Relative effectiveness of home and school-based sexual health behavioural re-orientation intervention: a comparative analysis of Lagos youth groups in Nigeria.

ABSTRACT

Background

Youth's sexuality still remains a major challenge to curtailing sexually-transmitted infections in Nigeria, particularly the HIV/AIDS infection. Research indicates that 1 in 5 sexually active females and 1 in 12 sexually active males had already engaged in risky sexual behaviour by age of 15. This confirms information that the 15-25 age bracket youths in Nigeria has been implicated for over 60 percent of new HIV/AIDS infections in the country. Other health statistics implicate them for their large scale unsafe abortions. The revelation demands a reassessment of the combating strategies as a basis for effective programmatic reviews. The foregoing motivates this study which examines the perceived relative effectiveness of home and school-based sexual health behavioural intervention strategies among Lagos youths because Lagos has a peculiar situation in Nigeria as a foremost attractive metropolitan city. Lagos also has one of the highest populations of youths in the country.

The study targets two contrasting youth populations in Lagos. They were administered well-designed questionnaire to obtain information on precedent and current sexuality correlates and practices, exposure to agencies-cum-instruments of sexual behavioural re-orientation, time-duration since awareness of HI/AIDS, the extent to which their perceived positive responses has been influenced by the such agencies and instruments. A logistic analytical model of positive response to risky sexual intervention strategies among the youths was examined in the context of its intervention programmatic review implication.

Method

Study Design

The study employs a comparative cross-sectional designs using a questionnaire containing structured and non-structured questionnaire to obtain its data addressed to two youth population

groups in Lagos state. The first group comprises school-based undergraduate students from higher institutions in Lagos. while the second group comprises of youths from the metropolis' informal setting home, particularly apprentices in the cities numerous markets and operatives in the auto-technical employment.

The questionnaire is divided into two (2) sections. The first section seeks for the socio-demographic data of the respondents. The second section assessed the orientation of sexual behavior and practices of the study population. In the context of this paper, risky sexual behaviours variables include: the number of sexual partners ever-had, use of appropriate or inappropriate contraception during specified previous sexual episode; use of alcohol and sex in exchange for gifts. Other questions elicit respondents self-opinion on the relative efficacy of the home and school-based strategies at reducing their vulnerable inclination to risky-sexual practices.

Among others, the paper examines the extent to which the two groups of youths under study are similar or de-similar in terms of social and demographic profiles using T-test statistical analysis techniques for the comparative analysis involving the two population groups. It also compares the two groups in terms of their sexuality practices in the context of the Health believe model (HBM) and Theory of planned behavior (TPB). It then compares the nature and magnitude of their exposure to risky sexual behavioral re-orientation strategies and correlates and their acclaimed relative effectiveness by them; and employs the Logistic regression analysis to model the effectiveness of the home and school-based intervention strategies. The paper thereafter examines the extent to which the various findings could be employed in improving existing home and school-based behavioral and HIV/AIDs intervention strategies among youths in Lagos state in Nigeria.