

Spiritual State of the World's Children

Haiti





Spiritual State of the World's Children A Qualitative Study

Haiti

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Prepared by:



Dr. Allen Reesor

Executive Director, Metadigm Group

Kimberly Morrison

Research Manager, Metadigm Group

Astrid Cortes

Latin America Research Coordinator - OneHope

Pastor Clement Joseph

Dialog Haitian-Domin – MISSEH

Leonne Valantin

Dialog Haitian-Domin – MISSEH

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600 S.W. Third Street, Pompano Beach, FL 33060
www.onehope.net



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Section I: Executive Summary

Focus Groups

From 20th to 22nd July, twenty-two focus groups were convened in Haiti. This included groups from the urban areas of Port au Prince, semi-urban and rural areas of Les Cayes (southern Haiti) and Port au Paix (northern Haiti). This involved one group of NGO participants, six groups of pastors or youth workers, six groups of teachers and nine student groups.

Key Issues

Strengths & Opportunities

- Government and NGO's can reform the economic system
- Media and Television influences
- Influence of international youth culture
- Youth values marriage and family
- Family is perceived as a means of security
- Youth aspirations to help their community by professional training
- Opportunity to provide health and moral education
- Opportunity for education reform (including curriculum development)
- Education perceived as important
- Youth interest in sports and games
- Churches with strong youth programs have committed young people
- Peer influence and values
- Youth interest in community action
- Youth recognize their need of God's help
- Expect that churches should have answers to their needs
- National pride
- Concern for environment
- Rural youth still hold a more positive outlook on life than urban youth

Weaknesses & Threats

- Poor economic reality and challenges
- Poor role models
- Large families
- Lack of formation and training in home and school
- Low social status of youth
- Low self-esteem and depression
- Media and Television influences
- Influence of international youth culture
- Intergenerational patterns of child rearing
- Marriage problems of the parents
- Youth are sexually active and teen pregnancy
- Sex trade involves youth (includes teacher/student affairs)
- Lack of health and moral education
- Need for education reform (including curriculum development)
- Lack of resources of families to send children to school
- Inconsistent level of teacher competence
- Low commitment and interest in church
- Hypocrisy perceived as a common characteristic of churches

- Lack of church involvement and awareness in the lives of youth
- Youth are not able to apply scripture knowledge to daily decisions
- Peer influence and values
- Perceived churches as judgmental
- Perceived sermons are targeting adults and not structured or relevant
- Youth feel churches do not have a place for them
- Lack of collaboration among programs and leaders
- There is a trend for urban youth toward a less positive outlook on life than held by rural youth

Recommendations

Recommendations will be developed during a forthcoming review of this report in Haiti by leaders of Haitian ministries to youth. Pastor Clement Joseph will convene this review in conjunction with OneHope sponsorship. For further information or to be involved contact the office of MISSEH at 509-3622-7961.

Responses to Research Questions/Areas

1. What is the context in which youth develop and what is their social status?

Although most youth grow up in their context of their parental families (students in provincial areas are often required to go away for school) they face many difficulties in this context. Underlying most of their concern is the economic reality of the family and nation. Economic challenges result in lack of proper nutrition, clothing and shelter, and a future without good education and economic opportunities for jobs. This is exacerbated by family size, as many families are large and this further stretches limited family resources.

Other contextual challenges include poor role models, particularly in the areas of moral integrity and sexual abstinence and fidelity. Their social environment is often one of conflict and lack of formation. Both their parental formation and their education are inadequate to prepare them for their future. Children and youth are not given a high social status nor are they taken seriously (listened to); they have a low priority in the community which is reflected in their low self-esteem.

Additional negative influences include television and media which promote materialistic values that contrast the national reality with that of the international community. Their own observations are that their natural environment is marred by deforestation, pollution, insecurity and violence.

2. What kind of relationship do youth have with their parents and what kind of influence do parents have on them?

Although family is important to young people they also indicate that they wish that family relationships were better. Their family is felt to be the place where they should find security and preparation for their futures. However, families are often challenged by economic problems and parents' time is filled with providing for the material needs of the home. This means that parents' care of their children is often inconsistent and characterized by lack of affection from their mothers and particularly their fathers. Sometimes parents are harsh and controlling with their children.

Parents need to take the responsibility of training their children, however many are not really aware of the needs and activities of their own children and youth. This lack of information is compounded by the parents' inadequate preparation and often inappropriate intergenerational patterns of child rearing are reproduced. Some parents are illiterate and this further inhibits their involvement in supporting their children's education. Teachers and students reported that parents' marital problems affect children's capacity to perform well in school.

3. What is their idea of marriage and how do they behave sexually?

Although young people value family and marriage they are very sexually active prior to marriage with estimates being as high as 70%. This results in teen pregnancy, difficulties in school and other social problems. There are several underlying causes including: peer pressure, media influences promoting sexual infidelity, pornography and the increasing prevalence of the sex trade. They also have poor role models since many of their parents' marriages are not good and in some cases teachers develop sexual and romantic relationships with students in exchange for grades. Sexual activities may also be seen as a means of economic income.

4. Are they sick and if so, from what illness do they suffer? What is their idea about sexually transmitted diseases?

Although not much information was given about the health risks for children and youth it is possible to identify behaviors and situations that create potential additional health issues for them. Some youth indicate that they want to help their community by training as doctors and providing health care. Malnutrition is also a reality for many youth in Haiti and this adds to their health needs. The pollution and sanitary conditions mentioned by students are also additional impediments to health.

Sexual behaviors and the sex trade that seems to be growing are also putting youth at risk for sexually transmitted diseases possibly HIV and AIDS. There is a recurring theme throughout the data that indicates change will only occur when there is better and more appropriate education for children and youth; health education should be considered an essential component of youth formation.

5. What type of schools do they go to, private or public? What is their level of education? Do they want to continue attending school?

Education is seen as a very important and essential to individual and national success. Unfortunately, there are too few schools, curriculum does not cover all the necessary areas of formation and government policy needs to be strengthened or reformed for teachers. Students both attend public and private schools but standards of education vary widely and teachers recommend that international standards be established for schools in Haiti. There are not enough educational resources at either the basic or advanced levels of study.

It was recommended by several different groups that economic status and resources should not be a barrier to children receiving an education; basic education should be free. The curriculum also needs to be revised to include all the areas that students need to know to live their lives successfully. This includes moral formation, athletics and health education. It was also a concern that education in French might not be the best medium for younger students and that reform of curriculum should include consideration of using mother tongue Creole as a medium of elementary instruction. Teachers are inconsistently prepared and in some schools not well qualified. Teachers' pay is also a disincentive for recruiting the best teachers.

Obstacles to students' performance in school include their relationships with the teachers (some are inappropriate); most should be strengthened to help teachers become mentors and advisors to students. Distractions like sports, games (including cell-phone games in school), drugs and alcohol also interfere with studies. Sometimes the situation at home or the parent's inability to help with homework is detrimental to students' scholastic success.

Effective education will help address the self-esteem issues of youth and will prepare them for their future. Education can also play an important role in national revitalization and the improvement of the environment.

6. Are young people Christians and what is their opinion of church and the bible?

Although many youth attend church some only come because their parents make them or they have nothing else to do. This seems to indicate that more youth are involved in church than have a genuine commitment to Christianity. However, youth also want to have the kind of relationship with God that allows them to seek help when they have needs. Youth perceive the church as having too much hypocrisy and find that the church is sometimes more critical than supportive of youth in need.

The church and pastors are often poorly informed of the priorities and interests of youth. Youth would like the church to be more relevant and dynamic. They want the church to be more involved in their lives and the lives of church leaders and members to provide more consistent examples of the Christian life.

Youth who are knowledgeable of the bible do not apply it to their daily lives. This may be a result of conflict between their personal priorities, social values, sense of identity and the biblical values and priorities taught by the church. Many youth are not interested in bible studies, although some churches have had success encouraging youth to participate in bible exploration studies.

7. What is the priority of youth ministry and what kind of programs are appealing to youth?

Youth ministry is recognized as important, as the future of the church, but youth programs are not necessarily given a high priority in most churches. Youth are often not considered when planning church activities; although in churches where youth are given a place of responsibility and are active they are very involved.

Youth are very social and prefer events where they can be with their friends; "youth only" activities are preferred over those involving the whole congregation. The activities that are reported to be most appealing are sports, competitions, games, camps, concerts and field trips. These events are effective because they

provide positive social interaction and formation. Youth are also interested in community action projects, where they can apply the principles they have learned in church to making a difference in their community and environment.

They are willing to be involved in church programs, like bible study, worship time and drama that explain the bible stories. However, these must be well planned, appealing and have high energy.

