

February 15th, 2018

Report of the Comprehensive Sexuality Training conducted in select secondary schools in Delta state, Nigeria.

The Youth Network against female genital mutilation is the umbrella body of all youth-led organisations in Nigeria working to ensure the abandonment of the practice of female genital mutilation in Nigeria and other harmful practices such as child marriage. We engage in unlearning, learning and relearning of cultures, demythologization and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights. As part of our expanded project in promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights with support from our donor (Amplify Change UK), we are conducting comprehensive sexuality education for in-school adolescents in 2 select secondary schools in Delta states.



A member of YNAFGM training students of Asaba Grammar school on Comprehensive Sexuality education in Delta State, Nigeria.

The Comprehensive Sexuality Education Program is designed to bridge the information gap on reproductive health information and sexuality among secondary school students in 2 select secondary schools in Delta and Edo state. The program is intended to give the students a comprehensive summary of essential reproductive health information to make informed sexual choices and be principled in their early lives and beyond. It gives them a glimpse into the world of morality and sexuality and teaches them that as young people, they have autonomy over their bodies if equipped with key information. Furthermore, the programme encourages secondary school students to be willing to seek advice and counseling from relevant medical practitioners

and experts on issues related to their sexual and reproductive health such as unplanned pregnancies and break barriers to safe access to safe abortion.



Mr. Harrison of YNAFGM, training students of Asaba Grammar school, Delta State on CSE.

Following approval by the Delta State Ministry of Health and recommendation to two identified secondary schools in the state, the training was held on February 6th and 7th, 2018 in Asaba Government Grammar School and Oreki Government Grammar School, Ogharaeki, Oghara, Delta State respectively. The training was held in two sessions:

1. An Informative Session
2. An Interactive Session

The training modules covered the following:

- Personal skills and Development
- Relationships
- Sexual Behavior
- Sexual Health
- Sexuality, Society and Culture.

- Unplanned pregnancy
- Unsafe abortion
- Medical Abortion



Peer-to-Peer training by students of Oghara Secondary School, Delta State, Nigeria

What worked?

1. The approval from the Delta state ministry of Health for the program facilitated acceptance by the school authorities.
2. The schools expressed confidence in the Delta state ministry of health for approving such educative programmes for her students.
3. Students were more enlightened and able to share personal stories of challenges they face relating to their sexual and reproductive health.
4. Students were open about their sexual behavior and sought proper advice to make the right choices.



Cross section of students of Oghara secondary school in Delta state with YNAFGM facilitators of the CSE training programme.

Impact stories

1. After the training, over 65% of the trained students in both schools accepted to serve as peer educators in their schools
2. At the initial stage of the training, only 12% of the students of the students, mostly seniors responded to questions on sexual and reproductive health but at the end of our training, CSE questions could be attempted and promptly answered by over 70% of both the senior and junior categories. This for us underscores understanding and openness by the students.
3. The students attested to learning something new about sexual and reproductive health in addition to what they already knew from their teachers.
4. Uche Emmanuella, a senior student of Asaba Government Grammar School stated that as a young female, knowing about her sexuality will help her in the future to be more intentional about her decisions and set her goals as needed to achieve the kind of life she desires.
5. Mercy Moluma, a student of Oreki Government Grammar School said "I learnt that as a young female, I have autonomy over my body and if I want to take a particular decision about that, I should be able to without ridicule".
6. Edafe Mary, a student of Oreki also said "I learnt that the rate of unsafe abortions can be greatly reduced if we learn how to speak up and seek professional care instead of visiting quacks or doing it ourselves".

7. A senior female student who wished to remain anonymous further told us that " If my elder sister was able to get this training 2 years ago, she might have still been alive today" and she went on to narrate how her elder sister lost her life to a poorly performed abortion in their locality.
8. The male students pledged to protect the female counterparts in compromising situations and also to respect their choices in those situations

Questions asked

- Musa Fathiat, a young female student girl asked if it was right to obey boys in everything including sex because her parents said that women should not question the men and always obey them without arguing because they are the head
- Edwin Success asked if it was bad for a youth to become pregnant and keep it or become pregnant and abort it.
- Ochei Ngozi, 18 asked one of our trainers privately about how often a lady can use the abortive drug Postinor 2 because her friends say it makes a girl to not be able to have babies later in life.

Recommendations

- Both schools visited wants us to carry out further wide-scale trainings on this same subject and other related subjects such as drug abuse.
- The CIE of Oghara was present in Oreki Grammar School during the training and requested that the training be extended to as many schools in Oghara as possible.
- Young students want to learn about safe reproductive health practices sex practices but are afraid to speak out most times to avoid being prejudiced or frowned upon. Sustaining the programme will help address this.

Compiled by Mr. Harrison Emu

Project Lead, BB-SATA.