

# CORPERS' WATCH

...Creating Awareness and Saving Lives

4th Edition, Issue 4

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AS A SUCCESS FACTOR IN COMMUNITY HIV/AIDS INTERVENTION

In recent years, community participation has emerged as an important dimension in HIV/AIDS knowledge creation and prevention activities. Understanding the value of community members' involvement in HIV/AIDS intervention activities is of critical importance for peer educators to achieve success in carrying out their prevention activities.

Community participation is a social process through which local communities engage in the implementation of health activities in their localities. Such involvement promotes acceptance, local ownership and sustainability of the community-based activities.

HP4RY members and staff trained and oversee corpers activities aimed at mobilizing their host communities, including adults and youth. Both adults and youth populations plan and implement HIV prevention activities advanced to reduce the vulnerability of host communities to HIV infection.



Corpers entry to their host communities began with visits and meetings with community leaders (Enogies, Chiefs, Youth leaders, Union Leaders, Women leaders, and so forth). This approach is to build and gain their trust and confidence, and acceptance in the community. They sought the consent of community leaders prior to the execution of any activity. This

approval is to confirm that any planned activity is in conformity to the needs and desires of the people. Corpers have put in place activities that build the knowledge base of their core group members, and sensitized the entire community on HIV prevention strategies.

Community members and elders chaired events such as seminars, talk shows organized in the community. Youth put up drama, wrote poetry and songs, and displayed cultural dances around HIV prevention themes. The goal is to eliminate fear, reduce stigma and promoted acceptance and voluntary counselling and testing for HIV/AIDS. Most of the activities had impressive turnout of elders, adults and youth.

The significance of corpers activities is the participation of communities, taking local ownership and promoting sustainability. HP4RY project is based on partnerships, linkages and net working between international, national local and NGOs, individuals groups, institutions and the participating communities.

This has brought success to not just the corpers segment of the project, but all concerned.

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# Successful Interventions in Aviodor and Ojirami Communities

## Aviodor Community in View

In Aviodor Community, we have successful HIV prevention activities, which include signposts, school posters and placards carrying messages on HIV/AIDS prevention. Corpers donated First AID Box to the public school in the community. Youth Friendly Centre has been facilitated and built through elders and youth solidarity. Other activities undertaken include raising awareness through house visits, street messaging, market messaging and rallies.



Aviodor Youth Friendly Centre

Intervention activities are implemented through good networking and interpersonal relationships between elders, adults youth and Youth Corps Members.

Surrounding Communities are also benefitting from these activities taking place in Aviodor by extending invitations to youth corps members.

## Ojirami Community in View

One impressive observation in the community is the way and manner the youth have organized themselves into various age groups and shared their involvement in HIV prevention activities.

Youth Corps members commitment and zeal to work with youth and adults is one that is worthy of commendation.



Youth Corps Members Addressing community members during a sensitization talk

Youth Corps Members on sensing the love the youth have for sporting activities introduced a new game (volleyball), which the community members have embraced in all totality. They

trained youth (females and males) on the rules and then on how the game is played.

New youth groups are been formed and the turnout on community sensitization strategies and meetings is amazing. The community have indeed braced up to the forefront of change, as youth are involving themselves in community activities, thereby delaying sexual initiation.

## Poetry Section

### THE GENEALOGY OF HIV/AIDS

**Presented By;**  
**Elegheunaulen Blessing**

In 1986 a 13year old girl was married to lack of correct and factual information about sexuality and gave birth to **Ignorance**.

Ignorance got married to **Culture of Silence** and gave birth to **Risky Sexual Behaviour**

Risky Sexual Behaviour delivered three children namely:-

1. Unprotected sex
2. Multiple sex partners and
3. Sexual abuse

Unprotected sex got married to **lack of access to contraceptives** and gave birth to **HIV**.



HIV son of unprotected sex gave birth to **AIDS**.

AIDS son of HIV gave birth to **opportunistic infection such as tuberculosis and diarrhoea**.

Opportunistic infections delivered the last born in the family called **DEATH**. Sexual Abuse married to **inadequate information** on HIV transmission.

Multiple sex partners married to **Misconception about HIV/AIDS**.

### **The Game of Volleyball and HIV/AIDS Prevention**

#### **Brief History of Volleyball**

In 1895, an American Dr Williams Morgan invented the game of volleyball.