Sometimes they feel that church leaders are too demanding and some pastors are not trusted because they do not keep confidentiality. If youth are unable to trust adults in church they turn to their friends and peers to get advice. Youth who participate in church activities feel closer to church leaders. They think leaders should help them to become more involved, since sometimes they feel useless.

Relationship with young people is necessary if they are to follow pastors and leaders. Youth prefer leaders with whom they can identify and expect to receive formation not judgment. Youth expect their leaders to be competent, well organized and respect their ideas and opinions. They want to see a direct connection between what leaders say and what the church does.

Youth want to hear sermons about life and how to behave. They are interested in subjects that speak about truth and how to please God; this includes topics like the life of Jesus and prayer. They pointed out that some sermons lack structure and have nothing to do with children or youth. They do not like sermons that tell them just to accept their situation but want to get clear and honest answers to their problems.

8. What interests youth, how do they spend their free time and how concerned are to whether they are pleasing God?

Youth interests are primarily aligned with an opportunity to socialize. Sports, music, concerts, competitions, games, camps, and field trips are appealing activities. These events can be effective as they may provide positive social interaction and formation at the same time. Youth are also interested in community action projects, which may provide opportunities for them to become involved in projects they organize and carry out themselves. International youth culture has become an increasing influence due to greater exposure to media and television.

Youth's free time is often spent with their peers or watching television (soap operas, sports). They are commonly reported to be sexually active and some are involved in drugs and alcohol. Some of these activities are engaged as a means to fulfill their economic needs or to deal with emotional depression.

There is a mixed response on their interest in church. Some are very interested and others do not attend or only go when forced by their parents. If the church leaders are sensitive to youth they can make a dynamic contribution. However, many pastors are not current with the concerns of youth and youth are not interested or involved in activities they perceive to be irrelevant. As a result some are uncertain of their place in the church and whether the church is genuinely interested in them or concerned about their futures.

Many youth expressed a desire to have a relationship with God since they know they need help, however they also voiced their dislike of hypocrisy and the poor examples they have seen in the church. As a consequence some do not feel the church can help, even though they know there is a need for prayer, to count on God and obey His word. Pastors indicate that even when young people are familiar with scripture they do not know how to apply it in their daily life. This may indicate a disconnection between the teaching of the church and life in the community.

9. What are their emotional, psychological, social and economic needs and where do they turn for help?

Youth are generally competing for too few resources in every area of their life. Because their families are large, they often do not have much emotional support from their parents. This is compounded by the feeling that church leaders do not have time for them either and their teachers are either busy or not well equipped to support them emotionally. They indicate that their self-esteem is low and this psychological problem is reinforced when they feel that they are failing in various areas in their lives. In most cases, their social support

comes from their peers who are also struggling with the same issues. Economically they face a shortage of current and future resources to achieve the economic success they would like to enjoy.

Although they realize that success and failure are normal parts of life and that they should keep going even when they fail, this is a challenge because they feel that they live in a culture that produces failure. They look to the church to provide answers but unless church leaders are sensitive to their issues and needs the church is seen as unsupportive. Some indicate that families are security and support for their lives but this is not true in every case. The educational system is perceived as weak and unable to adequately equip them for life. Many find sports to be a way to both socialize and develop physical and mental skills, however, teachers point out that sometimes sports interfere with their studies.

Many young people rely on their emotional and social support coming from their peers. In some cases, this leads to experimentation with sex, drugs and alcohol. Because their peers are a primary source of psychological support, they are exposed to a high degree of peer pressure. If their friends are Christians, it is possible to reach other youth through peer to peer outreach. However, in most cases this is not their reality and they are susceptible to immoral social influences.

To provide help for youth in these areas it will be important to develop programs and leadership that give them holistic support as they mature. Educational formation in all areas of life is important and can be introduced through curriculum reform as recommended by the NGO's, teachers and religious leaders groups. For leaders to be effective they must be equipped to listen to youth. It is also important that they be perceived as friends that can be trusted, are interested and well informed. This is equally true for teachers and youth workers whether in secular or religious fields.

Since economic issues underlie many of these problems, it will be necessary for governmental, religious, NGO's and international organizations to develop economic opportunities and systems for Haitian youth to impact the future of the country.

10. What makes up their value system?

Haitian youth are influenced by their country, its history and cultural values. However, they are increasingly influenced by international media and youth culture. These conflicting influences sometime create a dichotomous value system in which they hold contradictory ideals.

They measure success both by material wealth but also making a contribution to the community and well-being of others. They want to see Haiti succeed yet feel that this success is beyond their capacity to realize. They will like to be affirmed and respected by adults yet they spend most of their time with their peers and seek to please them. Although they recognize the necessity of education, they pursue behaviors and habits that prevent them from achieving academic success. They know that sexual immorality is wrong yet it is commonly practiced by youth. They know they need God's help and want to please God but do not like to attend church and are mostly involved in church activities when required to be there or if there is nothing else to do.

If youth are to develop a cohesive value system, they will need to have leaders and adults who are good role models and will invest in their lives. The groups involved in this research generally indicated that youth do not have effective role models to follow.

11. Who are their role models and what type of spiritual leaders are youth ready to follow?

Youth lack positive adult role models, in part because adults tend not to take youth seriously. Although pastors and NGO's recognized that young people are future resources, not much emphasis is placed on personal relationships with youth. As a result, youth tend to have popular musicians or international youth culture figures as role models. They also look to their peers for direction. These role models do not help them prepare for the future, so it is important that national leaders in government, education and church develop programs to train and promote role models with whom the youth can identify and who will support their moral formation.

Youth will only follow role models who are able to develop interpersonal relationships; that will listen, support and guide them as they develop. Their leaders must be competent, well organized and respect youth ideas and opinions. They want formation but not judgment; if they come and talk to a leader about problems they expect that the information will be confidential and that they will receive clear and honest answers.

Parents will also need to be trained to help in the formation and guidance of their own children. To be effective they will also need to be encouraged to invest time in their children. This can only be done if government and NGO's help address the economic conditions most families face.

12. What loyalty do they have for their country and what do they envision for it and its environment?

Haitian youth are very patriotic and want to see the nation take a rightful place in the international arena. They also expressed concern about internal divisions between various factions. Their interest in soccer and international competitions in which Haiti takes part is an indicator of their feelings for their country.

They have concern for Haiti's economic future and hope that the country will not always be dependant on international assistance and monitoring. They express an interest in developing their own skills to help Haiti to become sufficient and more independent. Teachers indicate that students want to become entrepreneurs so they will be able to provide jobs for others.

They expressed embarrassment about the pollution and deforestation that tend to characterize the cities and countryside. They also were excited by opportunities to participate in reforestation projects and hope to be trained as agronomists to help their country. They expressed the need for strong and patriotic national leaders who will put the well-being of the nation ahead of their personal interests.

13. What are their concerns for the future?

Their concerns include social, environmental and management aspects of the national and local communities. They recognized that the lack of community cohesion, divisions due to special interests, and the fragmentation of planning as communities compete for limited resources are impediments to the success of their nation. The youth are concerned about the pollution and deforestation. They are willing to become involved in solutions to these problems. However, without cohesive leadership in local and national communities it is unlikely that collaboration and mobilization of youth energies and ideals will occur. Leadership will also be crucial on a national scale to address the allocation of limited resources that are essential to infrastructure.

Without strong education programs and curriculum it will not be possible to maximize the potential of this generation. Leadership at every level has indicated that effective holistic education will be foundational to the development of youth. Without reform of the education system young people in Haiti will continue to be disadvantaged and struggle to survive rather than rise to succeed. This will require bold leadership from both church and state and support by the private sector. Without such leadership it is unlikely that youth will enjoy any improvement in their future.

14. Are there any significant differences between provincial and urban youth?

There are very few differences between urban and rural youth in Haiti. The differences noted below are beginning to disappear, as rural youth are becoming more generally exposed to the same influences as those in the cities.

In general, rural youth are more socially oriented and concerned about their community. They are also more positive towards the church and religious leaders. Their family structure seems to be more intact and stable than that of their urban counterparts, although some of the rural youth must leave home to continue their education.

Section II: Project Overview

Rationale for Project

In order to design the most effective programs to reach children and youth, it is important to capture pertinent information prior to commencing a program or designing a new product. Research, gathered through focus groups¹, will provide information on the possibility of improving OneHope's distribution ministry in Haiti. Unlike surveys, where respondents are often times limited in their answer choices, focus groups allow for any idea to be introduced through the discussion of real life, relevant topics. When seeking to understand the nature and needs of a population, this type of research is best employed by including those deemed most informed.

In this project focus groups were conducted among informed demographic groups; religious clerics, youth workers, teachers, and students in rural and urban areas of Haiti to describe youth of the region.

- 1) The biggest challenges young people face
- 2) To identify barriers to and opportunities for programs and organizations
- 3) The current environmental realities of young people in Haiti.

