

Additional Resources and Support





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POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MEASUREMENT TOOLKIT

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR IMPLEMENTERS OF
YOUTH PROGRAMS



December 2016

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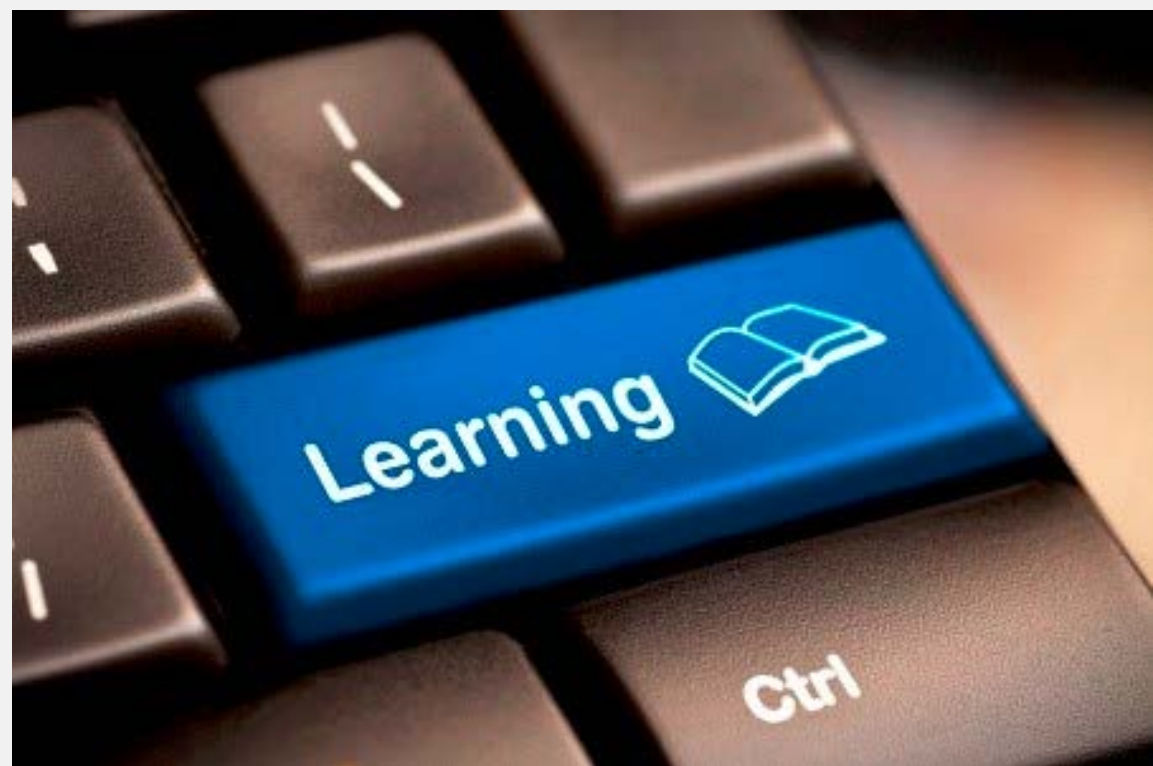
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Positive Youth Development Measurement Training

January 24, 2017
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM EST

Lafayette Conference Centre
Building 1 South, 1120 20th Street, NW
Washington, D.C.

Upcoming Learning Opportunities





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Positive Youth Development in Real Life: Having the Right Tools for the Job

DATE AND TIME

Wed, Dec 14, 2016, 11:00 AM EST

by YouthPower Learning Team



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Introduction to Positive Youth Development

Engaging youth as partners in advancing our common development goals



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META-REVIEW OF POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES



Positive Youth Development (PYD) is both a philosophy and a targeted approach to youth development whereby relationships that youth have with key people and institutions in their social context provide opportunities for youth to enhance their knowledge, interests, skills and abilities. Simply put, PYD approaches expect that if young people have the knowledge, skills, and support they need, they will thrive as adults, enjoy good health, succeed economically, make meaningful contributions, and have happy families. Making sure youth thrive will foster their positive development, as well as that of successive generations. PYD engages youth along with their families, communities, and/or governments so that youth are empowered to reach their full potential. PYD approaches build skills, assets and competencies; foster healthy relationships; strengthen the environment; and transform systems.

The PYD approach has been shown to have positive impacts in the U.S. and other high-income countries (Catalano, 2002) across an array of sectors, including health, education, delinquency and violence.

The PYD approach draws our attention to four broad domains:

- **Assets:** the availability of skills, tools, resources
- **Agency:** the ability to use skills, tools, and resources and to make independent decisions
- **Contribution:** the results of using assets for your own good and good of others
- **Enabling environment:** the existence of safe, supportive, encouraging places to learn and grow

Research Questions and Methods

Given the lack of evidence about the use and effectiveness of PYD approaches in low and middle income countries (LMICs),¹ the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) commissioned the YouthPower Learning project (www.youthpower.org) to undertake a meta-review, a type of literature review that collects and critically analyzes multiple research studies. For this meta-review, we developed a comprehensive plan and search strategy by identifying, appraising, and synthesizing all relevant studies based on



For a list of low and middle income countries as classified by the World Bank as of July 2016, see: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>



