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Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program year one (1999-2000) evaluation summary

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Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program Year One (1999-2000) Evaluation Summary

Goals

MVP's major objectives for year one of the evaluation:

- 1. Evaluate program outcomes including:
 - ➤ Levels of knowledge and awareness
 - ➤ Attitudes regarding gender violence and self-efficacy and prevention
 - > Changes in student behavior
- 2. Document and understand student experiences including:
 - > Students everyday experience with gender violence
 - ➤ Reaction to the MVP Program
 - > Students satisfaction with MVP

Methodology

An independent contractor completed the MVP evaluation. She utilized a quasi experimental, pre-test and post-test design that was proven to be valid and reliable. Additionally, the pro-feminist mixed method approach incorporated qualitative and quantitative data to corroborate the findings. During year one, the evaluator utilized a pre and post-test survey, case studies, observations, student pre and post training interviews, and key informant interviews.

Sample

3 case study schools

23 observations

21 student pre and post training interviews

6 key informant interviews

Treatment Group -262 students in 10 schools took the pre-test 209 students took the post-test

Findings

Levels of Knowledge and Awareness

Quantitative

There was a statistically significant difference between student's pre- and post-test scores on four out of five questions presented on the survey. 29 *Qualitative*

"I learned how to deal with potentially threatening situations – I used my knowledge at a party where a guy grabbed a girl by the throat" 65

"The most important thing I learned was that distractions work great – now when I'm at parties, I know how to handle situations and do the right thing."

Attitudes Regarding Gender Violence

Quantitative

➤ Overall, the MVP Program was effective in increasing students' awareness of and improving their attitudes about gender violence 34

Qualitative

➤ Students' shift in attitude regarding the acceptability of gender violence and their increased level of awareness about the problem of gender violence and its prevalence in society were readily observed in program setting and stand out in the qualitative data as well as the quantitative data presented above. 37

"I know that it happens more than I thought – both because of the statistics they taught us, and because everybody in class could think of one example of it! Since everyone could think of a story, then it's got to be a big deal. And I didn't really think it was the big before...It just kind of makes me more aware, and I kind of look at things differently. I don't just see two people going up to a bedroom. I see a drunk person and another person going up to a bedroom – you know what I mean?" 45

Attitudes Regarding Self-Efficacy and Prevention

Quantitative

As a group, students' mean scores increased at post-test, indicating that the MVP Program training had the desired effect of increasing students' confidence in themselves to prevent and/or confront sexist and violent behavior. 47

Qualitative

- ➤ Importantly, they demonstrate that while MVP heightens student awareness regarding their responsibility as bystanders, students also think carefully and realistically about any actions they may take and the potential consequences of those actions. 48
- Qualitative data provide evidence that most students took action in one form or another based on what they learned in MVP. 56
- "The most important thing I learned is that I have a voice, and my voice is very important."
- "I learned that even one person can make a difference in stopping violence and harassment."

Student Satisfaction

- > Students were highly satisfied with their MVP experience
- > 97% reported learning something new and valuable during MVP 58
- > Over 90% said they would recommend MVP to a friend 58

"My favorite thing was the way (the trainers) talked to us like people, not kids, because that is how we should be treated." 61

"They were real (the trainers) because they told us like it was about how it is out there. They didn't hide anything or the realities." 61 "Some of them were just boring" 72