly, 36% health facilities and seven percent the school.

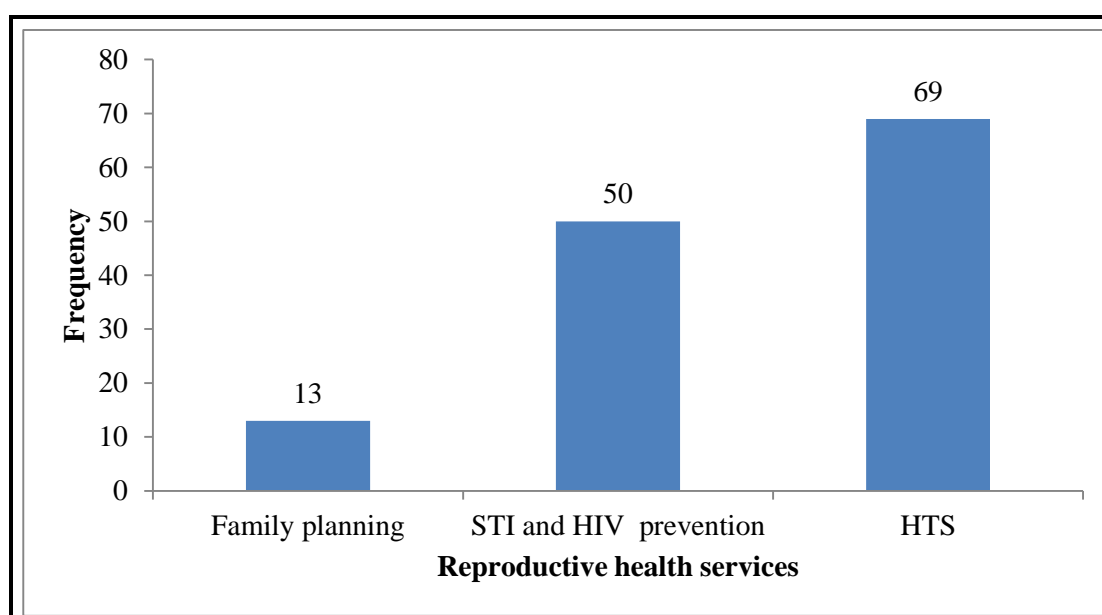
Figure 11: Knowledge of youth friendly service providers



4.16 Access to SRH services

Figure 12 shows the SRHR services ever accessed by the young people at the youth centres. Out of the youth who had accessed sexual reproductive health services, HIV testing services are the most popular followed by STI and HIV prevention. Family planning was the least accessed service at the youth centres. The low uptake of family planning services could be reflecting the unpopularity of family planning amongst the youths. Our sample size had also an effect on this outcome since most of the youths we interviewed were in school. Family planning is a service which is not offered in schools unlike HIV testing and counselling. Hence the low percentage is not a reflection of the youths in general.

Figure 12: Access to Sexual Reproductive Health Services



5 CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH

5.1 Challenges being faced by adolescent girls

Table 11: Challenges faced by adolescent girls

IN SCHOOL	OUT OF SCHOOL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rape- Sexual abuse (by guardians/relatives, teachers) • Unintended teenage pregnancies • Eloping and having challenges in early marriages • HIV Infections (mother to child transmission) • Economic problems (poverty, food and poor upkeep) • Child abuse- orphans (stepmother, child labour) • Maternal death of young mothers • Sexually transmitted diseases • Lack of parental guidance due to child headed families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early sexual debut • School dropouts • Teenage pregnancy • Sanitary wear • STI's including HIV • Unemployment • Prostitution • Drug abuse

- Gender and cultural practices which are harmful

5.2 Challenges being faced by adolescent boys

Table 12: Challenges being faced by adolescent Boys

IN SCHOOL	OUT OF SCHOOL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug and alcohol abuse at school • Lack of financial resources • STIs including HIV/AIDS • Unable to pay the user fees required at the clinic therefore their health seeking behaviour is low • Verbal abuse by parents/guardians when they ask for school fees • Child abuse especially from guardians who are not biological parents (child labour) • Lack of parental guidance due to child headed families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment (Joblessness) • No entertainment • Crimes-drug abuse and burglary • Dropping out of school due to poverty • Early marriages leading to unplanned and unwanted marriages • STIs including HIV/AIDS • Failure to continue with education due to poverty

