SRHR OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN JORDAN: A MIXED METHODS STUDY USING INTERACTIVE THEATRE

How was the play received?

‘Mish ‘Aib’ was very well received by audiences. During the various performances, audience engagement was high and there was a high level of participation from the audience. The play was entertaining but also informative and educational. It allowed us to deliver key messages and information on SRHR to the target groups in a way that was easy for them to understand. The drama stopped at a high point in the ‘conflict’, when one or more characters brought out the issues which are important to the audience. The play encouraged audience participation and involvement. Afterwards the research team interviewed selected audience members. The feedback from these interviews was used to refine the play and improve its effectiveness. The play was very useful in highlighting the importance of SRHR and the solutions available. It allowed us to see the target groups’ reaction and responses in a very natural way and in a safe environment. It was a very effective tool for engaging audiences. Through discussions, we eventually developed a script based on well-researched data from a literature review, analysed available surveys and conducted interviews with various population groups.

What did you learn from this experience?

The research-arts collaboration was very successful and helped us to understand the social determinants of SRHR in Jordan. Interactive theatre proved to be very effective at eliciting community views about other barriers that women, men and young people face in accessing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services in a conservative country like Jordan. The aim was to improve SRH in Jordan, but each partner approached this in a different way. This was beneficial because it allowed us to learn from each other and to see how different approaches can be used to achieve the same goal.

What was involved in the research-arts collaboration?

Interactive theatre is participatory theatre, designed to spark the audience’s imagination and encourage critical thinking. It is a powerful tool for raising awareness and changing attitudes. It involves the audience in the creative process and allows them to experience the issues being discussed in a way that is memorable and impactful. Interactive theatre is a form of collective learning, where the audience and performers work together to devise positive ways to resolve the conflict. The drama stops at a high point in the ‘conflict’, when one or more characters bring out the issues which are important to the audience. The play encourages audience participation and involvement. Afterwards the research team interviewed selected audience members. The feedback from these interviews was used to refine the play and improve its effectiveness. The play was very useful in highlighting the importance of SRHR and the solutions available. It allowed us to see the target groups’ reaction and responses in a very natural way and in a safe environment. It was a very effective tool for engaging audiences. Through discussions, we eventually developed a script based on well-researched data from a literature review, analysed available surveys and conducted interviews with various population groups.

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