

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR THE PRINCIPAL

1. HIV/AIDS IN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

- 1.1 Please tell me about this school and its community.
- 1.2 To what extent is the school and community affected by HIV/AIDS?
- 1.3 What do you attribute this to?
- 1.4 What role do you think education should play preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS?

2. HIV/AIDS POLICY FOR SCHOOLS

- 2.1 Does your school have an HIV/AIDS policy?
- 2.2 What part did the National HIV/AIDS Policy play in helping you to formulate your school's HIV/AIDS policy?
- 2.3 What role does HIV/AIDS policy play in your school?
- 2.4 How is the HIV/AIDS policy put into practice in your school.

3. THE ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL AND HIV/AIDS

- 3.1 How do you create a school climate which is conducive to the tolerance towards educators and learners affected with HIV/AIDS?
- 3.2 As a leader, how do you address the problem of HIV/AIDS in your school?
- 3.3 How do you empower your educators who are teaching life skills to meet the challenges of creating HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in your school?
- 3.4 How do you ensure successful implementation of HIV/AIDS awareness programme?
- 3.5 How do you involve the health sector in promoting the HIV/AIDS awareness programme in your school?
- 3.6 How do you involve parents in the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in your school?

4. THE RESULTS OF THE HIV/AIDS

- 4.1 Do you think the HIV/AIDS awareness programmes can contribute towards greater tolerance of educators and learners infected or affected by HIV/AIDS? Have you seen any examples of this?
- 4.2 What do you think needs to be done by schools to prevent further spread of HIV/AIDS in South Africa?
- 4.3 What role should the principal play in improving the results of the HIV/AIDS awareness programme - in schools and in the community?

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR EDUCATORS

1. KNOWLEDGE OF HIV/AIDS

- 1.1 What is your understanding of HIV/AIDS?
- 1.2 How does HIV/AIDS affect your school and the community around your school?
- 2.3 In what way is the Department of Education dealing with HIV/AIDS in your schools?

2. TRAINING FOR HIV/AIDS OF EDUCATORS

- 2.1 Where did you receive training on HIV/AIDS awareness programme?
- 2.2 What are the benefits of HIV/AIDS awareness programme for your learners?
- 2.3 What challenges do you encounter when giving a lesson on HIV/AIDS?
- 2.4 What challenges do you encounter regarding the HIV/AIDS awareness programme itself?
- 2.5 What challenges do you get from parents when you talk to their children about sex?
- 2.6 What are the attitudes of parents towards the inclusion of sex education in the HIV/AIDS awareness programme?

3. HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMME

- 3.1 What written material on HIV/AIDS awareness programme do you use in your school?
- 3.2 What activities are learners engaged in during the lesson?
- 3.3 How do you utilise peer education during your lesson?
- 3.4 What challenges do you encounter with learners during class?

4. COMMUNITY VALUES AND HIV/AIDS

- 4.1 How do you accommodate community values in your lesson?

- 4.2 How do you deal with the learners' worldview with regard to HIV/AIDS? (eg misconceptions).
- 4.3 How do African belief influence the prevention of HIV/AIDS in hour community?
- 4.4 Are learners who have lost their parents or siblings due to HIV/AIDS stigmatised? And how do you deal with this?
- 4.5 What are the learners' attitudes towards the HIV/AIDS awareness programme?

5. RESULTS OF THE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMME

- 5.1 In what way has this programme affected the relationship between you and the learners in your class?
- 5.2 In what way has the programme influences learners' knowledge of HIV/AIDS?
- 5.3 In what way has the programme had an influence on the attitudes of learners towards people who are HIV positive?
- 5.4 Do you think the HIV/AIDS awareness programme has led to a change in the life styles of learners?

INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF THE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

CNM: Mr Mat you have been principal in this school for some time. How long have you been here?

MAT: Mmm... (scratching his head and thinking). I have been principal of this school for three years now. I came to this school three years ago after being appointed as a principal. In fact, I applied to many schools near my place with the hope of being appointed. You see, I prefer to be nearer home instead of travelling 90 kms to school every day. Nevertheless, I am glad I came because the level of discipline is better as compared to where I came from.

CNM: It seems you are at home in this school. Can you tell me about the school and its community?

MAT: Yes! The school was established in 1994. It was build by a missionary, a Catholic priest from England. What inspired him to build the school was that during the apartheid era there were few schools in the area. The priest identified the need for the contribution of another school to cater for the three villages. The motto of the school is "I am the way, the truth and the light."

