YouthPower Learning Tools for Positive Youth Development and Peacebuilding

YOUTHPOWER LEARNING

A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN LOW AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MEASUREMENT TOOLKIT
A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR IMPLEMENTERS OF YOUTH PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (COP)
YOUTH IN PEACE AND SECURITY

WHAT WORKS

Systematic Review of Positive Youth Development in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Findings on Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DHRG)

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Research questions:

1. How have PYD approaches been implemented in low- and middle-income countries?

2. What does the evidence say about their effectiveness?
What Does the Evidence Say about PYD in LMIC?

- Countries where at least 1 PYD intervention is taking / took place.
- Countries where 5 or more PYD interventions are taking / took place.
Systematic Review of Positive Youth Development in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Findings on Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DHRG)

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## Key Findings on Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DHRG)

1. Most programs classified as DHRG also work towards outcomes in other sectors.
2. All DHRG programs focus on building youth assets, including vocational and soft skills.
3. Several programs reported positive outcomes relevant to DHRG as well as health and gender equity related outcomes.
4. Overall, DHRG programs lack rigorous evidence and conclusive data about what works.
DHRG programs are more likely to implement activities such as community meetings, social events, and media programming than programs working in other sectors.
While only a few studies demonstrated positive impact, outcomes were reported across a range of areas.

**Positive Outcomes from DHRG Programs**

- **Improvements in political empowerment.**
- **Improvements in agency, including self-efficacy and positive beliefs about the future,**
- **Improved social skills and social support**
- **Positive outcomes related to gender norms**
- **Non-experimental evidence points to higher participation in education and employment and greater civic and social responsibility**
Recommendations for Programmatic Design

- Promote youth-led and youth-centered approaches
- Foster collaboration for cross-sectoral impact
- Leverage existing evidence to improve the design of programs that target youth
- Engage youth and key community stakeholders throughout program design and implementation
Recommendations from systematic review:

#1: Increase investment in process and impact evaluations of PYD programs in LMICs.

#2: Ensure robust, holistic and consistent measurement of PYD outcomes.
What’s in the PYD Measurement Toolkit and how will it help me?

• Refine research question and outcomes
• Select PYD features and program participants
• Finalize your theory of change or logic model
• Select the appropriate PYD related indicators
• Analyze the data, disseminate the findings and adapt your program
Domain: Assets
Feature: Skill building

Construct: Higher order thinking

Definition: Ability to identify an issue, absorb information from multiple sources, and evaluate options to reach reasonable conclusion. Includes skills like problem, planning, decision-making, and critical thinking.

Indicator: Increased higher order thinking skills at the conclusion of training/programming.

Indicator Source/Tool: CPYDS Subscale on Cognitive Competence
- “I believe there is a solution for any problem”
- “I know how to see things from different angles”
Illustrative PYD Indicators

Assets: Skill Building
- Increased interpersonal skills
- Increased higher-order thinking skills

Contribution: Youth Engagement
- Youth report being participating in program’s design, implementation, or evaluation

Agency: Skill Building
- Increased positive beliefs about own future
- Increased feelings of self-efficacy
- Increased ability to plan and set goals

Enabling Environment: Safe Space
- Increased feeling of safety in their environment
Tools for measuring indicators

- Relatively low cost
- Easy to use
- Good psychometric properties
- Either had already been used in the international context or had potential to be used in developing countries.
Key Resources

- Systematic Review of PYD in LMIC
  [http://www.youthpower.org/systematic-review-pyd-lmics](http://www.youthpower.org/systematic-review-pyd-lmics)

- PYD Measurement Toolkit:

- Youth in Peace and Security Community of Practice

- What Works in Youth and Peacebuilding