INTERGENERATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUMS

GIRLS, MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS TOGETHER TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT GIRLS

«It is important to strengthen communication between generations so that girls have the support they need to develop and succeed in life.»

Grandmother Mariama

FOR GIRLS, ADOLESCENCE IS A TIME OF CHALLENGES AND RISKS

GIRLS NEED:

- Encouragement to succeed in school
- Information on sexuality
- Protection from child marriage and teen pregnancy
- Self-confidence to express their needs and wishes in both the family and community

WOMEN AND GIRLS FORUMS REINFORCE POSITIVE CULTURAL ROLES AND VALUES AND CONTRIBUTE TO:

- Solidarity between women of the same age group
- Communication between generations
- Respect for the experience of elders
- Support to young women by older women

THE WOMEN AND GIRLS FORUMS STRENGTHEN THEIR COLLECTIVE POWER

The Grandmother Project program on Girls' Holistic Development involves men and women from three generations. However, a unique feature of GMP's approach is that it specifically strengthens relationships and creates alliances between girls, mothers and grandmothers. These intergenerational alliances increase women's power and influence in both families and communities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WOMEN AND GIRLS FORUMS

- Strengthen understanding and solidarity between women of different generations
- Increase knowledge about changes and needs of girls during adolescence
- Encourage communication based on listening and dialogue
- Identify collective action that women can take to promote girls' rights and well-being
- Contribute to: girls' education, prevention of child marriage, decreased teen pregnancies and abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting

«Involving the three generations of women in this activity is very beneficial. This is the first time we have had an opportunity to talk together, to share experiences and ideas.»

Satou, an adolescent girl

Song: Women Standing Up for Girls

Stand up women of three generations!
Grandmothers are standing up!
Mothers are standing up!
The girls are standing up!
They are all standing up to promote solidarity between women!
They are all standing up for girls' development!

(translated from Pulaar)

The way that grandmothers and mothers communicate with girls is very important. The forums encourage communication based on listening and dialogue. This approach helps girls to have more self-confidence to express themselves with other women and with their families.

« Before, mothers and grandmothers often shouted and scolded us. Now they are more patient. They listen to us and talk to us with a soft voice, which helps us to think about our education and our future. »

Fatou, a young girl

GRANDMOTHER PROJECT – CHANGE THROUGH CULTURE is an American and Senegalese NGO created in 2005. The mission of GMP is to promote the health and well-being of women and children, especially girls, in countries in the Global South. GMP programs are based on cultural realities to reinforce positive values and roles and to discourage negative ones. The pillars of GMP's approach are: involving elders, especially grandmothers; strengthening communication between generations; strengthening the commitment and skills of both formal and informal leaders; and using communication methods based on dialogue and consensus-building.

The *Change through Culture* approach can be used in various types of programs dealing with health/nutrition, early childhood development, hygiene, child marriage, teen pregnancy, female genital mutilation/cutting, etc. To promote this approach GMP offers training, methodological tools and technical support to other organizations.

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