It was first played by Young Men Christian Association (YMCA). It is a game played in returning a ball over a net in a court similar to that of lawn tennis but with the net this time as high as 2.47m and the full court size 9m by 18m making it 9m<sup>2</sup> on either side of the court.

It is played with six players on either side of the court who return the ball to the opposite side of the

court without allowing it to touch the ground on their own side of the court each side have a maximum of three (3) touches to make in returning the ball without touching ground hence for it (the ball) touching down on your court or handling more than three (3) touches your opponent will score a point. And the maximum point to win a set is "21" with a game comprising three (3) sets.

Relating the game of volley to sexuality as it relates to HIV & AIDS i.e.

#### **HIV Prevention in Relation to the Game of Volleyball**

##### ***Entering the court / [SEX EDUCATION]***

This signifies being set for the game and before one can enter the court to play such a person must have background knowledge about the game in order to enjoy the game. In relation to sexuality it means getting ready by having background knowledge on matters relating to sexuality and sex education.

##### ***Service / [MATURITY REQUIREMENT]***

This signifies the beginning of the game and for the game to begin it means each team has to be ready to play the game. In relating it to sexuality it implies that,

before one can be fully involved in the matters of sexuality she/he must be ready emotionally (been matured on the inside because of it emotional requirement) and physically (in terms of body structure) before serving the ball or getting ready to return a serve.

##### ***Blocking / [ABSTINENCE]***

The act of defending a spiked or volleyed ball it is a defensive mechanism. Hence in relating this to sexuality the best way of preventing "STIS" cum HIV/AIDS is through ABSTINENCE so blocking is related to individual abstinence till marriage.

##### ***Volleying / [BEING FAITHFUL]***

It is referred to as the act of hitting the ball to the opponents' side of the court. It is played with both hands and fingers interlocked and facing up. This implies one lady one guy, and holding tight on your partner i.e. been faithful to your sexual partner.

##### ***Spiking / [CONDOM USE]:***

This is the hitting hard on a set-up ball into an opponent's court. And this is related to condom use in sexuality i.e. if you have to



hit to the opponent court then use a condom. It is necessary for spiking so as not to be at risk either to yourself or your opponent (partner). If you must spike, use condom correctly and consistently.

### ***Digging and Setting/ [DESIST FROM MULTIPLE SEXUAL PARTNERS]***

This is the act of bringing a low ball up for it to be set-up for other team mates to spike partner since the maximum touch allowed to transfer a ball to the other side is three hence the higher the number of touch made the higher the risk of losing a point. And this is related to the risk involved in having many sexual partners in which the higher the number of sexual partner you have the higher your risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other STI's.

### **Captain's Corner**

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



In this edition, captain continues from where she stopped in the last edition.

### **Cultural Elements that Affects HIV/AIDS Transmission**

Some cultural practices affecting HIV/AIDS transmission includes;

- a. Acceptability of sex outside marriage;
- b. Polygamy;
- c. Initiation rites involving skin cutting or needle sharing(e.g. **c i r c u m c i s i o n**, tattooing, incisions, tribal marks);
- d. Unsafe traditional medical practice;
- e. Widow inheritance;
- f. Power dynamics between men and women;
- g. Perception about sex work;
- h. **O p e n n e s s o f c o m m u n i c a t i o n** between men and women;
- i. Religious sanctions against condoms;
- j. Beliefs about origins of diseases;
- k. The role and place of the girl child in the family.

There are so many other cultural elements, the above stated are some bedevilling our society.

### **Brainstorming Questions**

1. Individuals between the ages of 10 and 19years are called \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) Children
- (b) Adults
- (c) Youths
- (D) Adolescents

2. Unprotected sex simply means \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) Sex without issues
- (b) Sex with pregnancy
- (c) Sex with injuries
- (d) Sex without condom

3. Which of these is not a factor contributing to teenage pregnancy?

- (a) Curiosity
- (b) Adequate information on sexuality
- (c) Peer Pressure
- (d) Desire for money and material things

4. HIV is only found in \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) Animals
- (b) Insects
- (c) Water
- (d) Human beings

5. The first case of AIDS was reported in Nigeria in the year \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) 1920
- (b) 1936
- (c) 2001
- (d) 1986

Send text your answers to the following numbers;  
08037274397;  
08162397864.