5.3 SRH related problems faced by youth

The study also assessed the SRH problems faced by the youth within the surrounding communities. Most of those who participated in the focus group discussions and in-depth interviews were aware of the problems faced by the youth. They cited STIs (including HIV and AIDS), early marriages, teenage pregnancies, alcohol and substance abuse, rape, child abuse, intergenerational relationships (young people in sexual relationships with older people), early sexual debut, prostitution, complications during birth and maternal death of young mothers. Among these, teenage pregnancies, early marriages, rape, early sexual debut and maternal deaths were the top problems affecting young females while STIs, alcohol and substance abuse were among the top problems faced by male youth. Youth were aware of these problems they are facing in the communities while they cited a number of factors issues surrounding them.

5.4 Causes of these problems

Wrong interpretation of the Child Protection Laws: Parents now have less control over their children since the children are now more aware of their rights e.g. The *Child Protection Bill*. This also include their rights in schools where the laws are protecting them from corporal punishment by parents and teachers. Parents also mentioned the issue of Rights which they believe is leading young men astray. If you try to reprimand the adolescent, they will report you to the police for abusing them. One parent from Kasanze lamented that:

‘Mitemo iyi inogadzirwa ne United Nations ku America, dzinova nyika dzakabudirira kudarika isu. Mitemo inofanirwa kugadzirwa inoenderanawo netsika dzedu dzemuno mu Africa.’

Unemployment and idleness among the youth: Parents highlighted idleness as one of the major causes hence young men have nothing to keep them busy, they are idle most of the time (an idle mind is the workshop of the devil). Young men are idle during school holidays and nearly every day for those who are out of school for various reasons. Most youth end up indulging in risky behaviours such as substance and drug abuse, leading to risky sexual behaviours.

Lack of parental guidance: Another cause as reported by parents in the FGDs is that there is generally a lack of parental guidance. The absence of parent child communication means youth have no information regarding their sexual and reproductive health issues. On this note some parents felt that it is difficult for them to discuss sexuality issues with their children, hence they avoid such topics. Unstable family backgrounds where the young person lives with one parent or step parents expose him/her to emotional abuse. The search of greener pastures in the diaspora was cited as one reason which leaves a parent child communication gap.

Lack of knowledge, preventive/ protective education: Majority of the youth within the communities said they lack information which is essential for them to make positive and constructive decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and their future as well. Limited education on sexual and reproductive health issues including issue on how to prevent sexual and reproductive health related challenges exposes young people to the devastating impacts of the ailments. Lack of adequate information coupled with the stigma and discrimination in the communities largely explains why the greatest proportion of the youth in Kasanze and Mabasa delay in seeking for health services thereby exacerbating the impacts of the conditions. The health master of Mabasa secondary school reported:

“Girls lack information on SRH issues yet they are overprotected by their parents such that they cannot go to the youth centres or other health institutions to get the information”

Stubbornness of the youth themselves/ lack of self-discipline among the youth: Youth nowadays generally do not listen and emulate good things from their parents, they are stubborn even in schools to their teachers.

Negative peer pressure: Experimenting with girls and drugs result in youth engaging in risky behaviours. Young boys tend to share risk health experiences whenever they meet characterising such as acts of manhood. Phrases such as “*Bhuru rinoonekwa nemavanga*”, are very common in their discussions insinuating that for somebody to be considered man enough he should at some point experience the pain of sexually transmitted diseases. A young boy aged 23 years in the FGDs from Mabasa supported this pointing out that as young people we believe “*sweet haridyrwi mubepa*”), meaning that using protection defeats the whole point of having sex. As such, the young boys indulge in unprotected sex thereby exposing themselves to the devastating effects of STIs including HIV. Girls influence each other to get married early to escape poverty. One out of school female youth from Mabasa reported:

“kana usina mukomana wakasara, kana usingarare nemukomana wako wakasara”

One in school FGD participant from Kasanze argued:

‘hapana musikana anosvika makore 20 asina mukomana,

.....and the other one argued: *‘zvinoenderana nebehaviour yemunhu nokuti vamwe vanosvika vanenge vachiita zvechikoro’*

One in school male participant from Mabvure secondary school echoed:

“unonzi wakasara kana usina musikana uye kuita musikana one wane 15 years, so hauzodi kudzikisirwa nemamwe maface”

One of the out of school young boys from Kasanze reported

“ukadanana nemusikana, within three days unofanira kunge wakutorara naye nokuti unorambwa ukasekwa nevamwe. Saka hauzodi kurwadziswa nokunyara”.