The information gathered can help organizations, OneHope and other project partners, effectively plan outreach strategies and life improvement programs for children and young people that will be relevant and appealing based on their heartfelt needs.

Convened Groups

Focus groups are convened to provide information on the social, economic, and program dynamics of the targeted region. Following a multiple-category design, the following focus groups demographic populations were convened in Port au Prince, Les Cayes, and Port au Paix:

- NGO agencies
- Clergy
- Youth Workers
- School Administrators & Teachers
- Students

Regions for Focus Groups

Along with multiple demographic categories of participants, the Metadigm Group utilized a double-layer approach in conducting this project by including diverse geographic zones within the region. The geographic areas identified for inclusion in this study are as follows:

- Port au Prince
- Les Cayes
- Port au Paix

Leadership and Facilitators

OneHope contracted The Metadigm Group to conduct this research project. Dr. Allen Reesor (Executive Director, The Metadigm Group), and Kimberly Morrison (Research Manager, The Metadigm Group) facilitated the project in conjugation with Pastor Clement Joseph (MISSEH & National Coordinator, OneHope Haiti), Leonne Valantin (MISSEH) and Astrid Cortes (Regional Research Coordinator OneHope).

Allen Reesor, Kimberly Morrison and Astrid Cortes conducted the focus group training July 17th through July 19th, 2009 at "Villa Ormiso" Christian Conference Centre at Port au Prince, Haiti. Fourteen people were trained as focus group facilitators (hereafter referred to as facilitators).

¹ 5-8 people who have something in common and are called together to speak on how they feel or think about an issue or idea

Focus Group Composition

Focus groups were comprised of persons of similar demographic and social status. Normally, groups included no more than eight persons and efforts were taken to minimize social and economic disparities among participants. As some participant groups were deemed to be especially information rich, multiple groups were conducted for some demographic profiles (i.e. students).

In this report, findings from multiple groups of a single demographic profile are consolidated to provide a consensus account for that group. However, in cases where there are differences between the reported realities of urban and rural areas this is noted. Additionally, the names, identities, and opinions of all participants are protected so no identifying information of the participants is included in this report.

Format

Each focus group session was approximately 50-75 minutes in length. After a brief welcome and overview of the topic areas², focus group participants were encouraged to share their personal experiences and knowledge of the subject matter. Each focus group had approximately 3-6 topic areas that were included for discussion. Facilitators were asked to facilitate discussions within the group to identify commonalities and areas of difference between participants.

Upon completion of a session, each focus group leader and transcriber completed a focus group report. These reports, in turn, were reviewed by the Metadigm research team for common, reoccurring, and distinctive themes within and across groups.

The findings from all focus groups and interviews are included in this report.

Schedule for Data Collection

In February 2009 meetings were convened in various regions to present the proposed research project and invite organizations to participate. The topics for focus group discussion were set by the facilitators during the training and the research questions reviewed and modified.

Focus groups were organized under the supervision of Pastor Clement Joseph with assistance from Leonne Valantin. The organizations involved were Eglise de Dieu (Church of God), Institut Biblique de la Grâce (Bible institute of grâce), Université Publique du Sud aux Cayes (South Public University in Cayes), Armée du Salut (Salvation Army), Mission Baptiste Conservatrice d’Haïti, Centre D’Appui au Développement et à la Recherche en Education (CADRE), Ecole Ev. Baptiste Bethath de Champagne, Port de Paix, Eglise de Dieu de la Prophétie, Union Evangélique Baptiste d’Haïti (UEBH), Séminaire de Théologie Evangélique de Port-au-Prince (STEP), Eglise Baptiste du Tabernacle, Eglise Méthodiste Libre & UEBH.

The following people served as focus group facilitators and transcribers: Obed Ulysse Vincent, Marcel Dauphin, Anne-Micheline Danel Lexima, Junior Pierre Fils, Amanda Mérisier, Jodanis Augustin, Kerlande Rémy Faustin, Olby Martial, Hazer Pierre, Ronald Toussaint, Réginald Olivier, Marguelita Pétion, Duthène Louis and Kémar Célestin.

The draft report was completed on July 26th, 2009. The draft version was reviewed by key personnel knowledgeable of and/or working with children and youth in Haiti. Some of youth’s responses were unexpected by some of the report readers. The reviewers included Pastor Clement Joseph and Leonne Valentin (MISSEH/One Hope), Rélex Alexandre, (Engineer In Agriculture, MSc, Teacher-Researcher at the Agricultural and Veterinary Medicine College FAMV/UEH and Rural Economy Consultant) and Berthony Elucien (Sociologist Specialized in African Studies, Pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church of Delmas 24, Professor of Spiritual Training at the Evangelic Theology Seminary of Port-au-Prince (STEP) and Professor at New Theology). Any comments and corrections from these experts are incorporated into the final report.

² See pages 4-5 for topic areas per demographic groups

Data Analysis and Reporting

A transcriber took notes to record the information shared in each focus group. Information from the groups was consolidated into a focus group report which was forwarded to the Metadigm Group for analysis. Information from these reports were compiled and evaluated for the draft report by Allen Reesor, Kimberly Morrison, Astrid Cortes and Ministry leadership in the region: Leonne Valantin (MISSEH), Andrikson Descollines (IBELL/U.F.R. Secondary School) and Reginald Celestin (Light for Living International Ministries in Haiti). Rélex Alexandre, (Engineer In Agriculture, MSc, Teacher-Researcher at the Agricultural and Veterinary Medicine College FAMV/UEH and Rural Economy Consultant) and Berthony Elucien (Sociologist Specialized in African Studies, Pastor of the Apostolic Faith Church of Delmas 24, Professor of Spiritual Training at the Evangelic Theology Seminary of Port-au-Prince (STEP) and Professor at New Theology) reviewed this document prior to publication.

This report addresses the questions and topic areas identified by OneHope and project partners as essential for decision-making, distribution planning, and outcome design for youth programs in the region. Common and/or recurring themes from focus groups are identified and compared across demographic profiles. Additionally, when possible, information from secondary sources is included to provide greater clarity for future planning.

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Focus Group Themes

NGO's

1. What were your expectations for the last soccer game between Haiti and Mexico?
2. How can sports activities contribute to the young people?
3. What kind of things can we do to promote the development of the young people?
4. In what areas do the NGO's and the Government need to invest more?
5. What kind of role model do you think the young people are ready to follow?
6. What is the opinion of the young in regards to Evangelical Leaders?
7. What are the needs and problems that we have to emphasize on when we prepare young people for the future? What problems (health, education, etc.) are they usually facing in their daily life?

Religious Clerics and Youth Workers

1. If Haiti is in the final of the Gold Cup should church cancel its' services so people can watch the game?
2. Do you think young people will come to church if you insist on having a Sunday service competing with the game?
3. What priorities does church give to their youth when programming church activities?
4. What kind of activities do youth prefer in general and/or at church?
5. What can attract or pull away youth in church activities?
6. What kind of subjects are they interested in?
7. What kind of leadership do they prefer?
8. What kind of relationship do you keep with them? (Example do they come to you with their problems?)
9. How does the youth's family situation help the Church to progress?
10. What kind of integration and formation plan you have in your church for the young people ?

Teachers

1. What kind of games do you think that youth is interested in?
2. What is the impact on their education?
3. Does Haitian education prepare youth for their future?

4. What are the causes of the student's failures (health, sexuality, etc.)?
5. Are they the only ones concerned for their failures?
6. How does the family situation of the students contribute to their success or failure?
7. How can we overcome these difficulties?

Students

1. What do you need to have more confidence in yourself?
2. What does family represent for you?
3. What does church represent for you?
4. How can you help your community?
5. Can you identify things that make you feel good and the ones that bother you?
6. What kind of relationship do you have with your church leaders?
7. Do you attend all church activities, which ones do you enjoy the most?
8. What type of messages (sermons) do you like the most?

Section III: Synopsis of Data and Findings

Synopsis of NGO Focus Groups

Non-governmental Organizations are aware that they will be able to better serve youth in Haiti as they collaborate. They also indicate that this is important since youth are the future of Haiti. In order for youth to succeed they will need to be given opportunity, trained to use the opportunities they have and encouraged as they achieve success.

Education is an essential part of being well prepared. This includes more than an intellectual preparation; it means that they should be trained physically, morally, socially and spiritually as well. Sports can play a vital role in their training and is important for youth development, personally and for the community. Some indicate that sports are a way to understand the country and its self image. They pointed to the recent soccer matches and thought that Haiti showed that they played Mexico under stress and did not have good self-confidence as a team. They point out that in the same way a team is readied for a game youth must be prepared for the future.