Webinar: Perspectives on Positive Youth Development

March 11, 2016 10am EST

Hosted by USAID YouthPower Learning



YOUTHPOWER

CHANGING THE WORLD BY UNLOCKING THE POWER OF YOUNG PEOPLE



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Key spaces YouthPower.org

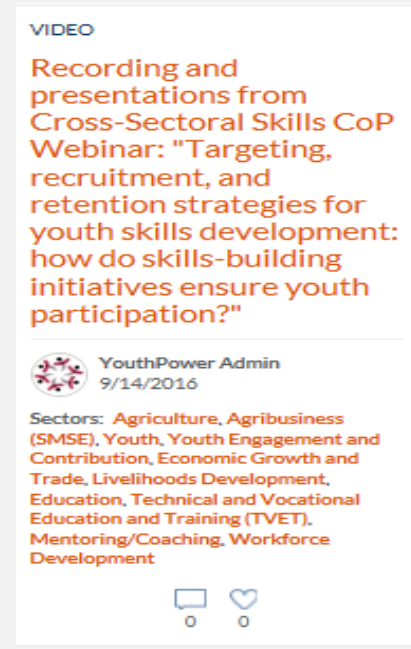
CoPs



Events



Resources



What Works

Related Topics

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|--|---|
| Adolescent Boys | > |
| Adolescent Girls | > |
| Adolescent Pregnancy | > |
| Alcohol | > |
| Child, Early and Forced Marriage | > |
| Community Involvement | > |
| Contraceptive Use and Options | > |
| Faith-based Programs for Youth | > |
| Gender | > |
| Gender-based Violence | > |
| Humanitarian Settings | > |
| Injecting Drug Use | > |
| Integration of Services | > |
| Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Intersex (LGBTI) Youth | > |
| Livelihoods | > |

Blogs



Countries



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NEWSLETTER



Issue #1, September 2016



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HOW DO YOUTH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES ENSURE EFFECTIVE TARGETING, RECRUITMENT, AND RETENTION?

This Technical Brief explores strategies used by skills-based youth livelihood programs to target, recruit, and retain youth beneficiaries for optimal impact, providing concrete examples of how program implementers have addressed these challenges, and documenting some lessons and best practices.¹

Skills-based initiatives for youth are a prominent component of youth development work in low- and middle-income countries, working across a number of topics such as employability, sexual and reproductive health, community and civic engagement, leadership, and entrepreneurship. One primary goal of many skills-based initiatives is to improve youth livelihood opportunities through increased self-efficacy, technical and vocational skills, and "life skills" (communication, conflict management, decision-making, etc.) (GPYE 2014).

In order to ensure optimal impact of these interventions, it is important for program implementers to decide

which segment of youth their program will target, ensure

that segment of beneficiaries receives customized programming; and incentives to ensure long-term

This technical brief sheds light on challenges inherent in targeting youth. It consists of three sections: first outlines the range of skills-based livelihood programs for diverse skill needs of youth; second elaborates on how implementers can improve targeting, recruitment, and retention; and third provides specific program recommendations for retention. The conclusion summarizes key recommendations for retention and provides program examples.



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Program examples and details were sourced from engagement with YouthPower's Cross-Sector Skills for Youth CoP members for Education Innovations (C3I) database. Programs were selected based on their innovative approaches to targeting, recruitment, and retention. Inclusion in this brief should not be interpreted as an indication that these are "proven" approaches; they simply provide illustrative examples of approaches. Special thanks go to Anna Greenman and Paula Belandier (Thinking Cities International), Katie Foster (Global Career Library), Education for Employment, and Benita Polakoff for their contributions.

¹Targeting and recruiting are often together referred to as "sourcing", but for the purposes of this brief we explore



SIX TIPS FOR INCREASING MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN PROGRAMS

During a spring 2016 meeting of the YouthPower Youth Engagement Community of Practice, group members

question, "What are the engagement in programs?" and identified key themes. These were then presented and discussed for comment. The following synthesizes these findings to support the wider

Meaningful youth engagement recognizes and seeks to change the power structures that prevent young people from being considered experts in regard to their own needs and priorities, while also building their leadership capacities. Youth includes a full spectrum of the population aged 10-29 regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnic identity, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability, political affiliation, or physical location.

Every youth-focused program, project, or strategy needs to have a vision for what youth engagement looks like. Because power structures have historically limited youth participation, they have been treated only as beneficiaries instead of partners. In order to overcome this, programs need to consciously shift their mindset. The role and purpose of youth engagement should be clearly defined and come from a shared philosophy that values the mutually respectful relationship that underlies positive youth engagement. This vision should be co-created by supportive adults and youth themselves. Specific opportunities must be made available for youth to engage, and that engagement should be allowed to expand over time.

Youth Engagement

Engagement Community of Practice

an inclusive, intentional, and respectful relationship between youth and respective contributions, ideas, perspectives, skills, and the design and delivery of funding mechanisms and their lives and their ability.

DOES YOUR PROGRAM REFLECT GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE OR POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES? A CHECKLIST.

This checklist is intended for use by development practitioners who want to ensure their programs incorporate good practices for gender transformative and positive youth development (PYD) programming. This list is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather illustrative. References are included for those who wish to learn more.

We adopted the USAID funded Gender, Policy and Measurement Program definition of gender-transformative to anchor our work. Gender-transformative interventions recognize gender norms

and inequalities, challenges and addresses them, and seeks solutions to overcome them by empowering women, men, girls, and boys, as well as sexual minorities such as transgender persons and MSM. Drawing on the work of YouthPower Learning, we recognize Positive Youth Development (PYD) engages youth along with their families, communities and/or governments so that youth are empowered to reach their full potential. PYD approaches build skills, assets and competencies; foster healthy relationships; strengthen the environment; and transform systems.



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