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A novel and sustainable approach to educate the public on cancer awareness in Dominica: A unique Ross initiative

Kamalendu Malaker 1,2

Gerald Grell 1

Rosana Emmanuel 1

1. Ross University School of Medicine Dominica

2. Princess Margaret Hospital Dominica

Introduction : Educate public on cancer awareness is vital in prevention and early detection. Efforts by governmental agencies, NGOs, Interest groups to educate public is widely practiced. The impact and sustainability of periodical lectures, seminars, health fares , remains to be seen. RUSM developed a new strategy for enhancing sustainability of Cancer education amongst Dominicans.

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Materials and Methods: RUSM students, educated the School leavers of 9 HSS (Step1) Impact analysed by pre & post Questionnaire. A group of 4-5 students were invited to RUSM and trained to speak on Cancer awareness (Step2). They return to their own community to speak on cancer awareness (Step 3). Impact analysed by Pre & post Questionnaire .



Cancer awareness: Ross initiative (11a)
Table 1- Impact on 5th graders : 825 5th grade students

Parameters	Pre-Intervention	Post-Intervention	Pre-Intervention	Post-Intervention	Pre-Intervention	Post-Intervention
Know your friend of cancer	100%/100%	100%/100%	100%/100%	100%/100%	100%/100%	100%/100%
Family/Related with cancer	82%/92%	98%/98%	98%/98%	100%/100%	78%/78%	89%/88%
Know person /very worried	100%/ 85 %	100%/ 78%	100%/ 80%	100%/72%	100%/72%	100%/70%
What cancer cause (50%)	40% / 100%	100%/100%	50%/100%	100%/100%	55% / 100%	100%/100%
All cancer patient die	100% / 50%	100%/50%	100%/50%	100%/50%	100%/75%	100%/55%
Curable	0.00%/ 54%	0.00%/ 52%	0.00%/ 58%	0.00%/ 65%	0.00%/ 72%	0.00%/ 75%
Preventable	80% / 68 %	80%/ 72%	80%/ 70%	80% / 68%	10%/ 75%	0.00%/ 77%
Community should help	80% / 80%	80% / 100%	45% / 78%	80% / 100%	70% / 84%	80% / 100%
Speak through internet / Web or desktop?	10% / 80%	12% / 82%	12% / 78%	14% / 85%	0.00% / 60%	12% / 88%
Willingness community work	85% / 80%	40% / 95%	80% / 78%	45% / 92%	80% / 88	50% / 95%

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Results :

Conclusions: School leavers from the community as cancer awareness propagator, impacted positively and sustainably on their community.



**Cancer awareness : Ross initiative (12a)-
Impact on community members. (11 parameters) 156 members in
5 communities**

Parameters	Pre Seminar	Post Seminar
Any friend/ relative with cancer	80% yes	
Cancer always kills	84% yes	55% yes
Cancer can be treated	76% yes / 5% no / 19% don't know	90% yes / 5% no / 5% don't know
Treatment in Dominica	65% yes / 20% No/ 15% don't know	90% yes / 0% no / 10% don't know
Cancer can be cured	2% yes / 88% no / 9% don't know	80% yes / 12% no / 6% don't know
Cancer can be inherited	4% yes / 55% no/ 32% don't know	21% yes / 60% no / 19% don't know
Can one catch cancer	17% yes / 33% no/ 50% don't know	7% yes / 82% no / 11% don't know
Overweight risk	40% yes / 35% no/ 25% don't know	50% yes / 29% no / 21% don't know
Do you know common sign of Cancer	10% yes/ 85% don't know	70% yes / 25% don't know / 5% no response
Should young family member discuss about cancer	12% yes/ 66% no/ 18% don't know	82% yes / 18% no response
Good idea / Bad idea (discussion by school students)	27% good / 50% bad / 23% no response	88% good / 0% bad/ 12 no response
Continue discussions about cancer prevention and early detection with community children.		90% yes/ 10% no response

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