Although success and failure are normal parts of life, it is important to be encouraged to handle both well. This means youth should be recognized and encouraged when they accomplish something good. To make this training successful, youth need good leadership. Sometimes they choose role models who are only distinguished by their wealth and their bad behavior but other characteristics are important too. Youth will only follow those they admire so they must encourage youth leaders who really know youth and can also help them spiritually, and prayer is one way to help.

Education is very important but is not always supportive of moral formation. Moral formation is necessary for youth to become good leaders themselves. Opportunities cannot be maximized if youth lack education.

However, youth in Haiti face many challenges with which they will need help. In addition to the challenges of environment, tradition does not encourage optimism. Traditionally families are large and many of their problems can be traced to their family environment. The large families make it difficult for parents to properly provide for youth. The economic situation of families where there are too few material resources to address the needs of the children give rise to lack of health care, nutrition and even education. Without education and supervision youth fall into delinquency, sexual immorality, premarital or pre-adolescent sex.

It will be necessary for NGOs and the government of Haiti to help address the economic challenges that give rise to the problems of delinquency, family poverty and lack of education.

Synopsis of Pastors, Evangelical Leaders and Youth Leaders

Christian leaders, including pastors and youth leaders, indicate that Haitian youth are faced with conflict in many areas of their lives. These include environmental conflict, such as, economic challenges often conflicting with the most basic needs of nutrition and shelter, the international appeal of youth culture (fashion and music) conflicting with traditional values, national values and practices that are sometimes in conflict with biblical priorities, their own struggle to become adults and assert their independence from adult control and the appeal of social popularity (sexuality, drugs and alcohol) in conflict with abstinence and sobriety. For Christian youth this is sometimes compounded by the struggle to find a relevant understanding of scripture that allows them to draw near to, live out biblical values and communicate the appeal of Christian faith in a church context where they are too often ignored or given only limited opportunity to share their ideas and concerns. Where youth are given an opportunity to demonstrate their creativity and energy in the church they are excited and involved.

It is noted that children and youth are seldom given adequate formation to properly channel their desires in the church context. It was noted that while they have knowledge of the Bible they do not apply it in the decisions of daily life. They are often uncertain of the role they can play in church but when they are given an opportunity for involvement it will probably be only for those exhibiting leadership potential. As a result they are uncertain of their place in the church and about their futures. The uncertainty in turn produces lack of responsibility and they are not dependable.

Some of these issues are further compounded in the home. While pastors are quick to recognize that the home is essential to good youth formation they are also well aware that for many their home life is not ideal. Most families in Haiti struggle economically, not only to acquire the things they want but often to survive. Children are not always properly fed or clothed, parents generally have little time for their children and they are not as involved in training their children as they should be. Sometimes parents are inconsistent, harsh and controlling, this is often part of a continuing intergenerational cycle. This negatively impacts the self-confidence of youth and in turns shape youthful attitudes. The result is that youth seek affection from peers through sexual intercourse, alcohol and drugs. Although youth have potential and if properly directed are able to be very effective, they often have too little attention and formation in the home to achieve their potential.

This situation is further compounded by the inadequate preparation youth receive in school. If they are not well educated they will have very limited options to contribute to their own future and that of the country. Much of their formation comes from the television, sports and friends.

Pastors note that youth are very social and want to be busy and active. They are willing to be involved in church activities but these activities must be well planned, appealing and have high energy. They do not want to have the routine that satisfies their parents. With so much going on in the community, the churches must improve the quality of their programs to attract youth. When they attend church events they should also find encouragement, answers to their questions and training to lead. Youth prefer social activities where they can be with their friends: sports, competitions, games, camps, concerts and field trips. When these events are effective they will provide positive social interaction and formation. Since youth are also interested in community action projects, these lessons can be applied by providing opportunities for youth to become involved in projects they plan and carry out.

Youth education and formation is crucial for the future of the church. For the formation to be effective it will be necessary to have good leaders whom the youth will follow. Pastors and youth workers concur that relationship with the young people is necessary if they are to follow; pastors and leaders must be available when youth need them. The youth expect their leaders to be competent, well organized and respect youth ideas and opinions. They want formation but not judgment; if they come and talk to a pastor or leader about problems they expect that the information will be confidential and that they will receive clear and honest answers. Youth want to see a direct connection between what leaders and the bible say and what the church does; they do not like hypocrisy.

Currently youth have a mixed response to youth programs offered by the church. The pastors think that generally youth come to church only when there is nothing else to do. They also feel like the goals of the church move in a different direction than the interests and values of the youth. They point out that pastors and church leaders are often out of touch with the youth. They also note that youth want God's help in their lives and are interested in the bible when they are led in interactive study. However, they often come to church because their parents make them come or they need something to do. This kind of church activity has generally produced youth who are not spiritually reliable. It was also observed that when they are able to understand what is expected and given encouragement they will show creativity and commitment. They need programs that are well planned and help them to become integrated into the church body by contributing to the general programs.

Synopsis of Teacher Focus Groups

In the capital and provincial areas young people play a variety of sports and games; however, football (soccer) ranks highest in student participation. Teachers feel that sports can benefit their students both physically and intellectually, especially when they can incorporate study material with sports. Teachers also noted that students must prioritize when to play and when to concentrate on their studies and parents should also be aware of what type of games their children are playing so they can monitor them.

Some teachers believe that the Haitian education system can prepare the youth for the future but the majority of teachers feel that improvements are necessary. There should be teacher training, education reform and more resources given; the same that are given in the foreign schools, so the youth have practical experience and are able to make good career choices. Teaching in French is also seen as a hindrance in preparing the youth for the future as it is not seen as very practical in Haiti. Teaching in the mother tongue would be more beneficial to the learners as some teachers are not fluent in French or students are not able to understand French.

There are students who face mental and physical challenges as well, such as, malnutrition and drug and alcohol addiction, and because of this they find it difficult to concentrate in school and study. Another challenge students are facing is lack of teacher and parental involvement. Parents need to be more involved in training their children and teachers should be seen as mentors while not crossing the line with inappropriate behaviors, such as, affairs with their students. The students' community environment and their parent's marital problems are contributing factors to their shortcomings in school too. Nationwide students are seen as being extremely sexually active and thus leading to teenage pregnancy. In the capital area teachers feel that television is perpetuating students' sexual and educational failures as students are watching and copying pornographic images they are viewing and an increasing number of brothels in the provincial areas have youth involved in sexual activities which interfere with their education.

Lack of students' academic success should not only be acknowledged as a concern for their families and teachers but a concern to the country as a whole, as everyone in society pays the price for students' failings, as seen with juvenile delinquency, moral corruption and the negative impact on the country's economy. It is thought that if youth fail in school they will fail to fulfill their aspirations in life and the country will be in a deficit because of inadequate human resources. A good parental and community environment can combat this; but lack of opportunities, negative family situations and bad company all play a role in students not achieving success. In the provincial areas parents themselves need to become literate and find employment opportunities as this will help their children overcome some of the difficulties they face and possibly become entrepreneurs to better contribute to their society.

The Haitian government must also take responsibility by increasing the number of schools, providing free basic education for youth and valuing the teachers by paying them a sufficient salary. Overall, in order to have successful students, problems must be looked at holistically; meaning from their physical needs to their behavioral needs to their intellectual needs. Teachers and parents must work together and take responsibility for the youth's educational successes; however, students, themselves, must also take personal ownership by setting clear goals and being self-motivated.

Synopsis of Youth/Students

The youth, between 13-18 years of age who met in groups to discuss their reality, profess a positive attitude toward life coupled with concern for their communities and nation. While youth recognize the negative aspects of the community and decry the pollution, deforestation and corruption that mars much of their country; they also believe that it will be their efforts that lead to effective solutions. They indicate that given the opportunity to speak out freely they would demonstrate the unity and vigor of Haitian youth and seek to prepare themselves individually and collectively to bring about change and healing. They know that in the current state of affairs the lack of cohesive and strong leadership, the divisions created by regional and personal interests and the economic mismanagement have left them with a country that is suffering. However, they express interest in both immediate investment in the environment, planting trees, and in equipping themselves through education and solidarity as an investment for the future. Whether or not their aspirations will be realized depends in large part on whether the adults of Haiti will take their concerns and vision for the future seriously and invest in their lives as role models and agents for the moral formation of youth.

Although their family circumstances are plagued by economic shortfall, marital strife of parents and lack of attention from their parents, they continue to recognize that the home above all serves as a refuge, a place of training, guidance and support and, when their parents care for them and demonstrate concern, the place in which they develop self-confidence. However, if these positive aspects of home life are absent their ability to cope with daily challenges and to do their best in the circumstances they face is significantly impaired.

