

SUMMARY OF VERBATIM FEEDBACK FROM RISE LIFE MANAGEMENT SERVICES' UNDERAGE GAMBLING PREVENTION SESSIONS

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INTRODUCTION:

The underage gambling prevention session was conducted between May 2023- March 2024, amongst various groups including Community groups, Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and Students. School aged participation was at the primary and secondary level and at schools located in Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Thomas, Clarendon, Manchester and St. Catherine.

Verbatim feedback on the sessions was collected from educators from 38 Primary, Junior High & High schools and representatives from community groups. Approximately 10 thousand students and 5 hundred parents and community groups participated in the sessions. These verbatim responses were used to evaluate the perception and effectiveness of the RISE Life Management Services' Underage Gambling Prevention Sessions.

SUMMARY OF QUALITATIVE FEEDBACK:

Overall perception:

Participants overwhelmingly described the program as clear, concise, educational, engaging, enjoyable, and of great importance. The session was said to be well structured, offering easily understood and relevant information.

The interactive nature of the program made it practical and relatable, effectively conveying the damaging effects of gambling, especially among underage individuals. The use of group talks, as well as the one on one sessions was believed to be highly effective.

"Presentation was delivered in a realistic fashion...the children found it rather fun-filled, informative and interactive"- Calabar Infant, Primary and Junior High

"The session was excellent, interactive, informative and interesting"- McCook Primary and Infant School

Specific impact:

Participants from all groups gained a comprehensive understanding on what underage gambling was and of the detrimental impacts of gambling, particularly when initiated at a young age. Importantly, participants learned strategies to prevent underage involvement, equipping minors to confidently say "No" to gambling opportunities.

"It was a good program, the students are more aware of the damaging effects of gambling"- St. George's Girls Primary & Infant School.

The sessions illuminated the drawbacks of underage gambling, fostering a greater understanding of the significance of prevention measures. It also provided insights to facilitators regarding the extent of students' exposure to gambling in certain institutions.

"From his (he facilitator) interactions we observed that a large number of the students have been exposed to gambling"- Naggo Head Primary

"They (the students) were able to identify the different forms of gambling and were able to relate to some. They also understood that gambling at their age was wrong"- Danny Williams School for the Deaf

Additionally, it revealed various reasons why students engaged in underage gambling, with some motivated by the desire to win money or even obtain basic necessities like food.

"All the boys have participated in some form of gambling activity. The games were in exchange for money or food" - Cockburn Gardens Primary & Junior High School

Relevance:

Educators described the session as timely, as some reported a surge in gambling incidences among students. They also expressed a desire for follow-up sessions to reinforce the learnings and delve into related topics affecting youth.

“This session has been most timely as the Old Harbour High School is indeed seeing the incidents of underage gambling becoming more popular among students”- Old Harbour High School

“It (the session) was relevant and well needed. We hope to do this again”- Cockburn Gardens Primary & Junior High School

CONCLUSION:

Overall, the underage gambling prevention session was met with enthusiasm and appreciation from participants and educators alike. Its effectiveness in imparting crucial knowledge and empowering youth to make informed decisions emphasizes the significance of ongoing prevention efforts in combating underage gambling. Educators commended the professionalism and effectiveness of the RISE LIFE team in delivering the session and hoped for continued collaboration on future initiatives.