* **Gandhi Memorial National College**
* **NAAC Accredited A++**

 

**Basic concepts of RRC:**

1. The Red Ribbon is the international symbol of HIV/AIDS awareness.
2. By wearing a Red Ribbon- Care & Concern for those living with HIV/AIDS
3. Support to the organisation that care for the HIV/AIDS

**The significance of Red Ribbon in HIV& AIDS**

Red color show as a symbol of love, passion and tolerance for those affected

Red like blood, representing the pain caused by many people who have died of AIDS

Red like the anger about the helplessness about which are facing for a disease for which there is still no cure.

Red a sign of warning (we should not ignore one of the biggest problems of our life)

**What is RRC**

Red Ribbon Club is being implemented in the higher educational institutions to heightening the risk perception of youth and preventing HIV as well as promoting voluntary blood donation among youth. HIV & AIDS positive youth should come in main stream and ensuring safe blood are major activities of RRC. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India has proposed to establish a network with educational institutions to generate awareness regarding HIV &AIDS.

The red ribbon club is a voluntary on campus intervention programme for students in educational institutions. It is started and supported AIDS Control Society of state and implemented by taking help of the services of cadre officers of the NSS.

The programme will address the knowledge, attitude and behaviour of the youths in the interrelated areas of Voluntary Blood Donation, HIV & AIDS as demanded by their age, environment and life style. The Red Ribbon Club will serve as a complementary and comprehensive prevention to support and reinforce similar youth led initiatives.

So, Red Ribbon Club is a promotional and preventive intervention to enlarge voluntary blood donation as well as HIV & AIDS prevention, care & support and treatment impact, mitigation, stigma reduction, among the youth in colleges. It will also train and promote youth peer educators within and outside the campuses.

**Need of RRC**

In India people in the age group of 15-29 years account for 31% of AIDS burden. The youth are especially vulnerable to risk of HIV infection because of limited access to correct information and lack of appropriate life skills. Equally alarming is the fact that paid donors, which are associated with a significantly higher prevalence of transfusion-transmissible infections including HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, still provide more than 45% of the blood collected in India. The blood donated by voluntary and non remunerated blood donors is safe. In view of this, NACO have taken the initiative in promoting voluntary non remunerated blood donation by establishing RRC and reaching youth to pledge to give regular blood donations till the age of 60 and to lead healthy lifestyles to protect both themselves and those who take their blood

**Role of the Red Ribbon Club**

The RRC in the educational institutions will seek to initiate efforts to:

1. Give correct, concise and adequate information to youth and heighten their level of awareness about HIV/AIDS.
2. Enable youth especially the female students to identify and understand situations of exploitations and abuse.
3. Increase the access of youth to health care services related to HIV/AIDS/Drug use.
4. Create linkages between youth and governmental, non governmental agencies and community based organisations to access safer and responsible healthy behaviour.
5. Organise and facilitate voluntary blood donation camps and mobilize the youth for voluntary blood donation.
6. Train the peer educators for seeking and encouraging positive health behaviour as well as ensuring existence of the club.

**Aim of RRC**

The RRC aims at harnessing the potential of the youth by equipping them with correct information on HIV/AIDS prevention, care, support and treatment. It also aims in building their capacities as peer educators in spreading messages on positive health behaviour in an enabling environment and increasing voluntary blood donation among youth.

**Objectives of RRC**

1. To reduce new HIV infection among youth by raising their risk perception through awareness on HIV/AIDS.
2. To create the spirit in youth to help and support people living with HIV/AIDS.
3. To motivate youth and build their capacity as peer educators and change agents by developing their skills on leadership, negotiation and team building.
4. To promote youth for voluntary and non remunerated blood donation.

**Key Areas of RRC**

1. Vibrancy of Youth: Tap the vibrancy of Youth and channelizing the energy of youth in a positive direction.
2. Provide access to correct information on sexuality, HIV/AIDS and other youth related issues in an enabling environment to promote healthy life styles.
3. Develop a cadre of Peer Educators among youth.
4. Promote voluntary and non-remunerated blood donation.

**Forming a Red Ribbon Club in an Education Institute:**

One operational area may comprise of 5-6 districts approximately and will be supervised by a Regional Coordinator of 5-6 districts approximately. One such operational area will be supervised and supported by a Regional Coordinator. The Regional Coordinator will work in close co-ordination with Programme Officer of Colleges to facilitate the formation and functioning of RRC. The operational framework at institutional level would be as follows:

1. Firstly the AIDS Control Society (state level) will formally inform the DMs of the districts and heads of the institutions about the nature and concept of RRC and the process of its implementation and that the RC will be contracting them for the DMs and head of the educational institutions for facilitating the formation of RRC.
2. Regional Coordinator along with Programme Officer will contact the administrative head of the institution to see permission for the formation of RRC in the college. Once the head of the institution approves the RRC formation and give permission then next step is orientation programme.
3. An orientation workshop at the institution will be organized whereby the head of the institution and relevant officials and student groups will be oriented on the RRC scheme.
4. The field officer along with PO of the institution (an NSS Officer and must be from teaching faculty) and student leaders will contact and mobilize as many students as possible from all departments. Volunteers may also be selected at this stage.
5. Brochures will be distributed before and during the inauguration of RRC.
6. Screening of HIV&AIDS, blood donation related films etc. should be undertaken during the orientation.
7. When the youth participating in the programme appear absorbed and motivated then we can distribute the membership forms for voluntary enrolment in RRC (membership form should be filled in by all the RRC volunteers).
8. The signed forms should be collected and the names of the youth should be entered in the membership register. Regional Coordinator with support of programme officer will be responsible for regular updating of the register.
9. The strength of the club can vary from 10 to 500 voluntary members.
10. A onetime grant of Rs. 2500/- will be provided to each college to form RRC.
11. The activities of the RRC must be innovative and interactive that should enlarge participation of youth.

