

Conducting Successful Focus Groups and Analysis: Experience from a Pilot Study on Family Planning and Sexual Behaviour in the Era of HIV/AIDS and STDs

Stella Neema¹

ABSTRACT

The pilot was a qualitative study using four focus group discussions (FGD's). It was undertaken in Kampala district among sexually active men and female contraceptive users and non-users. The pilot focus group discussions were conducted to test FGD guidelines developed to collect contextual and attitudinal data on family planning and issues related to sexual health in the community. A further aim of the pilot study was to develop a coding schedule for the analysis of focus groups discussions and to formulate tips for conducting and analyzing successful FGDs and their analysis to assist other researchers. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 1998;2(2):175-182)

RÉSUMÉ

Réussir le travail avec les groupes cibles ainsi que l'analyse des données: l'expérience d'une étude pilote sur la planification familiale et les comportements sexuels à l'ère du VIH/SIDA et autres MST. Il s'agissait ici d'une étude qualitative dans laquelle l'on avait fait intervenir quatre discussions dans des groupes cibles (DGC). L'étude, réalisée dans le district de Kampala, avait porté sur des hommes ayant des rapports sexuels réguliers et des femmes utilisatrices ou non de contraceptifs. Les discussions dans les groupes cibles étaient menées de façon à tester les procédés de DGC qui avaient été mis au point dans le but de recueillir des données utiles sur d'une part, le contexte et les comportements relatifs à la planification familiale, et d'autre part, sur les problèmes d'ordre sexuels des membres de la communauté. L'élaboration d'un programme de codage était également visée afin de permettre l'analyse des discussions des groupes cibles. Des conseils sur comment organiser des groupes cibles et conduire des analyses avec succès seraient ensuite formulées afin d'aider d'autres chercheurs. (*Rev Afr Santé Reprod* 1998;2(2):175-182)

KEY WORDS: *Focus group, qualitative methods, family planning, sexual behaviour, HIV/AIDS*

¹Makerere Institute of Social Research, Makerere University, P.O. Box 16022, Kampala, Uganda

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Table 3 An example of a log book for focus groups for the study on family planning and sexual behaviour in the era of AIDS.

	FGD1 Family Planning users	FGD2 Family Planning non-users	FGD3 Sexually active men Kamwokya	FGD4 Sexually active men Bwaise	Total FGs
1. Important Health Issues					
Malaria	1	1	1	1	4
Diarrhoea	1	1	1	1	4
Silimu (AIDS)	1	-	1	1	3
Cholera	1	-	1	-	2
Retrenchment (poverty)	1	-	-	-	1
Vomiting	-	1	-	-	1
Cough (kifuba)	1	-	-	-	1
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	1
2. Causes OF HIV/AIDS					
Unprotected sex with infected person	1	1	1	1	4
Blood transfusion	1	-	1	-	2
Kissing (saliva)	-	-	1	-	1
Accidents (mixing of blood)	1	-	1	-	2
Injections (unsterilized)	1	-	-	-	1
During childbirth	1	1	-	-	2
During tooth extraction	1	1	-	1	3
From expired condoms	1	1	-	1	3
Alcohol	1	1	1	1	4
3. How to Avoid HIV/AIDS					
Use Condoms	1	1	1	1	4
Avoid multi-partners	1	1	1	-	3
Test before marriage	1	-	-	-	1
Abstain from sex	-	-	-	1	1
Advise youth to avoid sex	-	-	1	-	1
Educate people on how to use condoms	-	-	1	1	2
Drink less alcohol not to lose sense	-	1	-	-	1
Avoid using unsterilized instruments	-	-	1	-	1

Table 4 Rates of PPNG strains in different geographic areas of the world.¹¹

Geographic area	Rate (%)	Geographic area	Rate (%)
Africa		Asia	
Nigeria	80.0	Taiwan	62.0
South Africa	32.7	Korea	27.0
Zimbabwe	52.0–75.0	Japan	9.0–10.0
The Gambia	49.0	Singapore	35.0
Gabon	33.8	Malaysia	26.0
		Philippines	30.0–70.0
		India	13.6
Europe		North America	
Germany	5.0–10.0	United States	2.0–3.0
Greece	17.8	Canada	1.0–2.0
Scotland	2.8		
Spain	12.0	Latin America	
France	7.6	Atlantic Coast	8.0
England	6.5	Pacific Coast	35.0
		Chile	6.9
Australia	13.0–19.0	Jamaica	3.2

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