

CORPERS' WATCH

...Creating Awareness and Saving Lives

3rd Edition, Issue 3

IDENTIFYING AND UNIFYING COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH ACTIVITIES TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS

Building relationships, and gaining grounds, in a community intervention programme is no mean feat. It takes a lot of patience, commitment, trust, and interest to ensure that your programmes are accepted by them first before getting them involved and to take ownership of such programmes.

Youth Corps Members have been able to build a solid relationship in their host communities; they have been very successful in identifying with the young and adult population in these communities. This they have been able to achieve, through their established support groups in the community. This has brought about self reliance, credibility and ownership of programmes by members of the community. It has also aided in creating a strong networking for easy passage of the messages on HIV/AIDS and sexuality issues in the respective localities.

volleyball competitions as tools to reach out to the people. The results have been very exciting, as it brought about unity, team spirit, co-operation, and determination amongst the competing teams.

They gained the trust of community members by engaging them in talk shows, group discussions and attended their community meetings and, small group association meetings (youth meetings, women meeting, bike riders association). More so, the Youth Corps Members take time out to visit and work with the community members in their farmlands at the same time engaging them in discussions on HIV/AIDS.

Youth Corp Members have been able to capture more youth and adults in the communities. They have indulged host community population in various activities leading to high community participation in programme of activities.

These activities have contributed to bringing unity and oneness in these communities, and have also brought to their consciousness the need to guide against the spread of HIV/AIDS.



The Youth Corps Members are well known and respected by youth and elderly through organized HIV/AIDS prevention activities in the schools, churches, hangouts, play grounds, market places, pool stations and so many other places. They have also used sports; such as football and

inside
this
edition:

Successful Interventions
in Owan West and East
Local Government Areas

Testimonial from
the Field

Poetry

Captain's
Corner

Successful Inventions In Owan West and East Local Government Areas

AVBIOSI COMMUNITY IN VIEW

The community in its entity has benefitted significantly from Increasing Awareness and Improving Knowledge; Creating Supportive Social Network; Empowerment, Self Efficacy, and motivation; as well as Critical Thinking.

In increasing awareness and improving knowledge, a leverage of understanding HIV/AIDS as a "killer disease" was ascribed by both young and adult population in the community. This was as a result of the level of interaction amongst the Youth Corps Members, their core groups and community members. This was achieved through sharing of experience, knowledge, stories, trainings, group talk, and seminar.

They have been able to establish core groups within some quarters in the community, and the school located in it. This has yielded a high level of networking, which has aided the messaging of HIV/AIDS within the nooks and crannies of the community. With the contribution from the community, they have been able to establish a Youth Friendly Centre (YFC).

Specifically the core group members have been empowered with factual information on the knowledge of HIV/AIDS, and Sexual Health and Rights.



A Youth Corps Member having a talk with community members

Youth in the community have been made to think critically about ways to prevent and pass on the message of HIV/AIDS, this they have done by drama presentations, football competition, debate, quiz competition, and talk shows.

UOKHA COMMUNITY IN VIEW

Youth Corps Members in Uokha have been extremely wonderful; they have carried out activities in the community in an extensively high rate. These activities have increased their awareness level, improved the community peoples knowledge base on issues pertaining to HIV/AIDS.

The activities that Youth Corp Members have engaged in includes: organization of peer-led activities, which have led to members of their core groups taking over the moderation of programmes like seminars, talk shows, organized for community members.



A trained core group member speaking out to members of the community

They have an established Youth Friendly Centre (YFC) where the youth gather and talk about issues on HIV/AIDS and sexuality issues, and Youth Corp Members give counseling to the Youth on HIV/AIDS; its causes and prevention strategies.



Youth Corp Members with Members of their Core Groups displaying inscriptions

TESTIMONIAL FROM THE FIELD

I schooled at Avbiosi Secondary School where I met a girl from Benin called Irene. We started going out (dating) and though at times she lies to

me, I always corrected her. Things were okay until I heard she was dating another guy secretly, which I didn't believe at first.

One day I was in a friend's place and I saw her pass by and I wondered where she was going, I didn't bother to call her but followed her secretly until she got to another boy's house. I suspected something was going wrong and decided to wait outside while she entered.

I made up my mind after some minutes to burst into the room but the door was locked. I knocked on the door as I shouted the boy's name and he hailed me back too, then I told him I wanted to come in pretending I didn't know what was going on inside, he quickly said I should sit outside but I replied by saying "is it forbidden for me to come inside"?

