



SHAPE ZIMBABWE INTERNATIONAL Shaping the fight against HIV/AIDS in tertiary education institutions of Zimbabwe

The SHAPE Zimbabwe Trust was formed in the year 2000 by thirteen former University of Zimbabwe students as a trust to help raise HIV/AIDS awareness among University and college students in Zimbabwe and Africa.

Objectives

1. Redefining femininity (Assertiveness) and masculinity training
2. Training of peer educators and counsellors
3. Training of home based care givers
4. Gender equity, entrepreneurship, leadership and volunteer training
5. Dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS through drama, film and music. A number of albums and videos have been produced and are played on national radio and TV, talkshows and seminars
6. Encouraging interaction to share ideas and experiences on HIV/AIDS, through clubs and sports
7. Encouraging voluntary HIV testing and counseling among tertiary education students
8. Life skills training
9. Gender and reproductive health training
10. Reproductive and sexual rights training

Additional information

The SHAPE Zimbabwe International has gone beyond university walls into rural areas training rural communities through supporting community based organizations train communities on gender stereotypes and how they lead to the spreading of HIV/AIDS. In urban areas SHAPE targets out of school youths (16-24 years) with the aim of developing this age group to reach out to the broader community on issues of HIV/AIDS. Other projects are:

- a. Developing support groups and herbal gardens
- b. Income generating projects
- c. Dialogue sessions
- d. Developing a hands on network

Madanzi Tendai

Midlands State
University
Zimbabwe



Young people

SHAPE stands for Sustainability, Hope, Action, Prevention and Education and targets a group of people which has potential to be tomorrow's leaders who are studying in various fields of academia from engineering, law and education and has spread its wings to Mozambique and Botswana. The organization helps the youths to get training on HIV/AIDS through learning life skills on how to protect one's self from HIV, changing gender stereotypes on HIV and understanding one's sexual rights particularly women. This project improves the lives of youths to understand the threat of HIV to their careers but most importantly encourages youths to talk about HIV/AIDS and how it negatively impacts on the society. The more practical information on how to handle sexual needs in a safer manner and talking about negative cultural norms helps Africa develop into an HIV free society where the resources are targeted towards development leading to creation of jobs and reduction in poverty levels. Through the training of about 15 000 students, information on HIV/AIDS has been disseminated to 3 million youths through out Zimbabwe and the same can happen through out Africa.

