

LEDEV WORKSHOP-FROM REFLECTION TO ACTION

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1. INTRODUCTION

Let me begin by acknowledging that all the topics presented and discussed at the workshop are relevant and important in my work situation. At the time I attended the workshop I was Deputy Vice-Chancellor of my university in an acting capacity. I have since been appointed as substantive Deputy Vice-Chancellor and, looking back, the knowledge and experience gained at the workshop has proved very useful in my work. I commend the AAU for the apt choice of topics for the workshop.

For the purpose of this report, I have selected to reflect and report on HIV/AIDS. I am privileged that the implementation of my institution's HIV/AIDS Policy falls within the ambit of my responsibilities as Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

2. PROBLEM DEFINITION

In recognition of the gravity of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the need to respond to it, I came away from the workshop convinced that one practical way to respond to the crisis is to look into *how HIV/AIDS can be integrated into my university curricula*.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

- Like most countries in Southern Africa, Zambia remains a risk area, with high infection and death rates particularly among the youth.
- Within Zambia, the urban areas have comparatively higher infection and death rates than the rural areas. Since The Copperbelt University is situated in the urban area, the institution is particularly vulnerable to the epidemic.
- In 2004, The Copperbelt University Governing Council put in place an HIV/AIDS Policy and constituted an HIV/AIDS Policy Implementation Committee, chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, to oversee the implementation of the HIV/AIDS policy.
- Since then, many activities have been undertaken to create awareness, prevent infections and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS.
- These activities have, however, not covered the area of curriculum development in the area of HIV/AIDS.
- The possible integration of HIV/AIDS into curriculum will be enhanced by the following factors:
 - The existence of an HIV/AIDS Policy and vivid support for its implementation through the HIV/AIDS Policy Implementation Committee.
 - An awareness of the consequences of HIV/AIDS within the university community.

- Student activism in the area of HIV/AIDS; this is demonstrated by the existence of a student-run group known as The Copperbelt University Anti-Aids Society.
- The willingness of faculties to embrace the principle of integrating HIV/AIDS into their programmes of study.
- The possible integration of HIV/AIDS into curriculum will be inhibited by the following factors:
 - The scarcity of experts to develop curricula.
 - The preoccupation of students with examinable courses.
 - The diversity of programmes of study obtaining at The Copperbelt University; this will make it difficult for the institution to have a common pedagogical approach in developing curriculum.
 - Heavy workloads and busy schedules of staff will have a negative impact on their availability to participate in curriculum development.

4. STRATEGY

- The idea of integrating HIV/AIDS into curricula was initially mooted in 2006. In September 2006 a draft of course outlines was made and presented to the Policy Implementation Committee. A position paper on the integration of HIV/AIDS into university curricula was then circulated to all schools for consideration in their respective Boards of Studies. Concurrently, a project proposal was made to the Association of African University for funding of a workshop. In April 2007, the AAU agreed to fund the workshop and released \$3300 for the requisite training on integrating HIV/AIDS into curricula. Unfortunately, the schools were not ready at that time to take advantage of assistance from the AAU and the \$3300 was returned to the AAU.
- My first activity was to revive interest in the holding of the workshop to look at the modalities of integration. I approached Dr. Wane during the LEDEV workshop in Namibia and sought his help in the funding of the workshop. Dr. Wane was agreeable to the AAU funding the workshop and urged me to formally write to the AAU to request for the funding. Upon my return to Zambia, I directed the HIV/AIDS Office to take up the matter with Dr. Wane who then responded favourably and facilitated the release of \$3300 for our workshop.
- The workshop was subsequently held and drew participants from all faculties of the university. I officially opened the workshop in my capacity as Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of the HIV/AIDS Policy Implementation Committee of the Governing Council.
- The workshop was successful in that all faculties agreed to integrate HIV/AIDS into their curriculum. A Curriculum Development Committee was formed to work out the details and develop a paper to be presented to Senate. The Committee is yet to finalize its work, but is scheduled to make its recommendations to Senate in the course of this year.

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