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HEALTH EDUCATION: A CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

During the past decade, 40.000 Ethiopian Jews have emigrated to Israel, fulfilling a dream of generations to "return to Jerusalem". Among these immigrants, approximately 25% were adolescents.

The transition from traditional peasant society in Ethiopia to Western urban life style in Israel has shown its impact on all life spheres of Ethiopian immigrants, including issues related to health and illness.

In rural Ethiopia most health problems were solved by traditional healing and health beliefs, attitudes and behavior were based on it.

Ethiopian immigrants in Israel use Israeli health services, but often treatments are not understood, do not help or conflict with the immigrants own health attitudes.

Over the past six years, a special program of primary health education has been developed by the Medical Services of Youth Aliyah, under the direction of Dr. E. CHIGIER, with the utilization of an multidisciplinary team. This program is based on anthropological research.

More than 5.000 Ethiopian adolescents studying in 33 youth villages in Israel have had the opportunity to benefit from series of educational units, dealing with physical, sexual and mental health.

The material used in these units includes pictures, folk-stories, videotapes and small group exercises.

Our unique cross-cultural Health Education Program combines the promotion of important health issues and at the same time respecting the cultural values, customs and beliefs of adolescents who immigrated from rural Ethiopia.

Während den letzten 10 Jahren wanderten 40.000 äthiopische Juden in Israel ein, darunter 25% Jugendliche. Der schwierige Übergang von einer bäuerlichen zu einer urbanen Lebensweise drückt sich besonders in den Einstellungen zu Gesundheit und Hygiene aus. Unter der Leitung von Dr. E. CHIGIER entwickelte die Youth Aliyah auf der Grundlage anthropologischer Erkenntnisse ein spezielles Programm zur primären Gesundheitserziehung. Dieses einzigartige Programm versucht wichtige Erziehungsziele unter Berücksichtigung der kulturellen Eigenartigkeit der Zielpopulation zu erreichen.

Pendant les années 80, 40.000 juifs éthiopiens ont immigré en Israël dont 25% de jeunes. La transition difficile entre des modes de vie ruraux et urbains se fait sentir surtout dans le domaine de la santé et de l'hygiène. Sous la direction du Dr. E. CHIGIER, la Youth Aliyah a développé un programme spécial d'éducation sanitaire basé sur des recherches anthropologiques. Ce programme unique essaye d'atteindre des objectifs pédagogiques tout en respectant l'identité culturelle de la population visée.