



Video Transcript: Ask Me Anything: Youth In Action

Emeli (00:00): So, Laura, if you could bring back any style of clothing, what would it be and why?

Laura (00:05): I think I would bring back butterfly dresses because I really like the big open sleeves, and it just feels whimsical, and I think those are really pretty. All right, Emeli, what is your favorite snack?

Emeli (00:18): My favorite snack is Mamuts, which is kind of sad because there's no Mamuts here in the US, So every time I go to Mexico, I really bring like a big bag of Mamuts. Ask Me Anything: Youth in Action. Hi, I'm Emeli Garcia.

Laura (00:33): And I'm Laura Torres, and we're from Campesinos Sin Fronteras. What inspired you to become a Peer Leader?

Emeli (00:41): First of all, before I was most about how I wanted to sustain myself as a Peer Educator, but after the Peer Educator Program, I realized that there was a lot of me abilities and skills that I had to obtain and for me to advance more into a professional career and also my personal growth. So it just like, the sense that I have fulfillment was that the thing that bring me back mostly.

Laura (01:03): If you were training a new Peer Leader, what tips would you give them for talking with other young people about sexual and reproductive health topics?

Emeli (01:10): I would say to create a connection. Everyone has a different story, and not all people are really open to talk about those personal stuff that they're going through. So first you have to establish the confidence and just like the connection that you have with the person that they're more open to talk to you about their problems or their experiences, then you can add accordingly to their situation and get to know each other more.

Laura (01:33): Is there anything that you know now that you wish somebody had told you when you were younger?

Emeli (01:37): It's important for you to have the support that many people can bring you. There's not one place where you can feel that you belong, but there's a lot of places that you can go and feel comfortable and feel just important that you can do stuff with your life, that there's always the chance that you can keep going forward and never give up.

Laura (01:56): How are you involved in making decisions that affect the project?

Emeli (01:59): We work with the youth, we're the youth, the kind of activities that we want to have in these conferences or projects that we have, maybe the speakers, the icebreakers, the theme, just how we interact, what kind of places where we're having these conferences and how we want to engage with the youth more, and how we can make it more fun for teenagers to be able to experience the same things as we do and getting them to understand what is their passion and what are we trying to do with all of this.

Laura (02:27): How are you involved in communicating about the project?

Emeli (02:31): With Campesinos, it's not only the youth that we work with, but also the facilitators. And so we have like a great communication with Blanca, Erica, and all the other staff, Laura as well, that how can we make all this work not only with the youth programs, but with the family programs, their grandparents, their parents as well. So it's only about communication and how we can make this implementation into a community, mostly.

Laura (02:56): Where do you see yourself in five years?

Emeli (02:58): For me, education is a big thing, so I would really like to go to university, get my bachelor's and then go to law school. But if I cannot do that, I would say I will go to study political science and then maybe an internship. I really want to go back to DC. I think it's beautiful and I think there's a lot of connections that you can make with people there. And to actually get to make decisions all over the country, you want what matters for you.

Laura (03:21): And how did your experience as a peer leader contribute to this vision?

Emeli (03:25): When I started as a Peer Educator, I didn't really know what to do with my life. It was a really confusing time, the pandemic had just passed, and I think Campesinos was just brought me the experiences, such as RYLA, that just help me open my eyes and what's actually out there. What can you actually do with your time, with your life, and just help me develop as a person, professional growth and personal growth.

Laura (03:49): What do you wish other projects knew about partnering with youth?

Emeli (03:52): When it comes to minorities, implementing youth programs is really important since you can also feel the struggles of theirs with certain communities and you can just lead them to be better, and also improve their households, and sometimes parents didn't have the opportunities that the youth has now, so we just help them open their perspectives and views, which can also lead them to their children or grandchildren to also have a better life.

Laura (04:18): How do you feel when your perspective, ideas, and contributions are respected by the adults that you work with?

Emeli (04:24): It just gives you the confidence as a youth, as a teenager, to actually want to be more involved in both a professional, and just out there in your community, when your ideas and perspectives are validated. It just feels good with yourself. You feel like you matter, you feel heard. And just as I say, inspires you to want to do more.

Laura (04:44): This video was created by the Reproductive Health National Training Center, RHNTC.