The community is made up of different ethnic groups and people from neighbouring countries like Zimbabwe, Malawi, Lesotho and Mozambique, who came as migrant labourers to work in the mines. They are accommodated in compounds and some are given places to stay by the village tribal authority, some start new families after marrying locals.

There are many people who are unemployed. Every day young and old people queue at the tribal office with the hope of being employed at the mines. Most of them are under qualified and illiterate.

Nearly every week a learner lose a parent from HIV/AIDS related disease. Although not spoken openly most of them die of HIV/AIDS related disease. There are funerals every week, some of them are our former students.

CNM: It seems HIV/AIDS affects the school and the community?

MAT: Oh yes! The mines are situated around the school and community and they cannot escape being infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. This is evidence with the mine hospital catering for people living with HIV/AIDS.

In the community most learners have parents, brothers, sisters or friends living with HIV/AIDS. Some learners look after their parents who are HIV positive. Some of the learners head the family because their parents have died. There are a number of orphans in our school.

Grandparents too look after the children because their parents have died.

CNM: What do you think is the cause of this?

MAT: You see, men who come from the neighbouring countries leave their families behind. As time goes on they have a second family here, which is not steady. Some have boyfriends or girlfriends, without knowing their history. In this way they are at risk to contact HIV/AIDS.

There is a serious moral degeneration. The level of alcohol consumption is high. Throughout the village people run taverns and they do not have age restriction. Old people do not advise the young ones, they drink alcohol with them. Orphans live restless lives with nobody to guide them.

Due to poverty, girls turn to prostitution to get money to buy food and cloths for themselves and their young brothers and sisters.

Rape is life in the village. Babies, girls mothers and grandmothers are raped. The situation is becoming unbearable but the community keep quiet.

CNM: What role do you think educators should play in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS?

MAT: A huge number of our learners are from the village, because their parents and grandparents are illiterate, it is the learners who can enlighten them about the seriousness of the disease.

Learners learn a lot in school. They learn

- How HIV/AIDS is spread and transmitted.
- How to prevent themselves from contracting HIV/AIDS and how to treat a person living with HIV/AIDS. By practising these things in the community, they educate other members. Local clinics provide information needed by the community. Non governmental organisations also provide information through workshops.

CNM: Do you have an HIV/AIDS school policy?

MAT: Mm... (doubting) yes, but it is only on paper. It is rare that we put it into practice. The only thing that the learners do is not to touch blood. Also whenever the learners go on sport trips they carry the First Aid kit with them.

CNM: How do you create a school climate conducive to the tolerance towards HIV/AIDS educators and learners?

MAT: This is a difficult question but I will try to answer it. Normally people do not disclose their status. So we do not know who is affected. But ... learners are treated equally. When a learner is not well he/she is taken to the clinic. Sometimes they are allowed to lie down and rest.

The school is made safe for girls by talking to them especially on how to conduct themselves and what to do in case they are raped.

Doctors and nurses are invited to share their knowledge with the learners. There is a school counsellor who counsels learners when they are in difficulties. In fact every educator is also given the responsibility of providing counselling.

CNM: How do you involve parents in the HIV/AIDS campaign in your school?

MAT: Parents are involved through the governing body. The school and the parents meet during parents meeting. It is in times like this that the issue of; HIV/AIDS is discussed. Our school counsellor is a past pupil parent, a retired nurse from the community who volunteered to help the school.

CNM: What is the relationship between the parents and their children in the community?

MAT: On the whole the relationship is fine because when a learner misbehaves, parents or grandparents are called to the school and together try to solve the child's problem, especially boys who molest girls.

I think parents need to know the conduct of their children in school, especially those that gives a lot of trouble. They are spoiled from home and think that they can do what they like with girls. (Banging the table) angry. "Boys should be taught their place!" I am a parent myself and I know what I am talking about.

Boys rape girls in this community and putting the girls at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. "Boys think that the girls are their tools, they can use them and throw them away." See (extending the hand) ... how many girls have babies in the school without a father? And some of them are infected with HIV/AIDS.

CNM: How do you empower your educators to meet the challenges of creating HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in your school?

MAT: In our school, the educators have attended workshops provided by the Department of Education and the unions. The Lonmin platinum mines are offering courses on HIV/AIDS and educators who are currently teaching life orientation attend. Some of the educators have registered with UNISA to study HIV/AIDS and counselling.

One of the educators is doing research on HIV/AIDS in the school and the community. Whenever there is a column on HIV/AIDS in the newspaper she puts it in the library for the information of the educators and learners alike.