He later asked me to come in reluctantly and lo I saw Irene my girl with wrapper wrapped around her chest on the bed and she was shocked.

Though I was happy my plans worked, I was crying inside because my love was having sex with another guy. I turned around to leave and the guy started apologizing as he followed me saying he was sorry but that he was in love with the girl too. I told him to continue as I am not angry over it.

Irene came to the house later that day putting up a smiling

face thinking I will forgive her like I always do. She started begging for forgiveness but I refused. I almost forgave her some few days later because of my feelings for her.

But I met Corper Jimi whose work is to teach the youth about HIV/AIDS prevention in the community, he explained a lot to me saying that abstinence is the best way to prevent AIDS. I was happy and I explained what happened between me and Irene to him. He then said that abstinence can make me a better person in the near future and he also said I should focus on my education.

This created an opportunity for me to end the affair between Irene and me. I told her I wanted to abstain from sex that I do not want to be with anyone for now. She started crying but I had made up my mind. She called her friends to plead with me but I refused and that was how I became a member of the Corp Group formed by Corper Jimi in spreading the message of HIV/AIDS causes, and prevention.

This is how the programme HP4RY has encouraged me and I am now so happy to become a correct boy in the land of Avboisi.

By a 19 years old boy

Poetry Section

THE WISEST VIRUS

A fool tells what he will do, but a boaster tells what he has done.

Believe it or not **woman** has **man** in it, **Mrs.** has **Mr.** in it, **female** has **male** in it, **she** has **he** in it and **Madam** has **Adam** in it.

No wonder men were born in between the legs of women, yet men spent all their time and resources trying to go in between the legs of women.

Therefore the AIDS virus being the wisest virus discovered that the best place to conceal and attack men is in between the legs of women.

That is why the main mode of transmission of HIV is by unprotected sexual intercourse that happens in between the legs of women.

This was presented:
Nathaniel Ebhoman

HIV PREVENTION OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT

Obituary! Obituary!!

Obituary!!!

With great happiness and joy we wish to announce the death of HIV/AIDS in Emuhi community.

Until its death HIV/AIDS was a destroyer and killer of many lives. It is survived by a wife and three children namely:

1. Sexual Abuse,
2. Multiple sex for money and Material things and,
3. Early marriage.

A statement by the eldest son, **Sexual Abuse** said that HIV/AIDS died after a brief illness which was diagnosed to be "**The provision of correct and factual information on adolescent reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention to the community members by CPED**". The statement further explained that it shall be buried on the ignorant day of unprotected sex, year HIV is real.

Announcer
Sexual abuse
(For the family)

This was presented by:
Idahosa Osasumen

Captain's Corner

Send your questions to
eselove@2002yahoo.com or
text only 08052077759



WHAT IS SEXUALITY?

Human Sexuality encompasses the sexual

knowledge, preferences, beliefs, attitudes, values and behavior of individuals.

It's dimensions involves the anatomy, physiology, psychology, and biochemistry of the sexual response:

Identity, Orientation; Roles; Personality; Thoughts; Feelings; and Relationships.

Sexuality is influenced by ethical, spiritual, cultural and moral concern.

WHAT IS SEXUAL HEALTH?

Sexual Health can be explained as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well being.

It also has to do with sex that is pleasurable, free from infection and free from unwanted pregnancy and abuse.

SEXUALITY AND RIGHTS

Sexual rights include the right of all persons, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, to:

- The highest attainable standard of health in relation to sexuality, including access to sexual and reproductive health care services;
- Seek, receive and impact information in relation to:
- A Sexuality Education
- Respect for bodily integration;
- Choice of partner;
- Decide to be sexually active or not;
- Consensual sexual relations;
- Consensual marriage;
- Decide whether or not, and when to have children; and
- Pursue a satisfying,

safe and pleasurable sexual life.

- The responsible exercise of human rights requires that all persons respect the rights of others.

LINKING SEXUALITY AND HIV/AIDS

There is an inherent association between HIV/AIDS and Sexual reproductive health and rights since well over 80% of HIV infections in Africa are acquired through sexual transmission or during pregnancy, labor, delivery and during breast feeding. The presence of sexually transmitted infections (STI's) other than HIV increases the risk of HIV transmission.

Aside from these obvious direct associations, many of the same root causes affecting sexual and reproductive health status also affect HIV and AIDS.

Gender inequality, poverty, stigma and discrimination and marginalization of vulnerable groups are affected by HIV and AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

(This piece benefitted from AHI power point on Sexuality and HIV). To be continued.....