



# Youth Ignite!

Lessons learned from a youth-led,  
community-based participatory research project

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## Learning objectives:

Recognize the value of incorporating youth into the research process.

Identify key actions that can be taken to accomplish it successfully in your organization or setting.

# Community Based Participatory Research

- CBPR consists of three key concepts:
  - **Participation** = active inclusion of members of communities; active involvement of researcher with community activities
  - **Action** = intend to enact real social and/or material change
  - **Community** = deliberately include community interests, processes, and members throughout the project
- Impact: More than 85% of CBPR studies had statistically positive outcomes using
  - A study advisory committee made up of community members
  - Help/input with data collection
  - Help/input designing the intervention
  - Help/input about participant recruitment

(Huffman, 2017)

(McFarlane, Occa, Peng, Awonuga & Morgan, 2024)

# Youth Ignite Program

- **Community** = High School Learners at St. Peter Christian College in Mhluzi, South Africa (about an hour drive from Johannesburg)
- **Action** = reduce sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancies
- **Participation** = include learners (high school students) to provide input on a new program (intervention) and how to measure the impact (outcomes)...and the title of the project

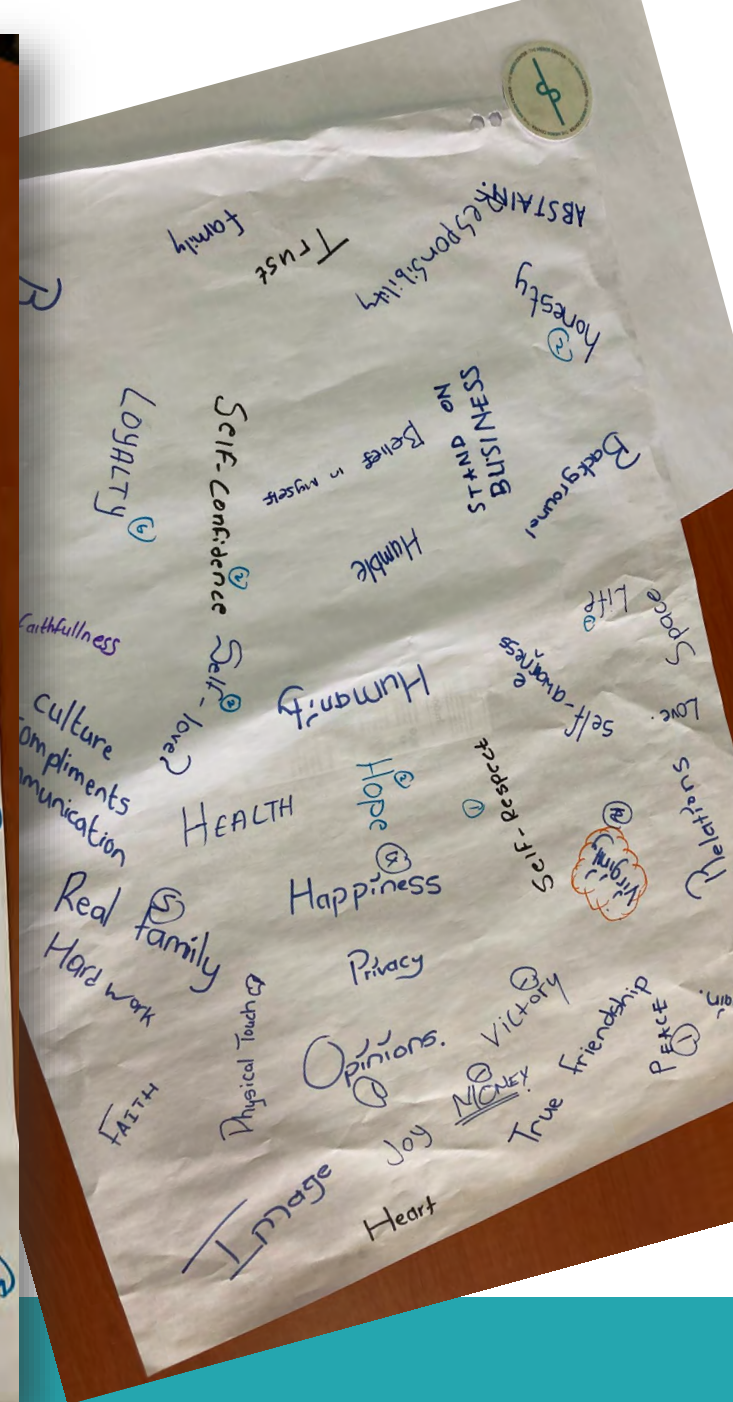
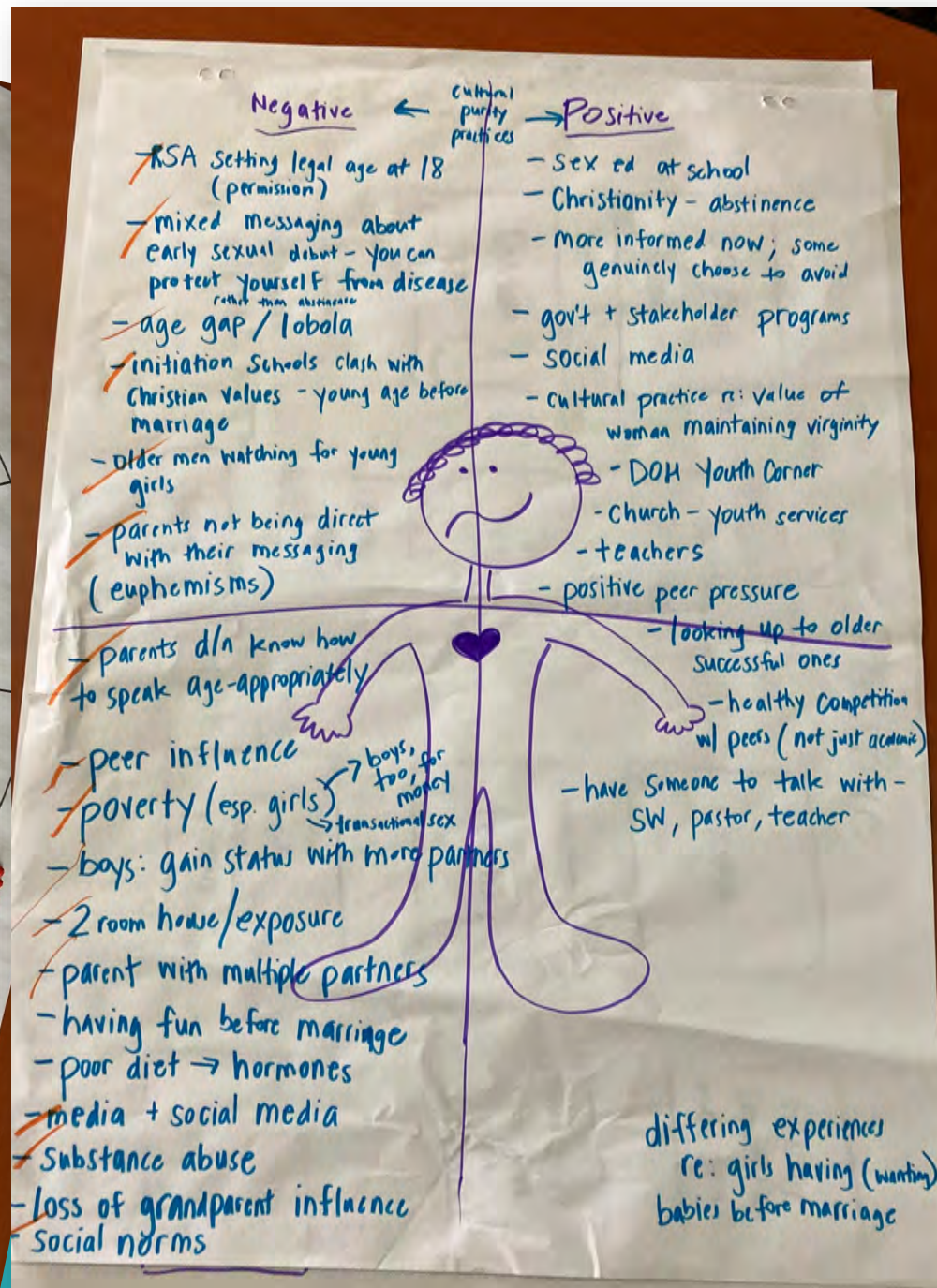
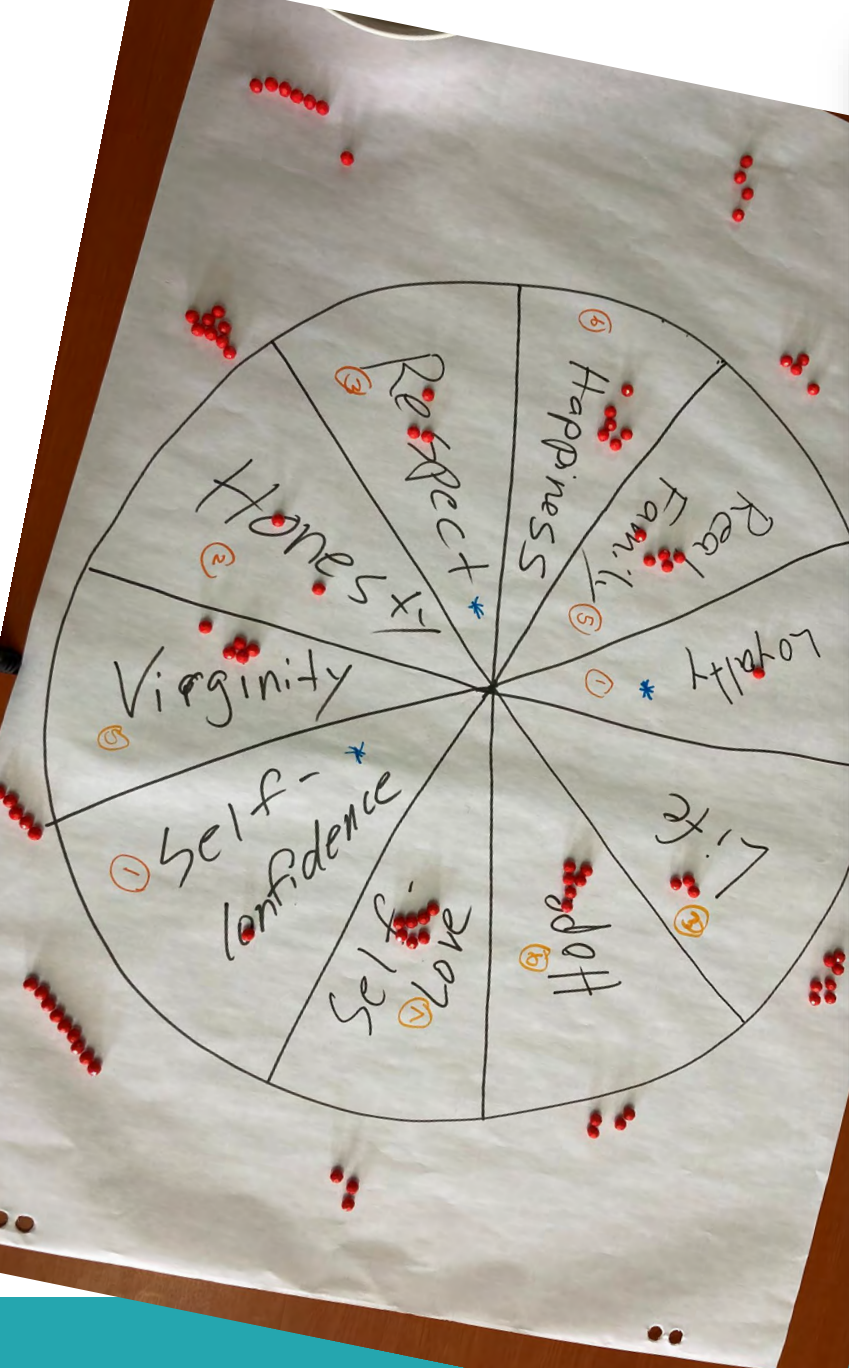