CNM: What role should you as principal play in improving the results of the HIV/AIDS awareness programme in your school and community?

MAT: As the head of the school, it is my duty to be the “father” of the learners and the educators. Even though we have a school counsellor, I will make time to listen to the learners and educators, when they present their problems. HIV/AIDS is a burning issue in our school and fear seems to dominate everything. Most educators are discourage, so I will support and encourage them.

CNM: How do you ensure the successful implementation of HIV/AIDS awareness programme in your school?

MAT: Well ... to tell you the truth, it is not easy to answer this question. One can never be sure when it comes to HIV/AIDS. Educators can do their best, but it is up to the learners to change their attitude and lifestyle. I for myself cannot measure the success of HIV/AIDS awareness programme. All I can just do is to hope in a small scale and in some learners that the implementation will be successful.

CNM: What do you think needs to be done by the school to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

MAT: Well! Much has been done to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, yet the number of youth infected is increasing by the day. In my opinion, I think the place to start is at home. Parents must take their responsibility to teach their children about sex. You see in olden days, maybe today too in some communities, the girls of certain age were grouped together in one place to be taught BOSADI (womanhood). These girls behaved well after that until they got married, if a girl made a mistake and became pregnant, she was punished and she became the laughing stock of the village. Not only the girl but that family and relatives. The family will be labelled as GA BANA MOLAO (it is a family without law).

Boys too were taken to the mountains to be taught to be BANNA (men) by older men. When they came back they were treated with respect and given men responsibility. “These were the golden days.”

So even if the custom is outdated its morals still remains. Parents as a community must device some means of educating their children about sex.

The youth too can teach each other about HIV/AIDS and its danger, which can lead into change of behaviour and attitude. Respect should play an important part in the lives of teenagers. Boys should respect the right of the girls and vice-versa.

EXTRACTS FROM A NUMBER OF GRADE 10 ESSAYS

15 November 2004

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMMES IN YOUR SCHOOL?

The HIV/AIDS awareness programme has made a very huge and positive impact to all the student, having to beware us has made many to take precautions in order to keep themselves protected from the disease. The information that I individually absorbed has cautioned me from keeping myself from negative habits like having unprotected sex, the least a person could do is to condomise but most importantly abstain extremely from sex. The info has made me look upon the consequences before having thoughts of having sex.

Again it has made some of us to think twice for the sake of our safety and future. The info has urged many to even make brighter future for themselves and has assisted them to be realistic in life, not only that but to have respect for life and yourself and to be also dignified. It has made us realise that life is fragile so we need to handle it with care. The HIV/AIDS awareness programme has encouraged many in our school to even have many who has given others courage and the information about the disease.

According to the circumstances that the disease has put our society into, it's a must that the information would be spread like the disease itself. Until the people worldwide practice what has been preached to be protected. The epidemic has made a negative impact in many people's lives which is why we need to take it seriously and start fighting against it. The info will help to reduce the rate of the dying youth, pregnancies and other sexually transmitted disease.

Having respect for yourself and others is the right thing to do. It is a dependence to yourself whether you listen or not, but if you don't do something positively about your life, sitting around and doing nothing wont help because nothing will come out of nothing. Enjoy life to the fullest but not like fools.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD THE SCHOOL BE DOING TO SUPPORT LEARNERS AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS?

Many children in schools have become orphans and had great losses because of the epidemic and some of us are even affected by the disease so which is why it would be essential and vital for the school to have councillors because it would help at least for them to have support and also see that they are cherished like others. The school should be handing out informative books like pamphlets or perhaps made extra special periods for when the programme takes place.

Another thought is that they should extract few learners among others to form an AIDS committee. It will help in times for hosting workshops that another strategy they could utilise. The school should give learners the chance of expressing their views through debating the issue, views like how should we reduce/combat the disease. Due to the circumstance we as learners could guide one another. Actually it would make a benefit to both learners and educators.

The school should not discriminate against the learners which are affected by AIDS, they should be treated like others in other words we should be equal. The school should make sure they give the learners emotional, spiritual and mental support. It is their responsibility to teach the learners more about the disease. It is on their account to treat learners on the same level and equal because ultimately they can be sued for expelling children with AIDS.

Events like AIDS awareness programme should be hosted, trips to hospitals or wherever we can get information from should be taken especially for people out there to see we are on their side. This or boxes or whatever should be put in classrooms for some donations to be taken to charity, it will make something worthy.