Stop AIDS - keep the promise

World AIDS Day, with the theme 'accountability' for the year, is gaining momentum merging with the youth movements

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Lima-Peru saw a congregation of representatives of civil and state organisations of Peru and Latin American countries that work in the direction of prevention of HIV/AIDS among the young population in 21- 22nd of September 2006. An international encounter, 'Adolescent, young and ICT in the fight against HIV/AIDS' was the cause of gatheration. Representatives of Columbia, República Dominicana, Argentina, México, Nicaragua, Brasil, Bolivia and Ecuador graced the meeting with their respective presence to share their experiences. Representatives of organisations of Peru and Latin America, for which they work in the prevention of the HIV/AIDS among young population, were also present in the meeting where they reflected on the use of the ICT among the thematic tools to the fight against HIV/AIDS in Latin America. The event was jointly organised by the Institute of Health and Education and Ministry of Health in Perú. Institute for the Connectivity in the Américas (*http://www.icamericas.net/*), ICA/ International Development Research Centre, IDRC Canada, were main sponsor of the event.

The Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) has recognised the importance of promoting information and communication technology (ICT) for socio-economic development and has acclaimed Canada's contribution to the Summit. ICA plays a unique and important role in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) by bringing together stakeholders from different sectors to implement strategic networks and scaled-up innovative technology initiatives. ICA currently supports over 80 ICT for development initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean. The activities can be classified into a number of sectors including: access and connectivity, education and capacity building, e-Governance/e-Government, content and software, regional consultations and virtual networking, digital inclusion, e-Business, health, and policy and, regulation. The other reputed organisation, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is a public corporation created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to help developing countries to use innovative technologies to sort out real solutions to overcome the social, economic, and environmental problems of the people.

World AIDS Day contains the theme 'accountability' for this year. World AIDS Campaign is promoting this under the broader slogan 'Stop AIDS - Keep the Promise'. Throughout the search of the sites, one will find important information about events, campaigns and materials for World AIDS Day besides reflecting on one's self accountability, 'what will you do?'

Objectives of the meet

The main objectives of the meeting include to make a space of interchange between actors who nails on thematic aspects of health in Latin America and the Caribbean, to streamline the innovative strategies for the education and prevention of HIV/AIDS, to ensure the participation of adolescents and young people, in the use of ICT, to analyse the main experiences of the participants and other countries in the subjects and fundamental lines of the technologies of the Information and the Communications (ICT), and further, to identify the new tendencies and perspectives of the ICT and its range of impact on the humans and society, and to trim the motto of the encounter and its contribution to the sustainable development.

Millennium Development Goals: 2 and 6

Goal 2 of the Millennium Development

Goals (*http://www.itu.int/wsis/index.html*) aims at universal primary education by 2015 and the indicators of Goal 6 include to ensure prevalence of use of condoms among the youth with comprehensive and correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Every day it happens that 6,000 young people between the age group of 15 and 24 years contract the pandemic HIV/AIDS. It shocking to learn that more than 2,000 infection cases are that of innocent children and mostly by vertical transmission (mother to child). Moreover, about 1,400 children and younger children of less than 15 years old die by causes related to the HIV/AIDS. Further, more than 15 million children have lost their mother or father, or both, by causes related to the epidemic. Across the world, a small but growing number of countries have reduced HIV prevalence through sound prevention efforts. However, in 2005, there were still 4.1 million new HIV infections with over 40 percent of new adult infections occurring among young people aged 15-24. According to latest estimates, HIV prevention services reach only one in ten of those most at risk.

In an era where the world has committed to work towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. There is clearly an urgent need to intensify HIV prevention efforts in both size and scale to halt growing infection rates and sustain the gains that have already been made in the AIDS response such as increased numbers of people on HIV treatment (*www.unaids.org*).

Aiming this, UNAIDS is 'uniting for HIV prevention' with others who share the goal – including civil society, treatment activists, the private sector and governments- to call for the global community to mobilise an alliance for intensifying HIV prevention. Thus 21st century is associated clearly with the construction of the denominated society of information, and in this frame, young people have assets and described roll to fulfill. The height of the ICT is significantly hitting the innovations and the developments that comes as a productive factor in the education system.

The broad and inclusive grouping of organisations 'uniting for prevention' will seek to influence policy makers as well as generate public opinion on the need to bridge the HIV prevention gap. Together, they seek to strengthen the movement and create the enabling environment which is required to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

Conclusions

The HIV/AIDS can strike at the door of anyone, and that therefore; it seeks urgency to put joint efforts-

• Is indispensable to generate the bases for the establishment of strategic alliances between the public institutions and participant organisations of the civil society with a view to the implementation of joint initiatives or to the collaboration in concrete actions in strategies for the prevention of HIV/AIDS in the region, with use of the ICT.

• To identify possibilities of collaboration between the Institute of Education and Health of Peru - IES- and other partners in Latin America for the retort and/or adaptation of the strategy Point J (*www.puntoj.com.pe*).

• To create a mass criticisms of experts working on thematic HIV/AIDS and ICT, and feel the base of a potential network for the exchange of information and experiences.

• The adoption of measures would be to encourage to facilitate the access to the Internet, and to increase in general the knowledge of the ICT.

• The effective use of the technology would have to contribute to reinforce diverse forms of youthful participation. Special measures has to be adopted to connect with the young people in rural regions, considering that, the fast advances in the matter of wireless technology have done possible to surpass physical obstacles at a reasonable cost that represented the distance and the topography. To over come barriers like time factor the development of the infrastructure of the telecommunications in the rural regions needs to be fastend.

• It has to be centered in increasing the help to the campaigns in schools and universities. It is urgent to enable the professors and, to grant technical and pedagogical endorsement to them.

• To harness the educational directors and, the development of materials, resources that promote the active participation in the educative space in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and that are generated within the framework of the education.

• Is urgent to have political public and aggressive actions, yet of fairness in the access of the ICT and its effective use.

• It is essentially tries to conform human networks, with the support of the ICT that motivate and harness, in dynamic and systematic form, the interaction between the people, who fortify the generation, dissemination and exchange of information and knowledge based on the professional objectives, institutional and social in each context of an individual. ■