

Strategic Priority 2

Adolescents – supporting their transition to adulthood



The World Organization of the Scout Movement



GAPP – The Global Awareness Partnership Project

PROMISING PRACTICES

The Results

The GAPP project produced the following:-

A network of young peer educators (GAPPsters) who could run activities to raise awareness on global issues at a local level. Each young person received training to develop the range of skills necessary to run the activities.

'Bridging the GAPP' - an activity pack, which provides interesting and challenging activities on international issues which can be used in the project and more generally in Scouting. This has become a valuable tool in enabling young people to deal with sometimes difficult issues and for preparing young people to go abroad or to host Scouts from other countries.



The GAPPsters find innovative ways of bringing global issues alive

It increased the profile of development education within the Association's Youth Programme.

It developed the participation skills of the young people involved and encouraged them to take a more active part in decision making at all levels in the Scout

Association. Young People were involved in the management of the project at national and local level. This enabled young people to take real ownership of the project and it reinforced the Association's commitment to 'A Voice for Young People' - an initiative to increase the number of young people in decision making in the Association.

The Scout Association gained and increased their credibility, among Governmental and non-governmental Organisations in the UK, as a youth organisation delivering a good development education programme.

It provided valuable experience on how a network of young people can operate and be managed by the members, which was useful in the development of a new programme for young people aged 18-25.

The Reasons

The Scout Association wanted greater involvement of young people in development issues – which is considered a crucial element in the programme. Recognising that the world is getting smaller, the Association wanted Scouts to know more about the connections which exist between the personal, local, national and international, helping them to understand what it means to be a member of a world-wide Movement and to be better informed citizens of the world.

It wanted to capitalise on the momentum and interest generated in the Scouts who participated in the Global Development Village at the 1995 World Scout Jamboree in the Netherlands and build



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on the success of the Unite Project – a project which introduced development education to all age-groups in the Association.



Activities are organised at large camps to introduce Scouts and leaders to global issues

The Scout Association wanted to use young people's interest in development issues to provide the motivation for them to become involved with peer education. It wanted to train them in the skills and tools to become peer educators.

The Scout Association wanted to help young people to participate fully in decision making. Nationally, young people formed half of the Scout Management Team of the project.

The Methods

Initially funding was received for three years from the Government Department for Education and Employment to develop a partnership to share best practice between The Scout Association and The National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs.

Training Courses were run nationally to give young people the skills and practice in peer education. The Courses included training in topics such as presenting, the ways people learn, planning activities, organising events, working with adults and evaluation. Based on the experiences of the first few training courses, a Peer Education Training Pack was developed. This resource helped to make the project more widely available and allow further

training of young people at local level.

'Bridging the GAPP', an activity pack, was produced to bring together a range of activities and programme ideas for young people to explore global issues. Young people suggested the subject matter and developed and adapted the ideas within 'Bridging the GAPP'. The process of developing the resource allowed the young people involved to increase their knowledge base of development education. The activity pack is sustaining awareness in development education.

The pack contains a range of activities on the following topics: Environment, Healthy Living, Fair Trade and Debt, Justice, River Blindness and Landmines. Activities vary in length from short ice breakers and warm-up activities to longer, more involved activities. The pack contains ideas and support to enable the young people to review and debrief the participants after the activities recognising that this is when the learning really takes place.

Young People were involved in all the decision making of the project. The skills



The Chief Scout of Taiwan participates in the GAPP stand at the GDV in Mexico

and confidence that they gained in their peer education training also encouraged them to participate in other decision making bodies within the Association both locally and nationally.

Teams of GAPPsters attended international camps and other Scouting

events across the UK to promote global awareness and lead awareness raising activities. This network of young people was linked by a periodical newsletter, sharing information and encouraging the support of events at local level.

GAPP was involved with the training of the International Service Teams for the UK Global Development Villages (GDV) teams at the World Scout Jamboree in Chile (1998) and the World Scout Moot in Mexico (2000).

Our Learning

The project gave The Scout Association the opportunity to progress in development education, peer education and young people's participation in decision making. The National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs had a good reputation for involving young people in decision making and wanted to develop their youth programme. Both organisations benefited from the sharing of good practice and pooling of ideas.

However, for partnerships to be successful, each party needs to understand the wants and expectations of the other. In the project it was not always possible to maximise the opportunities for groups of young people from both organisations to meet and work together. This was due mainly to the different sizes and methods of operation of the two organisations.

Scouts in the UK were interested in finding out about the world and the connections that exist between the personal, local, national and international. This provided the motivation to become peer educators. The enthusiasm and energy of the peer educators 'sold' the project to other Scouts.

The project capitalised on the enthusiasm of the young people but, for the project to be successful, it was important for the young people to develop an identity and ensure that a framework and support network was in place, with adults who could use an appropriate leadership style.

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The project was an excellent public relations exercise for The Scout Association. The young members involved presented the project to outside Agencies and to Members of Parliament at the House of Commons, Westminster. Those who attended were impressed by their competence in presenting the project and their enthusiasm for the subject.

The network will continue to work at local level in partnership with the organisers of camps and other events to provide awareness raising activities. By working in partnership with Leaders and young people at local level, it aims to leave behind a new generation of young peer educators after each event to continue raising young people's awareness of global issues locally.

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The GAPP logo helped to give the project an identity

Our Future Plans

The GAPP network has reformed. Information is shared through a newsletter and e-group and the members are encouraged to support events at local level.

A new website is currently being developed and is due to be launched in September 2002.

With the launch of The Scout Association's new youth programme where global issues feature as an integral part, the GAPP network has an important role to play in supporting Leaders and young people in the global aspects of the programme. Plans are in place to produce more programme ideas and activity material that will be available on the website.



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Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout



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