



YOUTH ASSOCIATION

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THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

There is a tendency of human beings over looking the importance of youth development. youth development embeds cardinal value in society and is increasingly needed since we have to deal with social problems, phenomena and pathologies of strong rooted nature.

Within the South African welfare context, people tend to over look their role in the task to address social problems and phenomena. They tend to ignore their role and responsibility whilst partaking in everyday society. The mere fact that we realize that we need to do something about social problems and phenomena, is reason enough to believe that certain professions and disciplines need to take the lead in these important combats and developments in communal societies. Professions in humanities that deal with people on grass root level and task teams mobilized to address the true needs of the people. Professions and disciplines like above mentioned are needed to serve the people. Such professions include Social Work and Community Development, Theology, Nursing etc. One of the phenomenal professions playing a vital role in societal development and changes is Youth Development.

Youth Development plays a crucial role in inter-sphere development and utilizing change agents at the point where they are needed the most. Knowing what the best interest of society is, Youth Development accelerated interventions which aims sustainable development and nurtures pro-active change. Youth Development can be seen as one of the most important sectors within society taking the lead in development especially regarding vulnerable groups such as children and youth. Poverty can be seen as one of the most severe social problems of everyday society. Whilst poverty influences the existence of human beings lives severely, Community Development plays a vital role in the development of people through poverty reduction and eradication.

The sector of humanities won't be the same without the component and discipline of Community Development. Regarding youth, effective social welfare development need to take palace to

transport youth to a milieu of sustainable pro-active living to ensure a bright future for them. Community Development consists of various social life breathing strengths that's able to drive society to the point where they are self-reliant

Although there is still a lot of investments that need to take place within Community Development, the sector are growing rapidly because of the need that continuously arise within the humanitarian sector regarding development and the enhancing of peoples social functioning. Community Development, in conjunction with Social Work, can not be eliminated out of society since society itself urged for development and recruitment on grass root for social change.

Due to the continuous growth and development of social pathologies, problems, phenomena and stigmatization, Community Development plays a vital role within the assessment, intervention, interpretation, scientific understanding and acts of change regarding the above mentioned. To invest social capital in the sector of Community Development we need to realize the importance of the sector and its vital role within the social functioning and existence of human beings. Whilst focussing on the importance to address social problems, we need not to forget the importance to think about strategic options to address these problems with a developmental sphere. How can we address the various social problems, stigma's, phenomena and pathologies whilst also developing people to enhance their social functioning and transport them to a point where they become self reliant individuals? By utilizing the strengths and spheres of Youth Development in its optimal potential and realizing the importance to mobilize client systems to participate in active development of the community and themselves.

Whilst a small amount of people realize the importance of Youth Development, we need o keep on investing in the sector, advocating for the utilization of the strengths of Youth Development whilst also enjoying the positive changes taking place.

Our outreach program to the youth and community. their mission and vision to make a difference in the lives of the youth and community from the poorest of the poor. Due to lack of

funding we will not be able to fulfil our vision of enriching, empowering and assisting the youth from the poorest of the poor communities to regain their self worth and dignity and to become leaders to take responsibility for uplifting programs within their own communities.

The Sout outreach programs consists of the following projects:

- **Spiritual**

Our drama-, dance and music performing arts group presents outreach programs to schools, church youth groups and elderly people to distribute the message of hope, peace and prosperity through spiritual development.

They also address social problems i.e.

alcohol abuse, prevention HIV/Aids, teenage pregnancy and prosperity through education.

Daily Bible study classes to the youth and street kids.

Annual Youth Spiritual development week-end in July attended by different cultures, denominations and spiritual youth leaders.

- **Educational**

Sout Members assist children with study guidance, assignments, homework, and preparation for exams.

Yours sincerely

G. Veldsman