**Advisory Committee of RRC at college level**

The committee shall include:

1. Chief Patron: Management
2. Patron: Principal
3. Convener: NSS Programme officer
4. Co- Conveners: 2 students (The student representatives should be elected and not nominated by the RRC students. In colleges having co-ed population one male and one female must be part of the committee.
5. Members: 2 students as RRC Executive members

RRC advisory committee should conduct a meeting at least twice a year to plan and schedule the activities and to review the activities. The committee shall have total of ten members representing active members of teaching faculty and students. The committee can also accommodate any expert as per the requirement and as deems fit for the activities of RRC. RRC tenure will follow the educational session of the College. Ensure that the RRC’s activities at institutional level do not clash with or affect the educational programme of the institution. Advisory committee expected to take decisions on management issues related to club and also to explore channels for resources mobilisation for the smooth functioning of the club.

**Role of College Authorities**

When the institution persuaded to support RRC activities financially and introduce RRC and it’s events in to the permanent entities, the major roles of the college will include:

1. Active participation in the advisory committee at the respective level.
2. Facilitating infrastructure and other necessary support for the implementation of events of RRC.
3. Designate the faculty teacher cum NSS Coordinator as programme officer for RRC.
4. Advocacy at the highest level to support the programme on self sustainable basis. Encouraging the contribution of RRC members by highlighting it in college newsletter.

**The appointment, duties and functions of Programme officer:**

The principal of the institute will select the progamme officer. The programme officer at college level as NSS programme coordinator should also be given the responsibility of the RRC in the capacity of programme officer. In this institute where NSS is not available the head of such institution and advisory committee will be requested to designate one of teachers as programme officer of RRC. The teacher who has high level of motivation for community work should prefer as programme officer. RRC programme officer should create the environment of RRC in the institution and encourage all interested students to participate in various programmes such as world blood donor day, international youth day, national voluntary blood donation day etc. Programme officer is responsible for planning and implementing the RRC activities under the supervision and direction of the Principal of the college. The programme officer will be sent for programme officers meeting organised by University and Directorate. The programme officer will ensure that RRC volunteers complete the standard hours of training. He/ She will submit reports to the university programme coordinator periodically. He/she will ensure the submission of accounts in time. The accounts may be audited from a chartered accountant or departmental auditor along with the utilisation certificate.

**RRC Members**

Youth from colleges between the age group of 15-29 years and registered in RRC. The role of RRC member are as follows:

1. Gain in depth knowledge about HIV/AIDS. Voluntary blood donation and related issues.
2. Mobilizing resources for the Club’s activities
3. Actively participating in competitions and community outreach programme inside and outside the campus.
4. Orienting the new comers about the objectives and activities of the club and contribute to the sustainability of the club.
5. With development life skills and leadership qualities, performing the role of peer educators to heighten the HIV/AIDS risk perception and in still negotiation skills among the youth.
6. Promoting Voluntary blood donation among the students and participate actively in blood donations.

**RRC Activity Guidelines:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SN. | Programme  Activity | Duration | Participants | Activity Description |
| 1. | RRC Member Orientation training | Min. 3 hrs | All RRC volunteers | by resource person |
| 2. | Interactive session | Minimum 2 hours | All RRC Volunteers | Mandatory resource person to be invited: HIV +ve speaker  Other resource persons: Gynaecologist, Dietician, Transgender |
| 3. | Peer Education training | Min 2 hours | 1/4th of RRC volunteers | training trained programme officer |
| 4. | Blood Donation Camp | Conducting voluntary blood donation camp twice in a year in coordination with govt. Blood bank | | |
| 5. | Competition | During Celebrating important days:  World blood donors day- 14th June  International youth day-12th August  National voluntary blood donation day- 1st October  World AIDS day- 1st December  National Youth Day- 12th January | | |
| 6. | Human Chain/rally |
| 7. | Exposure visit | Visit to blood banks, HIV community centres | | |
| 8. | Advisory committee meeting | Advisory committee meeting at twice in a year | | |
| 9. | Programme officers training | University and Directorate are requested to organize one day training to POs and PLs | | |
| 10. | Peer leaders training |

**Records and registers:**

1. Cash book & Pass Book- Separate RRC cashbook & Passbook for each unit should be maintained.
2. Enrolment register: Enrolment register should maintain to have information of the students enrolled in RRC.
3. Activity register: This register will be maintained with the help of students by the PO. A list of project undertaken during the year with complete information of each activity such as dated, places, areas, institutions, target group, no. of students involved (their name roll no. and signature).
4. Attendance Register: Attendance of student volunteers at the various sessions /exposure visit of RRC must be recorded with their signature.
5. Minute’s book- PO should record the minutes of the meeting of the Advisory committee and other meetings held periodically.
6. Press clipping guard file.
7. Photo/ CD album

RRC should maintain separate file for accounts in which maintenance of bills, vouchers and statement of expenditures are mandatory. Each RRC should activities report in the prescribed format. After completion of all the RRC activities- utilisation certificate has to be sent to the RRC coordinator, University & Directorate.

**Draft materials to be available in the institution:**

1. Name board
2. Notice board
3. Question box.