Poverty: Love for money and desire for material things (jiggies/sweets, stumbo/maputi - especially girls) by the youth lead them into intergenerational relationships, young girls in Mabasa were saying that *“madhara ndoo anochengeta”*. Mabasa area is hard hit by poverty due to its geographical settings characterised by low rainfalls and droughts year in – year out. This also pushes the youth to engage risk sexual activities in exchange of money or food for them to make ends meet at home.

Cultural and Religious practices: Some apostolic churches do not allow the use of condoms, contraceptives and accessing health services. This exposes the youth especially those who are sexually active as they end up indulging in unprotected sex. Religious gatherings especially involving all night vigils for both Christians and those practising African Traditional Religion (ATR) provide an opportunity for youth to engage in risky sexual activities especially when there are no monitoring measures put in place. Youth take advantage of night gatherings like traditional ceremonies and all-night prayers to spend time with their lovers and often engage in risky sexual activities. These have been happening since time immemorial but there was a specific age group that could attend those dances. Church gatherings involving school going youth for a long period of time affects the youth to continue with their studies.

Technology: Has been misused (use of social media improperly). The young people now watch pornographic material (videos and films) on their mobile phones. Exposure and access to pornographic material by the youth through social media like whatsapp groups, facebook, and other internet based platforms bring out the urge to experiment with girls leading to teenage pregnancies. Youth get access to pornographic material through mobile phones and internet. Social media is also extensively used as a medium for exchanging offensive material amongst the youth. However, the benefits of social media if used properly and for intended purposes far outweigh the disadvantages.

Lack of entertainment: Including sporting activities in both of the two areas for the young people. Availability of sporting activities both in-door and out-door games such as ball games and chess respectively will keep the young people occupied and safe from risky sexual and reproductive health related ailments. In Kasanze the youth centre is not electrified thereby not that friendly to the youth to come and entertain themselves. Young boys end up spending time at beer halls and bars listening to music and watching TV which exposes them to activities like promiscuity, alcohol and drug abuse.

Lack of livelihood and life skills: Subsequently sustainable income generating projects to curb both the effects of poverty and to improve their lives contributes to the effects of the challenges they face. The youth also pointed out that lack of livelihood and life skills and subsequently sustainable income generating projects to curb both the effects of poverty and to improve their lives contributes to the list of the challenges they face.

Intergenerational relationships: Male youth cited that they are engaging in sexual activities with older and married women because the women are above the legal age of consent hence they cannot be arrested by police. Grown up women know how to prevent pregnancy by using FP method hence there is no risk of an unplanned marriage.

5.5 Proposed interventions to address youth related challenges

Table 13: Interventions to address these problems among the youth

Kasanze - Mashonaland West	
Intervention	Responsibility
Banning of indecent dressing	Min of Home Affairs, Parents
Improve on Parent to Child Communication	Parents, MoHCC, ZNFPC
Reversing of charters that over-protect children and lessens the power and control that parents used to have	GoZ, United Nations
Formation of in school and out of school clubs to be taught and discuss on comprehensive sexuality education. Guidance and counselling at schools should be enforced	MoPSE, MoHCC, ZNFPC
Law enforcement that no children under 18 should own a phone that can access the internet	Government
Educating children on issues relating to ASRH	Families, CSOs, MoPSE, MoHCC
Employment creation by opening up of various small to medium enterprises from trustworthy investors	Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises; Ministry of Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment
Life skills and livelihoods education e.g. fashion and fabrics, woodwork, building and metalwork	MoPSE; Ministry of Higher & Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development
Outreach programs in schools and communities by youth centre staff	Youth centre staff

