

The background of the slide features a faded, historical-style image. It includes a large, ornate sundial with multiple faces, a pair of drafting compasses, and a document with handwritten text in an old script. The overall tone is sepia and academic.

# **Introduction to Developmental Assets for Youth**

RTM 300

The background of the slide is identical to the one above, featuring a faded historical image of a sundial, compasses, and a handwritten document.

## **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

## **Globally - Economic Well Being**

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







Is poverty 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