

MANZINI REGION



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Peace Corps Swaziland G10

The theme of the day's presentation was "*Ngiyintfombafana: Ngisite Ngindlondlobale*" I am a Girl: Help me to reach my full Potential. The goal of the event was to help empower the girls to think for themselves and make good decisions in areas regarding their future. The event was attended by the Grade 6 and Grade 7 girls. We gave the definition of both Gender and Sex and what they each imply. We then discussed gender roles and the differences in Swazi culture and the American culture. We challenged the girls to dream about their futures, set high goals, and respect themselves as young Swazi women.

There were 46 girls in attendance. We had a very lively discussion about decision making with regards to SEX. When should you have sex? What are the pros/cons? What are the consequences? If you decide not to have sex, how can you empower yourself to say NO! We did a lot of brainstorming about the ways to show affection and feelings without having sexual intercourse.

One girl asked me "Who decides my Destiny?" I replied "Only You can decide your destiny. Don't let anything stop you from dreaming; reach high you can achieve."

The girls were eager to participate in the discussion that followed the presentation, where many had questions as to future programs, such as the formation of girls clubs and sports (football & netball) training. We celebrated with cupcakes and balloons to end the festivities.

We believe that in the future, smaller groups of students could be more productive. Holding the program in a large room (Home Economics Room) with 46 girls was somewhat difficult to control.