

P2.4. An Assessment on Young People's Attitudes towards the Use of Condoms, Sexual and Reproductive Health information and Services in Four Communities of Kafue District - C. Katuta, Youth Vision Zambia; C. Mupuchi, Youth Vision Zambia; A. Mwale, Youth Vision Zambia
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Background/Significance: Zambia is one of the Sub Saharan Africa countries worst affected by the HIV and AIDS pandemic. Estimates put the prevalence rate at about 16 percent among the 15-49 years age group. The National AIDS Council of Zambia reports that 7.7 per cent of young people 15-24 years are estimated to be HIV infected. Young people's behaviour is influenced by the things they know and believe, as well as by their self confidence. Their behavior is also influenced by several other factors which will include the following, **Personal qualities:** Knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and skills. **Social environment:** social norms, traditional practices, need of money; **Services and support:** access to and utilization of health/educational services and many other factors in the environment.

Objective:

1. To identify major gaps in the use of both male and female condoms, sexual and reproductive health services and information among young people in Kafue
2. To assess the levels of knowledge on sexual and reproductive health among young people aged between 14 - 24 years
3. To determine the source of information on sexual and reproductive health among young people in Kafue
4. To assess young people's perceptions and attitudes towards condom use
5. To assess the availability and accessibility of condoms for young people
6. To inform YVZ's programming/ interventions in the target communities

Intervention/Activity Tested: Youth Vision Zambia conducted condom distribution (both male and female), held youth insaka where youth were taught on matters to do with sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Methodology: In order to properly respond to all of the study objectives, a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods were used, including participant observations, in-depth and semi-structured interviews and a cross-sectional survey. The methods used were able to capture young people's expressions, attitudes and metaphors associated with sexuality and access to services and information. The usefulness of carrying out participatory observation in and around the places where young people "hang out" was appreciated and it was conducted in Kafue town.

Findings: A total of 120 young people from Kafue total part in the study. Here are some of the findings:

Knowledge of Contraceptives: 84 of the respondents who took part in the study stated that they had heard of heard of contraceptives while 36 of them have never heard of it, and out of the total 84 who have heard of contraceptives only 32 had and or uses contraceptives contrary to 52 who have heard of them but don't use contraceptives. .

Access to Condoms and Knowledge: 112 of the respondents stated that they had seen a condom and only 8 of the respondents had never seen a condom before. 97 of the respondents stated that they knew where to get condoms while 18 of the respondents stated that they did not know. 61 of the respondents said they were comfortable with buying condoms while 55 of the respondents were not comfortable with buying the condoms.

Sexual Behaviour (Boy/Girl Relationships): The sexual behaviour of most young people indicated that 66 of them have had relationships before while 68 of them have had sexual relationships and 35 personally proposed to their partners to have sex. Out of all those who ever had sex before only 43 used condoms while 36 didn't use condoms. 36 of them confirmed ever having sex with more than one sexual partner while 30 only had sex with one partner. The sexual behaviour of most young people indicates that 9 out of all those who have ever had sex before had it before the age of 13 years while 57 had it after 13 years

Knowledge Contribution: The baseline contributed to the body of knowledge and it also assisted in the redesigning of the Youth Vision Zambia Programming in the area of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights.

Program: The baseline was able to use the findings to address programme shortcomings and utilize lessons learned for make improvements to the second phase of the project.