Mabasa - Midlands	
Male Youth	Female Youth
Income Generating Projects like carpentry, gardening(making use of nearby Runde River) and Poultry	Income Generating Projects like Hairdressing, sewing
Increase edutainment activities at the youth centre such as pool table, darts	Increase edutainment activities at the youth centre that are specifically designed for females
Strengthen Parent to child communication on sexual and reproductive health issues by conducting family dialogues	Strengthen Parent to child communication on sexual and reproductive health issues by conducting family dialogues
Disseminate the information through the youth centre on vocational training enrolment vacancies	Implement programs that encourage young girls to remain in school
Provide internet services in a safe environment in which the youth can be monitored	Improve access to contraceptives for those who are already sexually active even though they might still be in school or unmarried

6 INTERVENTIONS TO ATTRACT YOUTH

Table 14: Activities/ interventions to attract youth to the youth centre

MABASA YOUTH CENTRE	
Males	Females
Entertainment equipment like pool table, darts, chess	Initiate Income generating projects at the Youth centre like hairdressing and sewing
Computerizing the youth centre and providing internet services	Creating social clubs like music, quiz, debate and drama clubs- these have a pull factor on the female youth
Start Income generating projects at the Youth Centre like fencing, gardening, carpentry and poultry	Conducting quarterly talent shows at the youth centre incorporating various activities to make it more interesting
Equipping the library with more academic books covering O and A Level	Equipping the library with more academic books covering O and A Level
Conducting quarterly talent shows at the youth centre incorporating various activities to make it more interesting	Computerizing the youth centre and providing internet services
KASANZE YOUTH CENTRE	
IN SCHOOL YOUTH	OUT OF SCHOOL YOUTH
Provide transport to the youth centre since it is very far from our communities	Electrify the youth centre
Games- handball, girls soccer, netball, volleyball and chess	Projects for young people-baking and poultry
Parents should be involved in running the youth centre	Bible sharing clubs and Entertainment including sports.

Music and dance clubs at the youth centre	Income generating projects such as poultry, piggery, gardening and carpentry
No to smoking- Police should intervene	employment Creation
No or ban youth to night activities (under 18)	capacitate and upgrade the library
Sensitize parents on child abuse (by teachers or health service providers)	
Sensitize and give children information on dangers of some of their practices	
Set up committees in the community for child care	
Capacitate and upgrade the library with books relevant to the ministry's curriculum	

6.1 Activities attracting youth by age group to the youth centre

Table 15: Activities attracting youth by age group to the youth centre

Age Group	All Youth
10-14 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computerising the youth centre and providing internet services • Entertainment gadgets (TV, Radio etc.) • Food provision to young people • Conducting talent shows. These will include competitions in both in-door and out-door games (ball games, chess, darts, snooker, music, dancing, quiz, dramas and singing among other activities) • Creation and facilitation of social clubs (Health talk clubs, quiz and debate clubs, drama clubs, music clubs and sporting clubs) • Improving and equipping the library with reference books for all levels (Age appropriate books) • Provision and facilitation of livelihoods, life skills and edutainment. The most favoured projects for the age group are cookery and sewing. Provision of playing grounds and toys for the 10 to 14 year olds
15-19 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional library- Improving and equipping the library with reference books for all levels • Social clubs-Conducting talent shows on a quarterly basis • Availing computers in the Youth Centre and internet • Coaching and establishing of livelihood skills income generating projects like fencing, poultry, bee keeping, carpentry and welding e.g. sewing, knitting, gardening • Sports e.g. ball games, chess

20 – 24 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing income generating projects like fencing, poultry, bee keeping, carpentry and welding • Availing computers in the Youth Centre and internet • Conducting talent shows on a quarterly basis. • Creating social clubs at the youth centre • Improving and equipping the library with reference books for all levels
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6.2 Income generating projects preferred by young people

