

Dialog and role play on prevention of gender based violence and initiation of Medical student GBV clubs



Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a global health and human rights issue which is spread all over the world. It is particularly flourishing in most developing countries like Tanzania.

Women and young girls in many developing nations are severely affected by emotional, sexual and physical violence because of their gender. Ending GBV against its targeted victims requires the development of integrated approaches and forms of collaboration.

To ensure GBV is eliminated in to our place and country, Tanzania CUHAS/BMC Gender desk is currently responsible for providing training to medical students, academician and staffs at clinical area in order to sensitize them to establish gender clubs in their respective area. The initiative aims at decrease the spread and severity of GBV at the clinical setting and place of work.

CUHAS- SCHOOL OF MEDICINE GENDER CLUBS TO STUDENTS

Through CUHAS/BMC gender desk initiative have started to train medical school students and academician several and ensuring that their school establish gender clubs. Those other includes universities and in issues related to leadership skills.

CUHAS/BMC and MWACHAS gender desk -Ms. Mwaisungu Halima as one of the gender desk coordinator said that students, staff and clients often experience GBV but unfortunately lack platforms to speak out or report the poor acts against them.

*“This is the one of the exploration of the young student’s girls from CUHAS/MWACHAS experiences
“*

Ms. Mwaisungu. Halima was one of the participant on the congregation on 16 days of activism in Dar-es-Salaam Tanzania September 2022, against gender based violence that brought together representatives from several institutions such as gender desks, gender activists, higher learning institution and students from different school in Tanzania and that’s why we launched our gender desk policy on February 2022 at BUGANDO.-CUHAS

Apart from that, Mwaisungu further noted that medical school like CUHAS are the right and best places to eliminate GBV because students spend most of their time in school than any other place. This means that any efforts aimed at eliminating GBV would be more effective initiated in different University than anywhere else.

Also lecturers, staffs and academician have a great opportunity to hold the key and preventing violence against girls and boys around schools and more support is needed to keep children safe.

“Most girls, boys, staffs and academician experience GBV and other related problems but are compelled to keep the objection inside because they do not know the right recourse or where to turn to when such an act is committed against them. They don’t know the right direction to take in order to report such issues, since we established a gender desks our students have been equipped with several gender issues and are able to fight against GBV so far,” he said.

More responsiveness

The schools starting to establish CUHAS/MWACHAS **gender clubs** which will help to create more awareness to students in a bid to fight against GBV, sexual harassment and other related issues.

Furthermore establishment of the gender clubs enabling the students to be able to speak openly against GBV to Parents, teachers and the community in general. The clubs have given the children confidence to express themselves without any reservations. This helps to control the increase of GBV in schools since more children are aware of what steps to take when such an act of violence is committed.

Reports on welfare of children and women show that, prevention should start early in life, this can be done by educating and working with young boys and girls to promote respectful relationships and gender equality. Working with youth is a “best dialog” for faster, sustained progress on preventing and eradicating gender-equality are forged.

Students are perhaps the best target when it comes to spreading preventive measures of GBV in Tanzania. They will grow up with a **mentality that violence against the opposite** gender should not be tolerated, and hence take steps to end it.

Hence these clubs will form a great starting point in spreading the fight against GBV at CUHAS/BMC.