Church serves as an extension of family for those who are involved in its programs. This means that all of the problems of a poorly managed home and the benefits of a good family are amplified by their experience in church life. While indicating that they have a need for bible study, prayer and formation, they also said that the church should be leading them and often it is not. The church is generally characterized as hypocritical, critical of youth and that members of the church do not usually set good examples. When pastors or youth leaders are open to a relationship, youth want to spend time with them. However, too many pastors make them uncomfortable with their lack of confidentiality, mistrust, poor management of church resources, misappropriation of church funds and unrealistic expectations – “they demand more of us than God does”. Well prepared sermons on topics that are practical and can be applied to life are appreciated, but all too often the sermons are for adults and lack relevant content. Many of the youth who indicated a commitment to church, usually as a response to relational leadership, believe that they can influence their peers and support the efforts of the church and ideals of Christian faith.

Youth indicate that they struggle with self-confidence as they are seldom affirmed by adults in their lives. However, they also know that education is critical for success, that they should not give up when they fail and that spiritual life will help them do what is right. They feel that more parental attention and better community leadership will help them identify and build their potential for the future good of themselves and the community.

They recognize that the role models with whom youth most readily identify, rap musicians and older peers, are not really those who can help them develop for the future. They feel that youth would have the necessary role models if parents were stronger in their leadership at home and gave them better guidance, the church members were more consistent and less hypocritical and if the government was more effective in planning and providing for their formation. They want role models who will listen, support and guide them as they develop new approaches to the issues facing them personally and the nation collectively.

Youth mentioned some of the problems they face but speak of the symptoms rather than the underlying causes. They mention teen pregnancy as a problem but do not refer to sexual promiscuity. They mention educational obstacles but do not identify inadequate curriculum as a problem. They indicate that parents have marriage problems but not that family structure is challenged. They refer to the church leaders not taking them seriously but not that the church puts a low priority on ministry to youth. They indicate that youth are not respected but not that the infrastructure and role models needed for youth formation are largely absent. Their lives are filled with the struggle to make their way into the future and they appear not to have the leisure or perspective to look beyond the symptoms of the challenges that confront them. It seems that this analysis must fall to their elders.

To support youth in their development it will be necessary to couch formation within activities that they find appealing. They want activities that will provide support and guidance in the context of social interaction, they want freedom to express their thoughts to leaders who are interested in them and listen. They enjoy music, concerts, opportunities to perform and other social activities that offer development: physically, socially, mentally and spiritually.

Section IV: Raw Data from Focus Groups

NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

What were your expectations for the last soccer game between Haiti and Mexico?

- I wasn't expecting Haiti to win
- I was pessimist because I saw Mexico as a wild dog
- It was stupid for me
- They made a great investment in the Mexican team and they also value Mexican youth
- I thought they couldn't even get in the elimatory, it was a surprise
- I was hopping for a miracle but not this catastrophic result
- We already knew that Mexico would probably win
- It wasn't what we expected when Haiti lost 4-0
- Success and failure are part of life
- I am a soccer fan
- The score is due to stress and a lack of self confidence

How can sports activities contribute to the young people?

- One participant refers to the importance the young people give to other countries, like Brazil's and Argentina's sports activities, particularly in football (soccer). The sport allows these countries to have economic development. This forces them to affirm that sports generally help to develop the country's economy but in Haiti there are not enough infrastructures that could permit the young people to practice a particular sport.
- The physical aspect is important because sports activities are linked to physiological needs. The sport allows our body to function well (Example: Heart, Brain).
- Some of them think that sports activities have an influence with the economic aspect of their lives. Therefore they cannot neglect that sports activities can contribute to individual development and collective development, because sports are a fundamental element that could help people physically, help young people to achieve their goal economically and could contribute to the economic development of the country.
- The need of accomplishment for young people and the realization of themselves in the field of sports help them to have a cultural interchange and contribute to their development.

What kind of things can we do to promote the development of the young people?

- We have to elaborate a plan of development for the young, which must be the first activity. Example, the young people on the soccer team in Haiti do not receive good treatment as players. Create more opportunities for development at any level that could allow them to express themselves (be at ease). Some of them could know how to play soccer but they don't know how to read or write. Some of them have abilities to read and write and others cannot.
- Others say that the young people do not know where they are going. Example, large families, in the capital, has too many children, you find in a house eight to nine people in urban areas, in rural areas you find twelve people in the house. Family environment is not a stimulant that could influence young people to practice sports when they don't even have enough food to feed themselves.
- We have to take care of them; we have to support them at any level. We have problems in our society; in our church we need a youth association that can help them. The social environment could influence young people to get involved with bad things, for example, youth delinquency, sexual immorality, and pre-marital sexual intercourse. Only God could give them a way to get through. Some young people find some good opportunities but they do not seize them.

- For each problematic situation we have to elaborate some specific objectives for example; the health problems, the environmental problems and educational problems in order to assist young people.
- Young people are the future of the country, the more well educated they are the more it benefits the country.

In what areas do the NGO's and the Government invest more?

- One of the representatives said his organization works in four specific fields, health, education, agriculture, and micro-finance. We have to identify the needs and allow the population to participate in finding solutions but he concludes that this will only happen through education (good training).
- Another confirms that everything must pass through education. Education is the central channel in which every need must be satisfied.

What kind of role model do you think the young people are ready to follow?

- The problem of role model is a crisis of values, we must have space to share ideas and to reinforce our church group, and we have to promote good values through media and try to play a great role in young people's mind.
- Another one says that it depends on the objective that the young people have, because the objectives exist in some role models that may have a positive part and a negative part. For example, someone who raps could have a great fortune and could be a model for the young but it is negative role model; therefore, the Brazil soccer player Kaka is a positive model for the young Christian. You have to understand that bad models use the media to serve their image, why don't good models do the same thing? Often the good models do not have enough money to do that.

What is the opinion of the young in regards to Evangelical Leaders?

- The first aspect that young people seek in a leader is if the person is successful. If he succeeds we can chose him like a role model. In this case this depends on some specific criteria.
- Another one says, Christian leaders are not perfect, some could inspire good things, and others do not. Young people do not follow leaders blindly; they can make choices for themselves, which means they could choose the good part and reject the bad.

What are the need and problems that we have to emphasize on when we prepare young people for the future? What problems (health and education) are they usually facing in their daily life?

- One problem on which the NGO has to emphasize is to find a solution to traditionalism.
- Another one said the basic problem is economic.
- Another one said the young people are not willing to accept any type of job, as soon as they are well educated they need a good job.
- One of the representatives said the basic problems are moral and education. For example, my solar system was stolen and the person came back to try to sell it to me again and he was selling it for 20 times less than its value. The participant concluded it is a matter of education and morality.
- We have to spread good information to the young people in order that they can make good choices.

Main important ideas:

- We have to combine the NGOs help in order to create means of development for the young people.
- We have to find a way that could allow us to know the needs of the young people. They do not want us to lead them blindly but would prefer that we give them good orientation. We have to develop them inside because they only want a guide.

- Another one adds that we have to help the young people, help them by formal education and praying for them.
- The great majority think we are to create the space in which young people can be developed by themselves.

PASTORS, EVANGELICAL LEADERS AND YOUTH LEADERS

If Haiti is in the final of the Gold Cup should churches cancel services so people can watch the game?

- We don't have to be interested with it. (3)
- Without God we cannot do anything, so spiritual activities must be number one for us. The only time the doors should close is when there is violence in the streets or a natural disaster. (5)
- If Haiti goes to the final I will be very proud. But that does not mean I have to give up spiritual activity for a soccer game. (6)
- Others think it's a national event, for this reason we could close the door of the church in order to let the young people watch the game (2)
- I will have service either before or after the game.
- Youth have real spiritual problems so the leaders said they would prefer not to close the church and to encourage the youth to come and participate in a program that will help them spiritually.

Do you think young people will come to church if you insist on having a Sunday service competing with the game?

- We will have only adults in church, because, youth attendance will be minimal (6)
- Youth will have to choose between Christian responsibility and pleasure (6)
- Before being Christian we are first Haitian. In light of the importance of this match is we could show the game at the church it would be good. (6)
- The service would not be affected by the game. Many people are not football fans (4)
- If there is an interesting activity the youth would come to church

What priorities does church give to their youth when programming church activities?

- Some said that youth are a priority because if they are not involved there will be no one to take over when the adults retire. Activities are always planned in collaboration with the youth association, leaders and the pastors so youth feel integrated. (8)
- All activities are been planned by the pastor or the adults, they don't have confidence in youth for planning; pastors don't even attend youth when they have been invited (4)
- Pastors have to be closer to youth
- "Corps brigadier", ushers helping at church services are mainly composed by youth. But, when youth organize an activity that will encourage them.
- Spiritual maturity develops gradually. One church is attempting to integrate the youth gradually so that they can be involved in sub committees, then in cells, youth leadership and finally in the church organization with pastoral supervision. (5)
- Youth do not have a priority in either the spiritual or socio-material activities of the church and are seldom involved (4)
- The youth are the key, but they are vacillating in their priorities, so no one depends on them.
- We do our best to make the young members and adults feel at ease while at church.
- Young members want to be in fashion, sometimes we are obligated to accommodate them, without neglecting the will of God, so they can learn. (2)
- The leader of the youth is a member of the church committee; so the youth have some opportunity to participate in church activities

What kind of activities do youth prefer in general and/or at church?