Table 16: Income generating projects preferred by youth

Proposed IGP	Reason
Poultry	It is cheaper to manage, less labour, less expensive for the necessary inputs, adaptive and on-job learning skills, availability of water from Runde river makes it feasible and cheaper, there is electricity already connected, market is easy to penetrate, young people already learning this from school and will be easy for them to implement, there are quick returns in the project and can sustain its self, it's a uni-sex project
Sewing	This will attract more female youth, quick returns in the project, adaptive and on-job learning skill, the project can sustain its self, electricity already available, market is easy to penetrate (starting from nearby schools providing them with school uniforms, targeting social clubs or teams within the community and provide them with uniforms), it's a uni-sex project, less expensive to start and cheaper to manage
Bee keeping	This has been on-going and needs to be revived, education and training on how to run the project will be conducted by local trainers for free as has been the norm, it is easy to manage and less expensive to start using the natural resources, it is a uni-sex project with potential to sustain itself, one can learn the skills whilst practicing and there are quick returns
Gardening	Cheap, water is readily available and is also a uni-sex project

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE YOUTH CENTRES

Mabasa Youth Centre

- ❖ Electricity is available. There is need to computerise the youth centre and ensure availability of internet. This will attract many youth who are travelling more than 25km to Zvishavane town to access internet. The costs for both transport and internet fee deters many of them and eventually they lose many life opportunities. Cost recovery modalities to be put in place by the youth centre.
- ❖ There is need to adjust opening days and time of the youth centre to suit the young people's days and times. This will also enable parents to monitor whether their children are really spending time at the youth centre. A log book is needed where the youth can log in and out whenever they visit the youth centre.
- ❖ There is great need to revitalise and equip the library so that it will have all the necessary reference books to cater for both out-of-school and in-school youth at all levels of age group; covering primary and secondary education. Availability of text books and other educative and informative materials essential for the young people will attract them in numbers. This will also compliment the efforts by schools to ensure every child has access to the necessary relevant educational materials.
- ❖ Recreational materials are not adequate enough to cater for the growing population among the youth in Mabasa community in Zvishavane. As such there is need to ensure availability of recreational materials for both in-door and out-door games with specific age groups being considered. Relevant educative and informative materials in local languages need to be easily accessible so that every young person will be attracted to visit the centre and receive the available services.
- ❖ ZNFPC should consider offering food at the youth centre even for a minimal charge so that those who spend a longer time at the youth centre can find something to eat.
- ❖ A suggestion box is needed at the youth centre so that participants can anonymously put forward suggestions for improvement and draw attention to any anomalies that can take place at the youth centre.
- ❖ There is need to carry out outreach activities in areas such as Shurugwi, Vanguard and Runde where gold panning activities are taking place.
- ❖ There is need for refresher courses for the youth centre staff to ensure provision of youth friendly services and sharing of experiences
- ❖ Advertise the youth centre through local radio stations and through other various media so that more youth and the community at large become more aware of the youth centre.

- ❖ There is need for a backup generator to be used when electricity goes out so that the youth centre remains functional in the provision of entertainment
- ❖ Consider having a tuckshop at the youth centre to sell items that appeal to the youth so that they can avoid going to the grocery shops where they end up exposed to alcohol and prostitution.
- ❖ Provide sanitary wear at the youth centre for the girl child.

Kasanze Youth Centre

- ❖ Collaborate with other partners and the community for their buy in, in investing the youth centre
- ❖ There is need to strengthen community sensitisation efforts about the youth centre and also to increase visibility
- ❖ Carry out outreaches to nearby communities to sensitise both parents and the hard to reach young people
- ❖ Provision of IEC materials for young people in local languages as well
- ❖ Electrify of the centre, tubing and wiring is in place. This will facilitate for provision of edutainment and audio and visual sessions.
- ❖ Install efficient water system at the youth centre
- ❖ Provide internet access and the gadgets for accessing the internet. However the youth centre should put in place cost recovery measures for some of the costs.
- ❖ Provision of food at the youth centre to attract youth
- ❖ There is great need to revitalise and equip the library so that it will have all the necessary reference books to cater for both out-of-school and in-school youth at all levels of age group; covering primary and secondary education. Availability of text books and other educative and informative materials essential for the young people will attract them in numbers. This will also compliment the efforts by schools to ensure every child has access to the necessary relevant educational materials.
- ❖ Entertainment- modern recreational materials e.g. television although they do have limitations of electricity at the centre

8. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Adolescents are a diverse population group. They need special attention to be able to satisfy their needs. Their needs and problems influence their development. Adolescents need love, freedom and independence as well as self-expression. Parental guidance is a key component in adolescents' needs. It is a fact that the successful transition of adolescence is not achieved through detachment from parents but a healthy transition to adulthood is facilitated by secure attachment and emotional connectedness with parents. The ability of parents, teachers, the elders, community gate keepers etc. to sustain a 'goal-directed partnership' with adolescents in their daily hood by all means will make them confident, secure and protected from all modes of newly emerging social evils like improper and immature usage of social medium.

