



BRAHMA KUMARIS WORLD SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome-Related Behaviour in Youth

Statement to the

United Nations Children's Fund, Executive Board, 1988 Session

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The rapidly growing incidence of this yet incurable disease forces all of us to examine the factors that underlie the known modes of transmission of this globally threatening virus.

The Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, in review of the present status of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevention methods and plans, and in the light of its 50 years of experience with youth in combating sexual prejudices, feels that:

- Society's most effective weapon in preventing transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is to provide children, adolescents and young adults with an experience – oriented educational curriculum in the basic human values of self-love and dignity. This is so because the changing pressures of time have increasingly deprived the children of these values in the natural environment of "home" – an entity becoming less and less available and affordable;
- Any measures taken in the area of reproductive health education or services should also be complemented by an effort to instill a sense of reproductive or sexual responsibility in the individual. This task of ethical education, which is commonly perceived as an arena of the church, if also shared by the State, could prove very effective in this battle against AIDS
- Simple programmes may be instituted to replace high-risk behaviour with skills-promoting behaviour that also helps to improve the social commitment of youth.

Although these are approaches that may involve much material and mental resources initially, they certainly become cost-effective as well as crucial in fulfilling the very many needs of the "individual of the society". The University perceives the condition of AIDS as a strong indicator of a time when we, as humanity, need to do all we can to care for the moral and spiritual dimension of life of the human being as much as we have cared for the physical dimension of life of the human being.

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University

The BKWSU is a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and in consultative status with UNICEF.

The University was founded in India in 1937 and has branches in over 100 countries worldwide.

It has been affiliated to the United Nations Department of Public Information since 1980.

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