HIV/AIDS-related knowledge, sexual practices and predictors of condom use among long-distance truck drivers in Nigeria

Background. Long-distance truck drivers (LDTDs) are exposed to high-risk sexual behaviours because of the nature of their work and are at high risk for HIV acquisition. Assessing their sexual practices and condom use is an important step in HIV prevention in this target group.

Objective. To determine HIV/AIDS related knowledge, sexual practices and predictors of condom use among Nigerian LDTDs.

Design, setting, subjects. A cross-sectional survey of 116 LDTDs in Enugu, Nigeria, was carried out using pre-tested structured questionnaires.

If you have access, you can read this article here. If you would to read the .pdf file, please email REACH@northwestern.edu.

Empowering Youths to Fight HIV/AIDS
from allAfrica.com

Lagos — He came alive on the minds of the people, especially those who believed in the course he lived and died for on October 7, 2009. The event was a mixture of the young and old, the media, NGOs, international body and other Nigerians who voted to be fed with the kind of activism and vigour that he injected into his world.

The event was the Omololu Falobi's memorial lecture titled 'HIV/AIDS and Poverty: Effects on Nigeria Youth and Strategies for Mitigation'. The lecture, in honour of Late Falobi, the Executive Director, Journalist Against AIDS (JAAIDS) posed a serious question to what is in stock for youths in the country. This is because poverty makes the youth more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.

Youth, aside their adventurous lifestyle could do anything for money, unprotected sex inclusive. The economy situation in the country does not help matter as many of them are not gainfully employed, while materialism has taken over moral sense and social values as people worship materialism more than the rare values in the society.

According to the guest speaker, Benjamin Adeeyo, Advocacy and Communication Officer, Nigeria Youth Aid Programme (NYAP) no matter the level of education on HIV, if the youth are not empowered economically, nothing would be done to stem the scourge of the disease.

Adeeyo explained that many youths have lost moral sense and engage in unprotected sex because they are looking for money while many people who are HIV positive do not see sense in creating awareness and informing the society about the disease.

He declared that there are many problems facing young people, noting that the Nigeria society does not have the capacity to manage her young ones. He noted that the support of religious bodies, family stability and sustained economy as important factors in curbing HIV/AIDS among the youth and the society generally.

"There is the need for role models of good character in the country. People who are not rich but lives exemplary in the society. This would help the youth to believe that money is not everything and that you can be respected in spite your status. The society should have a way of redefining what brings integrity," he said.

"The media should model young ones with information and we should demonetarise everything about life. NGOs and media should see themselves as agents of change."

He advised people in power to be sincere in their policies and lead with integrity, saying that many youths are being influenced by the display of wealth by government officials and politicians while many government policies are not targeted at improving the standard of the youth. More so, wealth and resources that are supposed to be used to provide infrastructural facilities and better the life of citizens are been stashed away by political office holders for personal benefits.

To access the article online, go to http://allafrica.com/stories/200908240294.html
"Empowering Youths to Fight HIV/AIDS" continued, from page 1

"Leaders should be sincere in their policies. When this is in place, young people would sit up. The economy is forcing us to practice immorality. Because we are immoral, nobody wants to do legal business. The economic recession is forcing us to do unhealthy things. We are not helping the economy because we make it look it can't work," Adeeyo said.

Kingsley Obon-Ugbelem opined that poverty makes people desperate and lure them do what they could not have imagined in order to get out of it. He explained that the biggest challenge facing the youth is in dealing with poverty which is occasioned by poor government policies and programmes. "Teach young people to be financially independent. That is how to get out of poverty."

Sunday Editor, Nation Newspapers, Lekan Otufodunrin urged the youth to manage their tastes because many of them go after what they could not afford and as such engage in illicit things. He stated that the world has made so much advancement technologically and we should not over do it.

He revealed that partners of Omololu Falobi foundation would support winners of the essay competition to actualise their dream as journalists.

Chairman, Board of Trustees, Omololu Falobi Foundation, Mrs. Ngozi Ezi-Ashi said the foundation was established in line with Omololu's good works and also to cater for the young family he left behind, his wife and three children. The foundation she emphasised would contribute to HIV/AIDS intervention which he lived for, adding his life was a selfless service especially to HIV response in Nigeria.

Speaking on behalf of the family, Sanmi Falobi commended the board of the foundation for keeping the memory of Omololu alive and for their support. He declared that Omololu died at the peak of his plan and urged people to live to affect others positively.

The event came to its peak when participants of the essay competition were given award. The competition has as its topic, 'Strategies For Overcoming HIV/AIDS and Health. Participants are mass communication students from tertiary institutions drawn from the six geographical zones in the country. The best six are from Edo, Jos, Lagos, Benue, Calabar and Ondo states and were given certificates while the best three received awards.

Madu Edumodu from Ondo State came third, Abiola Olubusayo, Lagos State came second and Mathew Adeiza, from Jos Plateau State came first.

Adeiza, final year student, University of Jos expressed his gratitude to organisers of the competition saying it has given him opportunity to contribute to the fight against poverty and HIV in the country. He enjoined our leaders to fight against corruption and election rigging adding we would have a better country where everybody would be a proud Nigerian.

To access the article online, go to http://allafrica.com/stories/200910120496.html

**Rwanda: New Microbicides Tests for Better Protection Against HIV from allafrica.com**

A new phase of testing of microbicides, a possible new HIV prevention tool for women, gets underway in Rwanda. The research is being carried out and tests will begin before the end of the year for the gel microbicide. It is done by Project Ubuzima, an international NGO which promotes reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention, working closely with the Ministry of Health.

Project Ubuzima's Community Outreach manager, Marie-Michele Umulisa, said, that the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) will consider two types of microbicides: a ring and a gel. The latter, being based on anti-retrovirals (ARVs), holds great promise for protection against HIV infection. "Tests for the Gel will start in November. The research is still going on and is now in its second phase, but we are looking forward to phase three which will examine efficacy," she said.

Microbicides are products to help women protect themselves against HIV. Originally they were gels used at the time of sex, but currently the study is on ARVs-based Microbicides, called Dapivirine. According to Umulisa, this is a better way that can save many females from the pandemic. They offer long term protection and are more convenient. In addition, they are safer and will enable women to have control on their sex lives; because once the microbicides are inserted the partner can’t notice, even during intercourse.

This article continues on page 3 . . .
In sub-Saharan Africa, nearly six in ten women are living with HIV. Results from the previous study of HIV occurrence in Rwanda show that four out of a hundred women can get infected with HIV annually. Microbicides are being developed to reduce the transmission of HIV to women during intercourse. According to the study, these products would give women a new way to protect themselves from HIV, one that would empower women to protect their own health.

For a long period of time efforts to find HIV/AIDS cure, have proved futile and more efforts to address the pandemic is focused on behavioral change and treatment. However, there is need to find a broad strategy, one that focuses on prevention and works to eradicate epidemics. Microbicides are a vital part of a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy, which would complement other prevention measures like abstinence, condoms, male circumcision, and behavioral change, among others.

To access the article online, go to http://allafrica.com/stories/200910070821.html