

Mainstreaming OSH into education in Guyana – Yuka Ujita

Objective

Development of national safety and health preventative culture in Guyana through school education

Methods

Tackling Child Labour through Education (TACKLE) is a project jointly launched by the European Commission and the International Labour Organization (ILO) to fight against child labour. In the framework of the School Retention and Child Labour Prevention Programme of TACKLE Guyana, with the technical assistance from the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean (ILO-Port of Spain) and ILO SAFEWORK, representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security (MOL) and the Ministry of Education (MOE) were sensitized on the whole school approach to OSH through the participation in the workshop “Mainstreaming OSH into education: Towards a culture of prevention”, November 2012, Turin, Italy. After the workshop, with the support from both ministries, working group was established aiming to incorporate safety and health into the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) which was the nation-wide programme for primary and secondary schools.

Results

Pilot safety and health educational sessions were organized in the two primary schools in May 2013. In response to the positive feedback on the pilot sessions, the HFLE curriculum was reviewed and revised by MOE with more emphasis on safety components. Further, safety and health sessions and exhibition targeting students as well as parents and teachers were jointly organized by MOL and MOE, in collaboration with ILO-Port of Spain, at the TACKLE target primary and secondary schools in November 2013.

Conclusion

Safety and health education programmes were implemented in primary and secondary schools in Guyana. Sensitization of key players, support from major stakeholders (ministries), technical assistance from international agencies, especially information of good practices and practical tools and the use of existing framework (TACKLE Guyana and HFLE Programme) were the keys to the achievements. In order to extend the initiative to the national level and to ensure sustainability, policy-level commitment of concerned ministries, capacity enhancement of teachers and relevant officials, and collaboration with all stakeholders including parents and communities are needed.