- Social activities always succeed (like contests, summer camp, field trips, concerts, tournaments, conferences), but are not too interested in spiritual activities (Bible studies and Sunday School). This is the reason why some churches give one Sunday of the month to youth activities. (19)
- It's difficult to appeal to youth when just a few show a lot of interest. We have a lot to do because "rap" music is very strong at church. (2)
- Youth is more motivated to attend church activities when they invite a great speaker.
- Youth feels disappointed; some are limited by their morality. Playing music at church is not only an economic mean but also a pass time. (2)
- Youth participate in Bible studies. The youth are a reflection of the national reality. They are without any social support. (4)
- In my church, youth put a lot of emphasis on Bible study; but they don't make good application in their spiritual life. The church needs to pay a lot more attention to this.
- Youth are easily manipulated. Youth prefer social (crusades, prayer & fasting..) and cultural activities. They don't have any support though. (2)
- On the other hand, one said that youth are interested in the spiritual programs.
- During exam time, some thought that they are very involved in the prayer services and youth sleepovers to pray and worship.
- Parents still make the decisions for most of the youth and youth participation in the night events is primarily because their parents are there and make them come too; this causes a lack of self confidence. (2)
- Youth attend or participated in the bible studies they offered at his church using an interactive method, and this encouraged them to take part in the Bible study. (2)
- All of them know they have to pray but they don't do it.
- Depending on their gender, they are interested in social activities. Some youth fill their free time watching TV, especially soap operas, for the girls. Boys are very interested in sports and especially soccer. (4)
- Parents today do not give direction to the youth. As a result the youth do not have a plan for their lives. They find that adults do not pay attention to the children; they just let them do what they want.
- Our education system is not designed to guide the youth. The state needs to build more schools and make sure that there strict oversight of the educational standards. They think the state should not just talk about doing something but should take action.
- The young people are really responsible to plan and execute the church programs or the neighborhood programs.
- Leaders are frustrated with the young people because of their bad behaviors. At their church the leaders think the young people are not Christians. Because the leaders do not pay attention to them the young people do not take part in the church programs and they boycott the programs.
- Sometimes they give priority to church actives only when they have nothing else to do.
- They are not interested in activities that help them prepare for the future.
- It is hard to know what they really want.

What can attract or pull away youth in church activities?

- The existence of cliques
- Attracting youth will require you to train, encourage, direct and welcome youth, do not pull them away even when they behave really badly (5)
- Once youth find their vocation, nothing can stop them. However, pastors behavior, only adult decision makers and lack of support for their initiatives can cause them to leave (5)
- Create a friendly atmosphere : select activities, encourage them, help them to avoid mixed relationships (Christians-non Christian) (2)
- When youth receive support you develop a worker for the church but they cannot take responsibility for work in the church without training. (4)

What kind of subjects are they interested in?

- Because everything is in the Bible we use the Book of Ecclesiastes to talk with them, to teach them.
- The topic that interest them are subject that have relation with love, even though they don't have love. (2)
- Most of the pastors pointed out that the socio-economic context of the country is so difficult that many young people are motivated by sermons that promise deliverance and blessing.
- Management of family affairs
- Opportunity to get professional training or experience
- Sermons should depend on the intellectual development of the youth, because some preferred presentations that were deep and well thought out leading to a conclusion that this type of leader is one who is well prepared and trained (4)
- Sermons about marriage, sex and their behavior (4)
- Another said that youth prefer shorter sermons.
- They like to hear the good testimonies.
- Some pastors think that young Christians are not interested in learning the Word of God, they live without care to the Word of God and they do the opposite of what the Bible teaches. (2)
- The real spiritual young people are not easily identified, but when we plan to go to the beach all of them are ready to go, but, unfortunately, they do not go to the Bible study. They think that Bible study is only for pastors and adults.
- They give priority to their own activities.
- The youth leaders know that a lot youth are sexually active out of curiosity; but in their hearts they know that they should wait until marriage, only a minority practices sexual abstinence.
- At church we have love, but when we leave the church love goes to/goes away.

What kind of leadership do they prefer?

- They do not like leaders and will not confide in them when there is a lack of relationship, lack of value, lack of confidentiality, incompetence and intolerance. (6)
- Youth prefer leaders who encourage them, think like the youth do and are involved in the youth activities in church. Leaders that know they are young and can make mistakes. (7)
- One of the leaders said that the hierarchical organization of the church is a problem and in his church some pastors are unable to read well, they do not have a good education; however because of their influence and seniority they are in top leadership positions. The Christian youth who have a much better education and want to advance in the church are frustrated. He said that regardless of the spirituality of the leaders they should also be competent to manage and lead, concluding that the youth prefer competence in leaders.
- Leaders must remember that they faced their situation in the past just like young people and they make mistakes too. (For Example the most mature man in the world makes mistakes.)
- Youth like leaders who are competent, dynamic, decisive and committed. (2)
- We are developing a personal relationship with the youth. However, we have not set specific times to meet with them; they are able to call us on the phone. (5)
- Youth prefer to do things as a group, on their own.
- For some of the young people, the local church has to be led by Godly leaders not a dictator, or someone who is interested in material possessions. Because of our position they are not ready or they are afraid to come to us when they have problems because they know we are going to answer them according to the Word of God. (2)
- The willingness of the youth to talk to pastors depends on the subject.

How does the youth's family situation affect the Church?

- Family is a small church. If the family invests in the spiritual and intellectual education of their youth it will be better for the church (11)
- We will not have a good church if we allow youth to do whatever they want
- Regarding the contribution youth make to progress of the church, one pastor said the youth are critical of the church.
- Youth are well informed and take part in church business meetings, giving their point of view. This evaluative contribution, according to him, is a good contribution to the progress of the church.
- Some of the pastors said that from the perspective of numbers, youth make a good contribution because they bring creativity and new ideas where they are involved. When the youth are involved there is lots of energy and they attract other youth to the church.
- Regarding the problems youth face, all the pastors identified the economic situation as the underlying problem contributing to all the other problems that result in youth involved in drugs, prostitution, sex before marriage, all kinds of corruption, abortion, juvenile delinquency etc, sometimes with the encouragement of their parents. (2)
- On the other hand pastors think that youth are very liberal and 70% are sexually active before marriage. The problem for these leaders is that discussion of sexuality is taboo and they prefer not to talk about it. (3)
- Leaders are suffering when they see the negative behavior of the young people and the weaknesses of the family.
- Some leaders think that the environment does not have anything to do with the functioning of the church.
- Imagine the pastor not being able to help their members who are facing economic problems because everyone is poor, including the pastor.
- According to us, nobody has the power to give luck to another person. Luck does not exist. God has created the way to get through problems. At seminary they taught us that we are to analyze the environment's problems, in which we are working, in order to find solution.
- According to our society the basic problem is a spiritual problem.
- When we have well educated people at church the work becomes easier and easier, and the church functions very well for the glory of God.
- Lots of youth do not live with their families since they are away studying, this cause problems in the lives of youth; they do not have good supervision and raise themselves (P)
- Some live with their parents, but this does not prevent them from making problems in church.
- The church needs to make parents aware of their responsibility for the education of youth and help them with family planning to limit the number of children they have, since they cannot care for all of their children. The well being of the church depends on the well being of the family.
- Financially, youth do not contribute to the projects in the church because of the economic situation in their homes.
- No matter how bad their behavior might be we want to support them, guide and restore them for God's glory.

What kind of integration and formation plan you have in your church for the young people?

- The church must have an integration plan for the young people. It has to give them a global vision of the world, in other words preparing youth for leadership with conferences, sermons etc. (7)
- Another agreed, saying that he is organizing activities to equip parents to strengthen their relationship with their children, by giving them spiritual principles to help them. (3)
- In my church the young people are well intergrated because they are the energy of my church. Naturally, we intergate young people who are ready to follow the right road.
- The church must have integration policies for the young people not the opposite (meaning exclusion policies). (3)

- The youth do not like to be forced they would prefer to be asked how they could honor the presence of the Lord in their lives.
- Adults do not really appreciate young people and young people do not appreciate adults either. But adults are in the past and young people are for the future. We need celebration between them in the present. Before the integration of the young people, they have to accept the adults as examples to follow.
- The church helps youth participate in the regular church activities, to identify their various gifts.
- They also supervise their activities and programs
- Help them recognize their value and importance in the youth group
- Help them understand that the image they project is shaped by their words and actions.

