

IN THIS TOGETHER PHASE ONE FOCUS GROUP: CONSENT FORM

Background/ Purpose

We are developing a healthy sexuality and HIV prevention program for young adults in Uganda. The program will be sent to young people through text messaging. This research study is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and is a collaboration between Internet Solutions for Kids – Uganda and the Center for Innovative Public Health Research in the US.

Procedures

You are being invited to take part in a 3-day bulletin board focus group. If you choose to take part in the focus group (sometimes also called a group interview), we will ask your thoughts about different parts of the healthy sexuality program that we are developing. For example, we might ask your ideas about interesting and useful ways we can teach young adults to talk to their sex partners about condoms.

The focus group will take place over three days. It will be online, in a bulletin board format. We will ask you to come to the website 2 to 3 times each day, when it's convenient for you. At the website, you'll see questions that the moderator has posted for you to answer.

Risks and Discomforts

It is possible that your privacy will be broken. For example, if someone sees your computer screen, this person may see that you are taking part in a study about healthy sexuality and HIV. It is very important that you use a computer that is in a private place.

To protect your privacy in the focus group, we will ask you to use a different name that is not your real name. Also, we will ask you and other young people in the focus group to not share any of what we discuss with people outside of the group. We cannot guarantee that this will happen.

It also is possible that a question we ask might make you feel uncomfortable. If this happens, you can skip the question, leave the discussion board and not answer the question, or stop being in the focus group completely.

Benefits

We don't know if you will benefit from being part of the study, but your answers are important: Your participation will really help us design a better health program, which will benefit young adults like you in the future.

Compensation

If you finish all three days of the focus group, you will receive 5,000 shillings in data on the mobile phone number you provided us.

Confidentiality

We will keep a copy of your answers after the focus group ends so that we can look at them later. Only researchers involved in this study will be able to see your answers. Your name will not be used in any reports or articles we publish. We will not tell anyone else outside of the research team what you say during the focus group.

Rights of Refusal and Withdrawal

Taking part in the focus groups is your choice. If you decide not to be in the focus group, nothing bad will happen.

If you change your mind after you have started the focus groups and you decide you don't want to continue taking part, you are free to stop.

Questions and Contact Numbers

Do you have any questions about the information that I just read to you, or about the research study?

Do you agree to participate in this study? [record answer]

If yes (consent to participate):

Great! I will email you a copy of this consent form. If you have questions about the research project, you may contact Isaac Aturinda, the Study Coordinator on telephone number: 0752123684. You may visit him at the study offices located at Internet Solutions for Kids-Uganda, Ugafode Building, Bananuka drive 2nd floor, Mbarara.

- If you have any concerns about your rights in this research, please contact MUST-IRB office; Dr. Francis Bajunirwe, Chairman MUST IRC, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, P.O Box 1410, Mbarara, Tel. 0485433795.

An IRB is a group of people who review research studies to protect the rights and safety of research participants.

If no (do not consent to participate):

Thank you for your time. We respect your decision not to take part in the focus group. To help us design future focus groups, can you please tell me why you decided not to take part?
[record answer]