

The project on health education of men on family planning and sexually transmitted diseases in the province of Balikesir, Turkey

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Objective: To inform men on family planning(FP) and sexually transmitted diseases(STD) and therefore to contribute to the improvement of family health.

Project Study Design: Exhibiting a model of well established relationships with the volunteer organizations and governmental organizations, the project was designed by the FPAT and submitted to the Ministry of Health(MH). Within the framework the protocol signed upon the approval of the MH and with the financial support of the Agency for Technical Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Germany (GTZ), the project was implemented by applying "Community Based Health Service Model". Education was given by 24 male community workers who were trained by. Conferences, group meetings and panels were organized. Information, education and communication materials were developed and distributed. The members of the local and national mass media were informed on the project activities as well as reproductive and sexual health and their support was ensured.

Results: A total of 12.945 men were informed through personal talks by the male community workers during the 23 months project period. At the end of the project the ratio of those who reported to use the FP methods were increased from 57.8 per cent to 79.2 per cent. While the ratio of oral pill users decreased from 27.7 per cent to 20.0 per cent the ratio of IUD users increased from 25.0 per cent to 32.0 per cent and the ratio of condom users from 21.1 per cent to 32.6 per cent. The ratio of those who knows the ways of STD prevention was increased from 33.6 per cent to 50.8 per cent and condom usage for prevention increased from 15.2 per cent to 44.0 per cent.

Conclusion: Well-organized men to men program education was very effective in male involvement for family planning and STD prevention.