

Companion sheet | Virtual workshop

Stimulating youth leadership through arts

THE TUSEME APPROACH

What is the TUSEME approach?

Youth leadership clubs are based on the TUSEME approach of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) and have been set up from primary to university level in many African countries for many years. A specific feature of these clubs is the use of play and the arts, such as poetry, visual arts and drama, to encourage self-expression. The clubs often address, but are not limited to, the issues faced by young girls in the school environment.

The five steps of the approach

Step 1. Identification and discussion

Youth reflect on various challenges experienced at school and in the close community. They then lead discussions to identify and understand the global picture of the issues.

Step 2. Discussion and analysis

Youth take part in conflict resolution simulations and debates in order to fully understand the issue and determine solutions that address the roots of a problem.

Step 3. Artistic creation

Youth prepare a message to be conveyed collectively through an artistic medium, and practice public speaking.

Stage 4. Artistic performance

Youth present their artistic creation, proposing solutions to other students, school staff and even parents.

Stage 5. Dialogue and action

After the presentation, a dialogue is held with the audience, and resolutions are made to change a problematic situation.

A little more about the TUSEME approach

Following the same process, TUSEME clubs enable students to develop self-confidence and the ability to express themselves while valuing cultural identity, as well as developing their analytical and problem-solving skills, encouraging respectful debate and dialogue with the community, and encouraging young people to propose solutions through art to those around them, without fear of hierarchical differences.

Set up in 1996 by the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) in a number of sub-Saharan African countries, TUSEME clubs have already reached over 80,000 students. TUSEME means "let's express ourselves without embarrassment" in Kiswahili.

Documented impacts

Clubs also foster leadership, as students are responsible for running the clubs themselves. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the majority of girls (96.6%) say they feel free to express their opinions on various life issues that concern them. By taking part in clubs, where the focus is on freedom of expression, girls benefit from considerable opportunities for self-fulfillment.

This trend remains stable over time, and the vast majority of girls feel free to express themselves at school, whether in elementary or secondary school.

In Senegal, according to school principals and teachers, these clubs are responsible for keeping 36.8% of girls in school. In Mali, 54.1% of girls say that this is the component with the greatest impact, and in the Democratic Republic of Congo, this percentage rises to 81.5%.

Source : https://lartes-ifan.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/rapport_final_coe_senegal.pdf - FAWE, LARTES, Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie, 2023

**Summary of the approach : FAWE
Tuseme Model**

Youth testimony: Clubs TUSEME : Bien s'exprimer en public

