

August 10th, 2018

**REPORT OF ABORTION VALUES
CLARIFICATION AND ATTITUDES
TRANSFORMATION TRAINING
HELD AT GOLDEN LAND HOTEL,
ASABA, DELTA STATE (27th JUNE,
2018)**

By

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The Abortion Values Clarification and Attitudes Transformation training which held at Golden Land Hotel Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria Nigeria was part of a project deliverable of the Amplify Change funded project titled: “Breaking Barriers to Safe Access to Abortion by Adolescents”. The training had representatives of 10 8 orngaisations in attendance and was targeted at equipping key influencers in Delta state on knowledge and best approaches in talking about abortion with in-school adolescents in Delta state as well as help in programming and implementation. The following were expectations from the training:

- To empower health workers and service providers with skills and information to support young people’s access to modern methods of contraception including safe abortions.
- To mobilize a critical mass of young people who speak on issues that concern them especially on sexual reproductive health and rights.
- Discourage stigma, service provider biases and abusive approach in handling cases with adolescents.
- Expand CSE training for in-school youths visiting clinics for routine medical purposes in focal states.
- Create referral pathways for target groups seeking access to safe abortion.
- Create an oppportunity where every pregnancy is wanted and every girl is given equal right to realize her full potential.



Participants and facilitators at the Abortion VCAT training in Asaba, Delta state, Nigeria

Furthermore, the training was aimed at clarifying values, countering stigma, changing attitudes to enable adolescents seeking safe abortion to be able to access these services without fear. It was expected that at the end of the training, participants would replicate knowledge gained at organizational level and at community level to drive spread.

The Training session started with an opening prayer led by Olachi Ojumadu, Programme Officer of the Youth Network against Female Genital Mutilation. This was followed by distribution of pre-training questionnaire to assess participants' biases towards abortion. All participants completed the questionnaire and returned to the programme officer, Olachi Peace. This was followed by a brief situational analysis of unsafe abortion by teenagers in Delta state which was facilitated by Mr. Harrison Emu, Project lead for BB-SATA.



Nnamdi Esemé, Technical Adviser of YNAFGM facilitating the abortion VCAT training in Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria.

Nnamdi Esemé, Technical Adviser for the Youth Network facilitated the session on abortion values clarification and attitudes transformation (Abortion VCAT), covering areas such as:

- Teenage Pregnancy and Medical Pregnancy Termination (Medical Abortion)
- Values Clarification and Attitudes Transformation (VCAT)

- Providing Medical Abortion and Follow-up Medical Care Procedures
- Problems, Complications and Emergencies
- Developing Abortion Key messages and
- Creating Referral Pathways.

Nnamdi further spoke about the 4 Group Agreements to an enabling environment to VCAT to include:

- All viewpoints are welcome
- Speaking in “I statements”
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Step forward, step back.

Nnamdi further facilitated an experience sharing session where participants shared their experiences working with adolescents seeking safe abortion. At the end of the training, a post training questionnaire was distributed to participants to assess their level of abortion values clarification and attitudes transformation. This was completed by all participants and returned. Some participants were willing to share videos of the knowledge and how helpful the training was. This session was also facilitated by Nnamdi who collected several videos.

WHAT WORKED?

1. The ease of speaking with key influencers in a safe space using a nonjudgmental approach.
2. The expression of satisfaction and knowledge gained by participants during the training.
3. Freedom to share personal stories of challenges they face relating to handling cases of unsafe abortion and referring adolescents to health centers to access safe abortion.

Impact stories

1. After the training, all participants agreed to replicate knowledge gained at organisational level.
2. A participant disclosed that she has been a survivor of unsafe abortion and her experience serves as motivation to speak against barriers to access to safe abortion.
3. A participant who is a mother, agreed to speak with her son who recently introduced his girlfriend to her about using condoms in their relationship if it involved sex.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. Abortion Values Clarification and Attitudes Transformation is an innovative approach in discussing about access to safe abortion.
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3. Many key influencers want to talk about access to safe abortion but need spaces to do so in light of the current anti-abortion law in Nigeria.
4. That some healthcare workers pose a barrier to accessing safe abortion through biases and judgmental attitudes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop of more programmes/trainings targeted at conducting abortion VCAT training for service providers and key influencers in Nigeria
2. More youth especially adolescent girl should be part of the training to allow for knowledge spread.
3. Organise a follow up on the abortion VCAT training conducted in Asaba, Delta state to allow for sharing of success stories and experiences.