

Mass Media Workshop changes my life and Vietnam people's lives

The Mass Media workshop in Hanoi supported by ASAP for 10 journalists from different newspapers, radio and television on Sexual/Reproductive Health Rights and Adolescent Reproductive Health was held by REACOM in August, 2010. During the workshop and the followed field trip, the attended journalists had chance to put their feet into adolescents' shoes to really understand adolescents' needs. Through the activities in the Young Club they understand that adolescents in Vietnam have very poor knowledge about SRH and they are so shame to talk about this topic. They also understand the consequences of this problem are unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortion and spreading STIs among adolescents.

The journalists came back to their work and wrote many articles about this topic and related issues. They asked me to review their first articles. These articles are about adolescent unwanted pregnancies and its consequences such as undersigned married, domestic violence, abandoned babies, complicated deliveries... They also wrote about sexuality such as sex education for new married couples, sex for old people, fat people...

I am so impressed by two journalist participants of the workshop and they became my closed friends. Both of them have their own blogs on BlogtiengViet and they persuaded me to have one. I concerned that may take my time but I began by giving comments to their blog articles. I was surprised that people were very interested in my comments and really want me to have my own blog. One blogger was so enthusiastic that he established my blog and gave me my pass word free of charge. At the beginning, I just put on my blog some of my poems and short stories but one journalist encouraged me to write about my work – sexual and reproductive health. So, I began by an article about the definition of reproductive health and sexual health then I went to gender issues. The readers are so interested in these new topics. One of my sexuality article posted on Nov.10, 2010 got 1994 readers and 55 comments until today (Feb. 23, 2011). Please find herewith the link to this article:

http://bichthuyhn.blogtiengviet.net/2010/11/10/a_a_n_a_ng_va_a_a_n_ba_phaobn_iii

Since I received many positive and encouragement comments from the readers I feel brave enough to write about unsafe abortion, a sensitive topic that didn't ever written before. On midnight Dec. 28, 2010 I posted an article on Abortion and Abortion among Adolescents – Problems and Solutions. Please find herewith the link to this article:

http://bichthuyhn.blogtiengviet.net/2010/12/28/phai_thai_van_phai_thai_tiar_n_haan_nhac

So far there are 1571 readers and 52 comments on it. People are very interested about this issue, many of them thinks that sex education should be an important subject in schools and parents should teach their children about this while many others concern that the parents do not have appropriate knowledge and skills to teach their children. So, on Jan. 3rd 2011 I posted an article on teaching adolescents about reproductive and sexual health. So far, there are 1418 readers with 27 comments on it. Please find herewith the link to this article:

http://bichthuyhn.blogtiengviet.net/2011/01/03/har_c_caich_vaof_a_adar_ng_cho_hadaiu_ch

Since Sep. 10, 2010 until now I have posted 10 articles in my Sciences Category and 8 of them are about sexual and reproductive health issues. Some blogger asked me permission to use my articles for discussion on their blog. Thanks to my articles on the personal blog many people know me. I was invited by a local NGO (SHARE) to facilitate pre-married training courses for young people. I also invited by Youth Union of a Hanoi district to help them conducting an Adolescent Reproductive Health communication campaign. Very interestedly, O2 Tivi, a famous Vietnam television channel have invited me to work together with them for an annual program on sexual and reproductive health and I will be their expert for two topics: adolescent reproductive health and medical abortion. Recently, I had two interviews with VOV2 (Voice of Vietnam) one about how parents should deal with their children when they fall in love too early, and another about the pre-married training that I do with SHARE. I had mentioned about unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortion in the first interview. Last weekend I also submitted an article on Adolescent Abortion to Family and Society Newspaper.

I spend my personal time to write articles and reply all the comments of the readers (you can see the comments in blue and my replies in brown). Through the comments of the readers I understand that they are in the process of changing their knowledge, attitude and behaviors positively related to sexual and reproductive health issues. The readers' reactions encourage me to continue my work in this sensitive feel with my passion. I would like to thanks ASAP and its donor for supporting Vietnam to organize the Mass Media Workshop which changes my personal life and in consequence changes Vietnam people's lives.