Collaboration between Hospitals and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) on Implementing Programs to Increase Sexual Health Education and HIV/AIDS Prevention in China

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Sexually transmitted diseases and HIV are pressing concerns for young people in contemporary China, as in many low-and-middle-income countries. Researchers and social advocacy groups recognize the urgency for increased access to sexual health education and services to reduce STD incidence and increase HIV testing. This paper presents one community based organization (CBO) implemented health campaigns through collaborations with hospitals, provincial and city level CDCs, Chinese CBOs, universities, student organizations, international public health experts, and social media venues.

I do so by highlighting how medical anthropology/sociology facilitates the creation of community cohesion as we develop and apply interventions to improve sexual health in China. Key contributions made include analysis on the rise of civil society, the link between neoliberalism and the widening availability of medical care and sexual health information, and the increasing role of the individuality in health-seeking behavior in social relationships. While many interventions are individual-based, a CBO works with external stake-holders to build community-level awareness to support social shifts in visions and resources. Key examples of achieved milestones for improving sexual health and HIV/AIDS awareness include peer-agency meetings, joint-reporting across multiple external stake holders at community friendly venues, and participatory planning meetings to design and implement open participatory contests to solicit for images, sexual health awareness-promotion videos, and our health forum for medical students and local community health activists and scholars. The collective target is to gather organizations, experts, and students to discuss their sexual health concerns and develop opportunities for even greater social change.

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