Introduction to Developmental Assets for Youth

RTM 300

Key Question

What do children and youth need to become healthy, caring, and responsible citizens?

The Three Broad Approaches

Youth Development

- Basic human needs
 - Food, shelter, health, work, safety
- Reduce risks and deficits
 - Substance abuse, lack education, STD, violence, delinquency
- Developmental assets
 - Positive development to create strengths and capabilities

Assets Approach

- THE BUILDING BLOCKS the target
- · Involves multiple social units
- Intervention from both directions
 - - Bottom up: Grassroots
 - - Top Down: Organizations, Systems, Leadership
- Acknowledges economic factor and risk behaviors

Assets Approach

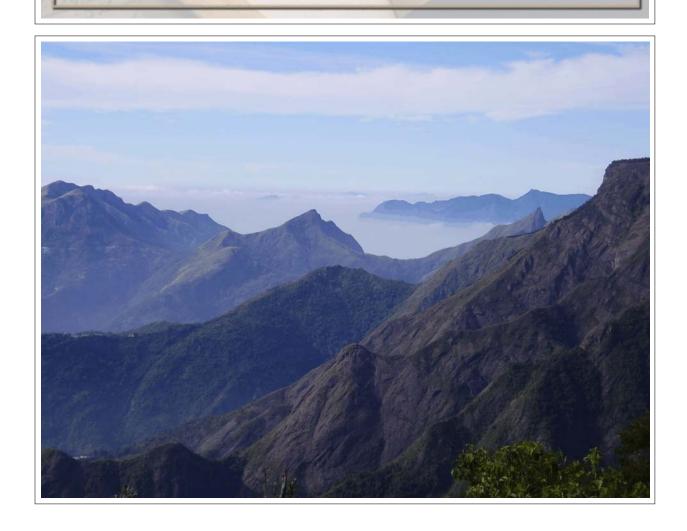
- Focuses on ties of assets to success markers as well as risk behaviors
- Focuses on what about culture has to do with developing youth

Economic Well Being (Basic Needs)

- National: 17% below poverty line
 - 20k or less
- 38% live below 40k yearly



- 10 million children die each year
- 3 billion survive on less than \$2 bucks a day
- Poverty is the ultimate risk factor







High Risk Behaviors

- 65% of adolescence engage in risk behaviors
 - Add example from text

Survey of High Risk Factors

See text p.5

- 65.7 percent of youth (2003) engage in one or more of these risk behaviors including
 - 3 or more uses of alcohol in previous month
 - Daily cigarette use
 - 3 or more uses of illegal drugs in past year
 - Sexual intercourse three or more times
 - 3 or more acts of violence
 - Frequent depression or suicide
 - Driving (or riding with others) after drinking
 - Gambling 3 or more times in past year
 - Repeated absenteeism from school

We need to look at the Culture that raises the them

- Understand the cultural factors that work against building assets
- The seventh generation principle
 - evaluating every key decision for how this will effect the children 7 generations from now
- Parenting principle
 - Lead a child in the path he should go and when older they will not stray from it

The influence of culture

Robert Bly quote

We must find and name that secret road that has led American society in such a brief time from a moderately disciplined and moderately respectful culture to a culture where 12 year olds shoot each other and Calvin Klein uses children for sexually explicit advertisements.

What are some of the factors that work against building assets in youth?

(From class comments or text)

- Isolation of youth from adults
 - Lack of contact with adults beyond family
 - Lack of sustained involvement (e.g. constant change)
- Isolation of families from one another
- Fragmented social systems
- Silence and inconsistency about boundaries and values
- Privacy and civic disengagement rather than shared vision for community

What are some of the factors that work against building assets in youth?

Other culture factors for discussion

- Lack of parental involvement at home
- Media influence on values
- Fame based culture
- Materialism assigns value
- Rise in violence and bullying

The Structure of the Assets

Youth Development

- External Assets
 - 1. Support
 - 2. Empowerment
 - 3. Boundaries and expectations
 - 4. Constructive use of time
- Internal Assets
 - 5. Commitment to learning
 - 6. Positive values
 - 7. Social competencies
 - 8. Positive identity