

CYBERSENGA PHASE ONE QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS: YOUTH ASSENT FORM

Background/ Purpose

We are from Mbarara University of Science and Technology, University of California, San Francisco, Internet Solutions for Kids (a US-based nonprofit company), and Harvard Medical School, USA. We are asking you to do a single interview with us. By taking part in this interview, you will help us understand youth HIV-related behavior and communication.

Procedures

We are going to interview you about the information you have about how people get HIV, why you do the things you do that might affect whether you get HIV or not, and the skills you have to reduce the risk of HIV transmission. Topics will include sex and abstinence. Your ideas will help us identify and refine information that we will include in a website for teenagers to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. The information that you provide during the interview will be kept confidential. Only members of the research team will have access to the data. It will not be shared with members of your family, school officials, or anyone else. The interview will last for about one hour.

Audio-Recording

We would like to audio-record your interview. The purpose of the recording is to help in writing up the interview later so that nothing is forgotten or inaccurately reported. The recordings will not be made available to anyone outside the research team. The audio-recording will be erased from the recorder as soon as it is transferred to the computer. Computer files of the audio-recordings will be password protected during the study and erased at the end of the study. You may refuse audio-recording and still participate in the study.

Risks and Discomforts

The risks of participating in this study are minimal. It is possible that you might get tired during the interview. You may find some of the questions uncomfortable or hard to answer. If this happens, we can (a) discuss the situation, (b) take a break, or (c) stop. If you choose to stop, we can either finish the interview another day or you can end your participation in the study.

Benefits

This research is intended to help us create a website that will help prevent the spread of HIV infection among youth. There are no direct benefits to you.

Alternatives

The alternative to participating in the study is not to participate.

Compensation

You shall not be paid to participate in the study. You shall receive one hour of free Internet time or an equivalent of a free cell phone air time card, depending on your choice.

Confidentiality

Your answers will be kept private. Instead of your name, a number shall be on copies of your interview. All study documents will be kept in a locked office. The documents will be kept at the Uganda Research Initiative offices in Mbarara and at Internet Solutions for Kids and Harvard Medical School in the United States. Computer files will be protected with a password.

Only researchers will be able to see your answers. Your name will not be used in any reports or articles we publish. We will not tell your parents, your teachers at school, or anyone else what you say during the interview.

It is possible that your privacy will be broken. We will do everything we can to prevent this. When we talk about your interview in reports or articles, we will hide your name and other things about who you are.

Rights of Refusal and Withdrawal

It's your choice to do the interview or not. You don't have to if you don't want to. You don't have to answer any question you don't want to. If you change your mind after you have started the interview and decide you don't want to finish it that is your choice. This will not affect your marks in school or any future medical care.

Questions and Contact Numbers

If you don't understand something, or if you want more information, please ask now.

If you have questions about this research, you may contact Dennis Nabembezi, the Study Coordinator, on telephone number: 0772 568 359 or you may visit him at the Study offices located at Uganda Research Initiative, Mbarara, Plot 11-13, Lower Circular Road.

If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, you may call Emmanuel Kyagaba, Chairman of the Institutional Ethical Review Committee of Mbarara University of Science and Technology on telephone number: 485 21387.

Signatures

I have fully explained to the participant the nature and purpose of the procedures described above and the risks involved in participating in this study. I have asked if any questions have arisen regarding the procedures and have answered these questions to the best of my ability.

Signature of Study Research Assistant

Date

I understand the information above. I was able to ask questions and have them answered. I would like to do the interview. I know that I can stop at any time. If I stop, it won't affect my marks in school or future medical care.

I agree to take part in the interview.

Signature of Participant

Date

I agree to have the interview audio-recorded.

_____ Yes

_____ No