Main important points:

- We need to help every child to know himself in preparation for his youth
- We need to teach youth that God invested in them and they are very important in His eyes.
- If they say: *"The adults do not set right examples, youth will not follow"*, but the contrary will happen if we do God's will and believe in ourselves.
- We need to share with others what we have learned this afternoon with those who did not have the opportunity to be with us.
- The spiritual condition of youth and how they think about God.
- To help the church progress it is important to integrate rather than alienate the youth. (2)
- To prepare and train youth for their future.
- To understand the concerns most important for the youth and help them address them holistically and then prepare them to accept responsibility.
- Because youth are the future, we must emphasize the importance of their sexual comportment, meaning we must understand their sexuality and instruct them how to behave appropriately since their sexual behavior affects the church.
- (Emphasize) Importance of the word of God in the young life.
- (Emphasize) The relationship between God and the young people.
- Types of messages they are interested in (young people)
- Kind of leaders / Type of leaders
- Leaders have to support the young people in order to transform their lives at church.
- In the Northwest part of the country, the young people do not have any support; in this case the church has to take responsibility to support them socially, economically, spiritually, intellectually, etc.
- I am ready to help the young people in order that they could avoid bad situations.
- Give good advice to young people and give them good support too. I wish that this combination would help us change the young people's life in order that they could be the adults of tomorrow.
- I hope the result of this research would come back to us by the end of this project in order for us to know our young members better.
- We have decided to support and lead the youth so they have a better future
- We must have an attitude that shows we understand youth.
- We need to help them find work; develop small businesses so they can become economically independent.
- We need to educate the youth because education is the driving force of development.

TEACHERS**Which are their feelings that the game Haiti vs USA brought to you?****Capital Data:**

- Assisting a game of the Haitian national team was not interesting but facing the American team there was a lot of surprises because the Haitians was showing professionalism
- It encourages me to have more confidence in the national team
- I was satisfied because I saw that was an improvement in the mist of our team
- There was a tragic-comedy because we had an adequate preparation for the gold cup

Provincial data:

- Wow, the match between Haiti and Mexico left us devastated
- For one teacher, it was difficult to watch the game.
- Another felt better during the game between Haiti and the USA, it was positive and encouraging.
- It was disappointing because we thought that Haiti will do better
- Haiti didn't have a good coach
- The players did not have a good support in soccer
- The players do not have a good balanced diet reason why they are so easily defeated on the field
- The player's psychological and moral situation was not adequate

What kind of games do you think that youth is interested in?**Capital Data:**

- Soccer (5)
- Basket-ball
- Volley-ball
- The teachers generally indicate that students are interested in football. They used the example of the matches between Brazil and Argentina to show how it is a sport that has general appeal

Provincial data

- Youth are mostly interest in soccer, but they play basketball too. (2)
- Cards
- Dominos
- Games of chance (lottery, cards)
- Games on their cell phones

What is the impact on their education?**Capital Data:**

- A positive impact when we associate them
- It allows physical and intellectual development (2)
- Studies are based on concentration and relaxation
- Some of the teachers suggest that there are positive results from the interest in football while others report that it is negative. Because the students must balance the interest in football and studies, the positive or negative will be determined by the priorities they set. (2)
- Finally, teachers indicate that any game or sport that is an extension of the material they are studying: chemistry, physics etc, will benefit them.

Provincial data

- Some games, like soccer, help youth develop their physical abilities and their mental acuity
- Games can result in them becoming negligent in their studies, they might be good at soccer and not put too much energy into their studies in class because they have put all their focus on sports. (2)

- They are not clear about when it is the right time to play and when to study, sometimes they play cell phone games in class. (2)
- The games helps them to learn better at school, it develops their intellect
- The impact is more positive than negative
- Their parents have to watch over their games so they can know what type of game they are playing. Because games have influence on their behavior

Does Haitian education prepare youth for their future?

Capital Data:

- Yes and no, depending on the person who gives the education and destination of the learner (2)
- Yes, because school allows us to learn for our future (to become someone for tomorrow)
- Yes, if started with the family
- This is the main purpose of education, that's why we need to see the performance of the education system, but in Haiti we work with an old system
- About 80% agree with a teacher who says that students are not prepared in a way that will permit them to make a good choice about their professional careers. Where I teach, in an American school, students are given courses for the career they choose and they are oriented to that career.
- One of them said that it was a failure of the system, the method of teaching is not structured. That is not to say that the student could not be prepared but it was added that those who are teachers are products of the system and they lack adequate training to be effective in the class; there are no laboratories, research so the teachers are not able to support the youth as they do not have the means to show them or give them practical experience.
- Another thinks that the weaknesses of the system are obvious, but the problem is that those who are aware of the problems do not have the authority to address them. It is not really possible to find the resources needed to do something.
- Those who are in charge of the education system, as well as the teachers, know the foreign education systems, because they travel, but nothing is changed.
- Education in Haiti do not really prepare youth for their future
- There are some youth who cannot learn at school but they are really talented in some trades that requires to use your hands
- Youth's future preparation depends on their parents, yet very often their parents are very irresponsible
- Reading and writing is not enough, we need more for the youth
- In Haiti we give instruction not education
- Using French in teaching is not very practical in Haiti. It will be better to use the native language for a better future.

What are the causes of the student's failures? (health, sexuality, etc.)

Capital Data:

- In psycho-pedagogic there are problems that you are born with, but there also some abnormalities that you acquire (2)
- Part of the problem is the lack of parental involvement. Students take care of themselves. Parents need to take time to train their children. Some teachers point out that the television is a problem for the youth; there are pornographic images that portray sexual practices that the youth then copy.
- Others indicate that there should be better relationships with teachers and students, since teachers are the mentors for the students. A proper relationship between teachers and students who help teachers know the problems students are facing.
- It was pointed out that the economic situation of families is a problem since students often are hungry and this affects their ability to study, learn and have fun. (2)
- Another teacher suggested that it is important for students to understand the purpose of education.

- Another suggests that a problem for students is those teaching are not competent and there is a lack of encouragement in students homes. Additionally schools are not equipped for education; the classrooms need to be refurbished. Often the environment and neighborhood of the school do not contribute to good education for youth; actually they may discourage and distract the students.

Provincial data

- The situations when their parents work abroad; parents are abroad and youth do not know whether they will stay in Haiti or leave so the youth lack motivation in school
- Parents are negligent, they let the children do whatever they want and do not pay attention to their education.
- Malnutrition of the youth is a result of the economic situation of the family.
- The learning environment is bad (schools are claustrophobic, overcrowded for example in a private school there might be 50-120 children in a classroom and in the public school 100-150).
- There is no system for education since there is inconsistent oversight and evaluation in the schools.
- The increasing number of brothels draws the youth into sexual activities that interfere with their education.
- The flood of new music styles means the youth pay more attention to this and less to their studies (Creole rap is heard even in when class is in session)
- Sexuality and alcohol (youth are sexually very active) and some try to study under the influence of alcohol and drugs.
- The lack of electricity in the city (students cannot do their research well or study and do their homework).
- Premature pregnancies
- Lack of parent supervision at home
- There are many teachers who do not have a calling for the work. There are some who are not really teachers, they are not trained and teach for the salary. (2)
- There is a problem of two languages, (the curriculum is in French but teachers must instruct in Creole either because teachers are not fluent in French or students are not able to understand French)

Are they the only concerned for their failures?

Capital Data:

- No, teacher, family, the entire country (5)
- These problems concern everyone, especially most teachers. When a young person does not succeed, their mother, father and the nation of Haiti are impacted by this failure. This preparation is the foundation because everyone in society pays the consequence of a failure.

What will be the consequences for the country?

Capital Data:

- Insecurity, juvenile delinquency
- Negative impact on the economy
- Corruption, vandalism, stealing, raping, prostitution
- In Haiti, school failure is most of the time a failure in life
- Youth are the future; if they are not well equipped society will lack human resources. Because the youth hope to become doctors, agriculturalists etc. but if they fail to fulfill these aspirations the country will be short of doctors, agriculturalists etc and this is twice the problem for the country.

How does the family situation of the students contribute to their success or failure?

Capital Data:

Success

- Parents efforts
- Good socio-family influences
- Good environment

Failure

- Lack of opportunities
- Bad socio-family influences
- Bad companies
- It is not simply a financial or economic question, more than these two issues parents need to talk to their children and play a role in their lives. It also depends on the goals parents have for their children because it is necessary for them to motivate children to do what is necessary.

Provincial data:

Success

- Some parents take the time with their children to give them rules and guidance and this makes a difference in their work and lessons.
- It is important for parents to pay attention to the questions youth have about their education.

