



Editor's Forum for Familiarization of MenEngage Tanzania works

Friday 22nd January, 2016

Introduction

On 22nd January, 2016 MenEngage Tanzania and CDF as the secretariat of the network organized a one day forum with ten Editors, six journalists and ten MenEngage member organizations at TAMWA Conference room. The Editors and journalists came from different media houses namely; Habari Leo, TBC 1, Mlimani Media, ITV/Radio One, The African, Mtanzania, Clouds FM, MEDECO and Star TV. The objective of the meeting was to familiarize Editors and journalists on MenEngage Tanzania works since it started in November, 2014.

The forum was opened by MenEngage Tanzania Coordinator, Dorothea Ernest who welcomed all participants for their presence and invited them for introduction. After the introduction, she gave out a short brief about MenEngage Tanzania that is a network of 11 member organizations that works together to engage boys and men in order to promote children's and women rights. . MenEngage Tanzania in collaboration with Sonke Gender Justice is implementing a four years project and Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) host the network under the supported of Sonke Gender Justice from South Africa. Then she welcomed MenEngage Tanzania Chairperson, Mr. Sabas Masawe who shared the objectives of the meeting.



Why Editors Forum?

Mr. Sabas Masawe who is the chairperson of MenEngage Tanzania network started by introducing MenEngage Tanzania, the objectives and key achievements of the network since it started in 2014. He mention that in order to achieve gender equality in any community we must involve boys and men. Media are the main advocates of changes in the world, they can play a key part in the foundation for access of information for the community and have the potential to change policy makers' perspectives, as well as the community members'. Furthermore, media can play a catalyst of development forces in society around the world. The Men Engage network would like editors to support the following:

1. Raise awareness and participation of men and boys in advocating for women and children's rights by providing accurate information and targeted messages to society
2. Disseminate information about ending gender violence to social media in order to reach as many people in a short amount of time
3. To be among the stakeholders that fight for gender equality, by mobilizing men and boys to participate on equality issues
4. To write more on gender violence without repercussions on the women and children
5. To cooperate with government agencies on issues related to gender based violence in order to come up with precise information and prevention strategy

He concluded by saying that as long as you are editors, we would like you to disclose more gender equality information and how men and boys are potentials in this changes of rising women and children rights so as to bring equality in Tanzania. Media houses are very important pillars and catalyst to bring changes every day in the world because they feed people with information and they have more influence in our community and may also change the approach of the Government and people in the community towards things they want.

After the presentation from the MET Chairperson, MET Coordinator welcomed the participants for discussion. The focus of the discussion was how the media houses report on issues around gender equality and GBV, challenges they face in reporting and suggestions on how to report the gender equality and GBV.



Participants discussing during Editors Forum

Challenges raised by the editors and journalists:

- Lack of cooperation from the victims of GBV as a result there are no evidence when reporting the incidents.
- Reporting system is always weak as many journalists cover the on spot stories/ incidents when they occur but the progress of the covered stories/ incidents are not reported.
- Low knowledge on how to report gender equality and GBV issues.

Suggestions from the editors and journalists:

- More awareness and knowledge on how to report on gender equality and GBV issues among the editors and journalists is needed.
- MET to work closely with the journalists so as to report on MET activities hence known to the community.
- Prepare at least one press release per month on MET works.
- To publish a MET magazine that will contain all the MET activities.
- MET to provide Capacity building to journalists on how to report its work.

- Also the Journalists should report on successful stories concerning the GBV and gender equality issues.

The closing remarks were given by the MET Vice chairperson, Pendo who thanked all the participants for their participation and cooperation.

Output

- 10 Editors from different media houses attended the meeting
- 10 MenEngage members
- 6 journalists from different media houses attended

Lesson Learnt

- Involving media in addressing the gender equality and GBV issues is very important as they cover and report various cases that happen in the community.
- There are many opportunities from the journalists and the media houses are ready to support MET works.

Way Forward

- Develop a permanent database of journalists who will be equipped with knowledge on MET works.