

Play for A New Horizon

BDF100013



Dec 2010 – Dec 2011

Hong Kong Art School – A division of Hong Kong Arts Centre



Introduction

• “PLAY FOR A NEW HORIZON”

An interactive drama education project for drug prevention education incorporating the facilities at the Jockey Club Drug Info Centre (DIC)

The project contains two programmes:

- Programme 1 – Forum Theatre targeted for secondary students
- Programme 2 – Process Drama Workshop targeted for primary students



Project Content

- Programme 1 – Forum Theatre

〈如果那一刻....〉
“If That Moment...”

Objective:

To empower young people’s ability to say no to drugs



➤ **About Forum Theatre**

Forum theatre is an interactive form of theatre where the audience don’t just watch as passive viewers but step onto the stage to interact with characters in the story to change the action in the play.





《如果那一刻.... 》 “If That Moment...”

- The play was about two teenagers attending a good friend’s birthday party. They were invited to take drugs...
- During the performance, audiences interviewed the characters in order to understand what their thoughts were and what dilemma the characters were facing that affecting their decision.
- Then audiences were invited to take turns to replace the key characters to confront the temptation of drugs thus to experience the possibilities to say no to drugs.
- After the performance, discussion was also held to debrief their role-play experience.



• Programme 2 – Process Drama Workshop

《扭轉一生的抉擇》

“The Choice for Turning Life Around”

Objective:

To equip young people with knowledge about drugs and related issue so as to enhance their ability to refuse drug and promote drug prevention.



➤ **About Process Drama**

Process Drama engages its participants in an imaginary dramatic world within which issues are considered and problems are tackled.

By stepping into others' shoes, students learn to think beyond their own point of view and consider multiple perspectives on a topic through playing different roles.



《扭轉一生的抉擇》“The Choice for Turning Life Around”

- In this workshop, students were guided to role play reporter of a media press company that has to run a feature on drug issue to help youth develop anti-drug awareness.
- In order to prepare this feature article, the reporters (student participants) have to interview a young man (role-played by the facilitator) who quitted drugs successfully.
- They also have to find out information about drugs and to study other drug addict cases displayed at DIC.



Drug addict cases studies



These reporters then have to develop short scenes which illustrated the factors that caused people to take drugs and the harmful effects of drug abuse.

At the end of the workshop, the students developed “Words to the Youth” to enhance their anti-drug awareness.



Words to the youth

為使青少年人對毒品提高警覺，我的忠告是：

- 「不吸毒，至醒目，笑呵呵，唱隻歌!」
- 「毒品不可吃，一次也不可!!!」
- 「其實吸食毒品並不是一個人的事，而是社會大眾和你的爸媽的事。所以，切勿吸毒。小小一粒丸，危險萬萬千。」
- 「能生活在世上就是一個奇蹟，而吸毒就是在消滅這個奇蹟。請各位好好地珍惜這個奇蹟!」
- 「毒品毀你全人生，提高警覺請小心。」



Output Evaluation

	Description (with targets)	Output achieved
Output Indicator 1	No. of participants in Forum Theatre (achieve at least 80% of the target i.e. 2160 secondary school students)	- 1838 secondary students - 24 performances: 12 performances at DIC and 12 performances were arranged as school touring
Output Indicator 2	No. of participants in Process Drama Workshop (achieve at least 80% of the target reached i.e. 768 primary school students)	- 836 primary students - 40 workshops: 15 workshops at DIC and 25 workshops were arranged as school touring



Outcome Evaluation

	Description (with targets)	Results
Outcome indicator 1	Participants' perceived ability to refuse drug (80% show improvement or significant improvement found by paired t-test)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1027 valid cases collected: 516 cases for Forum Theatre & 511 cases for Process Drama Workshop - 84% and 81% of the participants in Forum Theatre and Process Drama Workshop showed improvement respectively - Significant improvement in participants' perceived ability to refuse drug was found



Outcome Evaluation

	Description (with targets)	Results
Outcome indicator 2	Participants' attitude towards drug abuse (80% show improvement or significant improvement by paired t-test)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1001 valid cases collected: 507 cases for Forum Theatre & 494 cases for Process Drama Workshop - 70% and 60% of the participants in Forum Theatre and Process Drama Workshop showed improvement respectively - Significant improvement in secondary students' attitude towards drug abuse was found



Outcome Evaluation

	Description (with targets)	Results
Outcome indicator 3	Participants' knowledge about the harm of drug abuse (80% show improvement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 954 valid cases collected: 487 cases for Forum Theatre & 467 cases for Process Drama Workshop - 76% and 70% of the participants in Forum Theatre and Process Drama Workshop showed improvement respectively - Marginally significant improvement in secondary students' knowledge about the harm of drug abuse was found



Experience Gained

Reason behind success

- Participating teachers expressed that the Forum Theatre successfully provided "rehearsal experience" for their students for they might encounter similar situation in their real life.
- Process Drama provided opportunity for students to interview characters of the play and the cases studied at DIC helped students understand the harmful effects of drug abuse.



Experience Gained

Reason behind underachievement of target

- Difficulties encountered to recruit the schools to attend programmes at DIC as planned:
 - Most interested schools chose similar dates because of examination period, and the dates they most preferred did not match the available dates of the targeted venue.
 - The Interactive Theatre at DIC could accommodate 80 audience which amounts to 2 classes of students only. Schools found it difficult to visit the centre in 3 different times so that one whole grade (usually consisting of 4 – 5 classes) could attend. Some teachers tended to arrange their own class to attend only to minimize administrative work involved in liaising with other class teachers.



Experience Gained

Reason behind underachievement of outcome targets

- Most students who participated in the programme did not investigate the drug information at DIC as planned:
 - Due to the reason above, only half of the Forum Theatre performances and 38% of the Process Drama Workshops were taken place at the centre, while the rest of the performances and workshops were arranged as school touring. Despite that, significant improvement in participants' perceived ability to refuse drugs was found in outcome evaluation.



Experience Gained

Lesson learnt

- Touring performances and workshops at schools were arranged to help ease the tight schedule of the targeted venue and also reduce administration workload for teachers.
- More facilitators for Process Drama were recruited so that workshops could be arranged for 2-3 schools on the same day during the tour.
- Information of various drugs and drug addict cases were provided in handouts for participants of school touring programmes to compensate for the missing visit to DIC.



Conclusion

- Both Forum Theatre and Process Drama Workshop were well received by the participating schools. The feedback from teachers were positive and encouraging.
- Suggestions and way forward:
 - Workshops for social workers and school teachers – In this project, applied theatre was effectively used to provide highly interactive and reflective experience for the participants and has enhanced their abilities to look into drug related issue from an all-round perspective. It would be beneficial to equip more facilitators with applied theatre knowledge and skills for effective implementation of drug prevention education programmes in future.



End