Parents need to be sensitised and educated more on child rights protection laws so that they may be aware of their roles as parents to groom their children well. It seems the laws are being misinterpreted by most parents in that they think they no longer have power or control over their children. Sexual reproductive health should continuously be a subject matter to the youth both at school and in communities. The youth centres must be upgraded and should provide activities and services that suit the modern needs of young people. Income generating projects and other life skills projects is a way to go to curb the unemployment rate mostly to the out of school youth who are usually idle, hence ending up indulging in risk behavioural activities.

There is need for strengthening of coordination and collaboration between all ASRH stakeholders. Stakeholders implementing ASRH activities should continuously work with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education as well as to partner among themselves to provide the needs of these young people in the communities. From the findings of this study, it is noted that schools are the most common source of information on SRH and other services for young people. Schools need to create awareness on the availability of youth centres to both the in-school and out of school young people so as to increase uptake of the youth friendly services. This requires strong inter-sectorial collaboration.

Youth centres need to provide age and gender specific services to the youth so that they may be able to attract all the youth regardless of gender and age. Entertainment services provided should be according to the preferences of the youth. Livelihood projects and life skills training should be provided at the youth centres and should be according to the preferences of the youth.

The findings from this needs assessment, although they cannot be generalised to the nation or all young people at large due to the small sample size involved and non-probability sampling procedures applied, form the basis for planning and programming of interventions to tackle some of the challenges being faced by the young people in Zimbabwe especially the sexual reproductive health issues.

Parents needs to be sensitised and educated more on child rights protection laws and communication in ASRH so that they may be aware of their roles as parents to empower their children in issues pertaining to sexuality and SRH. It seems the laws are being misinterpreted

by most parents in that they think they no longer have power or control of their children. Sexual reproductive health should be a subject matter that is taught to the youth both at school and in communities. Youth centres must be upgraded to provide activities and services that suit the modern needs of young people.

There is a need to implement programs that target the youths in generating demand for family planning services. Results from the qualitative research show that whilst youths are sexually active and are engaging in sexual activities uptake of family planning services among them proved to be very low. Young girls and boys in schools are engaging in sexual activities which puts them at high risk of unwanted pregnancies which have higher complications amongst youths.

Community level interventions that can be implemented to improve utilisation of contraceptives by the youths and adolescence include supporting in-school learning on comprehensive sexuality education through training teachers and complimentary peer based approaches. Family planning commodities and services need to be availed in a youth friendly environment and condoms need to be made available in public places easily accessible to adolescents and young people. There is need to do advocacy activities at community level to make sure unmarried youths have access to contraceptives. There is a need to dispel myths around use of contraceptives by unmarried youths so that every person who is sexually active can have access to contraceptives.

Introduction of Income Generating projects and other life skills projects will assist in curbing unemployment especially among young people who reported that they have nothing to do most of the time and therefore, end up indulging in risky behavioural practices. Stakeholders in the ASRH program should continuously engage the Ministry of Education, and also partner among themselves so as address the challenges faced by young people in the communities. From the findings of this study, we noted that schools are the most common source of information on SRH and other services for young people. It is therefore recommended that, schools create awareness to the young people on the existence of youth centres and the availability of ASRH services. Furthermore there is an opportunity for in-school youths to be sensitized about youth centres whilst they are at school so as to increase access to services when they are out of the school environment.

9. CONCLUSION

ASRH programming in youth centres needs to holistically address matters relating to the needs of young people as documented in the study. These have been shown to differ with age, school status and gender .Youth centres therefore need to provide age and gender specific services to the youth so that they may be able to attract all the youth regardless of gender, and age. Entertainment services should also be according to the preferences of the youth. Livelihood projects and life skills training should be provided at the youth centres and should be according to the preferences of the youth.

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