Failure

- In the rural community, students are mainly interested in agricultural and economic activities, that's why they don't have good grades, even though a lot of them are very smart.
- When there are too many kids in the family they don't get good results at school
- "Empty stomach has not ears": so when young people go to school without eating, their ability to learn is very low
- Students are affected by their parent's lack of economic resources. They worry about it and cannot concentrate at their studies.
- Their parent's marital problems often affects negatively their progress at school

How can we overcome these difficulties?

Capital Data:

- Speaking with the youth
- Avoiding physical abuse
- Sports
- Improving their feeding situation (more cafeterias/cantinas at school)
- Better structure
- Youth motivation
- It is necessary to understand that these things are multidimensional, we need to take into account every aspect: physical, intellectual aspects of youth and see them holistically as human beings. That means that we take into account the effective formation needed so we can have healthy relationships. (2)
- One of the teachers indicated that the goal of some teachers is to make a living they do not have a real calling to teach. This teacher thinks that teachers must take responsibility and be conscious of their professional calling.
- Another thought would be to bring the parents together to help them understand the problems teachers are having with students so they are better able to manage and help their children.

Provincial data

- The Haitian government should support schools. This means train teachers and ensuring that they are fairly paid.
- Personal motivation (help the youth be aware of their future and set clear goals for life)
- We need to reintroduce subjects that promote moral values (citizenship classes and morality, how to live in society, physical education and sports).
- Our parents need to become literate
- Reduce the unemployment of parents
- Education should be in our mother tongue
- The country needs to increase the number of schools
- We want to become entrepreneurs so we can offer jobs to more people

Most important points:**Capital Data:**

- How to face youth failure
- Social influences
- All subjects were interesting
- About half of the teachers think that youth sexuality is the nationwide problem affecting youth.
- The rest thought that the responsibility of parents and the stability of family is the main problem.

Provincial data

- The teachers concluded the Haitian government must accept the responsibility for the failure of students due to their irresponsibility.
- The Haitian government should value teachers
- We need to get rid of the unqualified teachers in the Haitian education system
- They added that the relationship between teachers and students plays a role in the success or failure of students. Some have good relationships (they advise, encourage them), others unfortunately have affairs with their students.
- It is necessary to improve and reform the education system
- Instruction should be given in mother tongue (Creole)
- It is necessary for education in Haiti to be more practical
- Basic education should be free, paid for by the Haitian government
- Those who are called to teach should be responsible

YOUNG PEOPLE/STUDENTS**What type of music do you like?**

- Christian music (7),
- Slow American music (3)
- Compas, zouk & troubadour (Haitian music) (5)
- Rap (3) & Hip Hop
- Songs in French,
- Reggae
- Indie music

What do you think about the death of Barikad Crew singers?

- Barikad Crew's fans cried and it brought pain to their hearts (8)
- I thought their death would break the group apart
- Their death brought evolution to the Creole Rap in Haiti. They are alive by their music (3)
- It was the will of God. (2)

- The death of these singers allows us to discover the type of life they used to live. They didn't have a good past because they were involved in too much evil (3)

What is your opinion about the singer's life?

- They sing rap to express their frustrations and personal interests
- This is the best rap group in the country. (2)
- They have material goods and live well on earth but unfortunately they lose their souls. Their life encouraged us to move forward, so that we can be good examples after our death, which unfortunately was different for them. (4)

What do you think about Michael Jackson?

- He fought to defend everything positive (2)
- He was very good at entertaining people. But he was not a good example to us, Because he
- Did not have a good childhood and became really close to children (3)

What do you need to have more confidence in yourself?

- A good education to overcome obstacles & succeed in life (9)
- You need to know yourself (3), believe in your abilities (7) and limitations (2)
- Self-respect, because when you respect others, others will respect you in return
- We need to do what we do best.
- We should not be stuck in our failures but continue moving forward to the path we have chosen (2)
- Perseverance and courage (2), charm and joyfulness.
- Avoid bad actions and peer pressure and do good (4)
- Our parents need also to show us more love everyday (2)
- We need a lot of attention, encouragement and appreciation from adults (5)
- Social and economic support to accomplish our plans. (2)
- Prayer, count with God & obey His word, finding in Him the strength to overcome obstacles – (3)P

What does family represent for you?

- Family is children's education and basic formation (6), good unity between children and their parents (3), brings the children to God
- Family allows us to have society
- Family is a treasure
- Family is social security, is protection against people who want to hurt them (2)
- Family needs wisdom without it they can not achieve their goals
- Family is the support, guidance and advise for the future (6)
- Family is their house, where they feel good

What does church represent for you?

- Church is more important than family, because at church we find counsel (advise) (2)
- Church and family have the same importance because both of them teach us what is good for our lives. (2)
- The church helps us learn many things, but above all, about God (2)
- We like church but there is too much hypocrisy and too many hypocrites
- The church is too critical of the youth

How can you help your community?

- Depending on what I will have, I think I will share with my family and others
- By helping others, teaching them computer, music, handcrafts. Volunteering your time and your parents tools to clean up the community, planting trees so we will protect the environment against the natural disasters like erosion, hurricanes. (6)
- Cooperation and assistance to others, advising youth, helping them to have self-confidence, giving good advise to our peers (6)
- Teaching others the word of God (2)
- The mayor is not the only one responsible for the city.

Can you identify things that make you feel good and the ones that bother you?***What bothers them:***

- Garbage and other stuff on the streets and also insecurity, violence, drugs (3)
- Our suffering as people make me feel bad
- The education problem: some children cannot go to school, in some communities the children have not access to education because they lack of economic resources, causing them to be in drugs, immorality and wasting their time on the streets (5)
- Division among the Haitian society, we should have a conscience of reconciliation so other nations will not have to come and intervene in our differences. (2)
- The government is not playing his part, Haiti's situation is worsening; food importations have more value than local production. We don't have good politic leaders anymore like Dessalines, Pétion.
- When some refuses to do what I ask them to do and that could help a great number of people.
- Do not let others quench our fire. We are young but that cannot stop us from being positive (2)
- Their parent's marital problems often affects negatively their progress at school
- When our peers get pregnant -P
- When youth are more interested in their friends than in their parents. They don't follow their parents advice (2) - P
- When church leaders do not use church money for what it was originally intended. -P
- When youth tell lies and youth do not trust their peers - P

What makes them feel good:

- Hospitality that we find among Haitians makes me feel good
- That some organizations are helping some children.
- Good education (3)
- Close communication with God through prayer and faith, peace brings love to others (2) - P
- When our parents care about our emotions, our education, for our good in general (2) - P
- When our teachers asked us to plant trees in our dear Haiti
- By the grace of our family and our church that we know what is good or bad
- That my most important dream will become a reality: be an agronomist to give food to people, be a doctor, to build and manage hospitals (2) – P

Other key points discussed:**What kind of relationship do you have with your church leaders ?**

- We are not comfortable talking or approaching them, they are untrustworthy. When we share our problems to them; they use this confidential information in their sermons. (4)
- We prefer to talk to our friends. We don't feel comfortable with people older than us; sometimes we will get advises from them but not from talking directly to them. (4)
- Our leaders demand more from us than God himself.
- When we participate in church activities we feel closer to the leaders, we feel more comfortable because there are lots of people there. (2)
- We do not like leaders to tell us in their sermons to just accept our situation.
- We think leaders should help us to become more involved, sometimes we feel unused and useless. (2)

Do you attend all church activities, which ones do you enjoy the most?

- We feel more comfortable in youth activities
- We will like to take part in all church activities but they require too much from us. We think that we need to follow what the Bible tells us not the demands from our leaders.
- We like to study the Bible (2)
- Worship time (3)
- Sometimes we do drama to explain the bible stories

What type of messages (sermons) do you like the most?

- Subjects speaking about life, return and resurrection of Jesus
- Subjects speaking about good behavior and how to live better
- The sermons that teach us how to please God.
- Some of the sermons have nothing to do with children or youth, mostly at Church of God they lack structure

Most important points:

- Self-esteem (3)
- Family relationships
- Preparation for the future (3)
- Having a good education (2)
- Cooperation to rebuild Haiti and help the community (4)
- Accomplishing our projects to supply our economic needs
- The society can watch over us, but we need to avoid doing wrong. Let's do our best to do what we can as youth to protect and value ourselves.
- We want to freedom to express our thoughts
- We would like to be closer to God and have a better relationship with Him, so we can get help for our problems. (3)
- We want the youth to be united so we can show that we can be an influence
- We would like the church to be more dynamic and do what they say. We want less hypocrisy at church (2)
- We would like church members to watch the way they act, because we have an enemy who is always pursuing us.
- It is important that church leaders are more involved with youth. The church must adapt to deal with the situations young people face in real life