*"God is the source of spiritual passion. In the world we live in, natural passion is often a key to success and impact. Knowing information is valuable, but possessing the fire is invaluable."*












# Essential character traits:

1. Loyalty
  2. Real Family
  3. Happiness
  4. Respect
  5. Self-Love
  6. Self-Confidence
  7. Hope
  8. Honesty
  9. Life
  10. Virginity
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# Results

- A Faith-Based YOLO Supplement
  - Participatory activities
    - **Poetry & Debate**
- Outcomes to measure:
  - Sexual behaviours
  - Spiritual beliefs
    - **Activities**
    - **Relationships**
    - **Social norms** (at school)
    - **Hope** (future, success)





# Lessons Learned

- Youth have unique insights that need to be considered
- Participatory actions can and should be fun for everyone
- Be deliberate about how to include youth participants
- Find ways to clearly integrate input with best practices/evidence
- Be prepared to be surprised!



# Key References

- Huffman, T. (2017). Participatory/action research/CBPR. *The international encyclopedia of communication research methods*, 1-10.
- McFarlane, S. J., Occa, A., Peng, W., Awonuga, O., & Morgan, S. E. (2024). Community-based participatory research (CBPR) to enhance participation of racial/ethnic minorities in clinical trials: A 10-year systematic review. *Emergent Health Communication Scholarship from and about African American, Latino/a/x, and American Indian/Alaskan Native Peoples*, 19-36.