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**FACTORS INFLUENCING SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIOURS AMONG
RURAL ADOLESCENT GIRLS . THE CASE OF LOWER GWELO,
BAFANA WARD8**

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Our hands, Our minds, Our destiny

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DECLARATION

I, Ephemitus Ndlovu declare that this work has been done only in fulfilment of the requirements of Bachelor of Arts in Development studies Honor's Degree under the Midlands state University. It should also be noted that sources from which some of the information has been borrowed is identified and acknowledged.

The work has not been submitted anywhere else before...

Signature.....

Date.....

DEDICATIONS

This work is dedicated to all my friends and family who supported me through out my studies. May the love and grace of the Lord be with them always...

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I just want to express my heart felt gratitude to Mr Chibanda for his guidance and supervision and for making this study fun, realistic and a success.

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Last but not list ,thanks to my late father who has remained my inspiration and role model even in his absence.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS.....	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
BC.....	Behaviour Change
BEAM.....	Basic Education Assistance Module
HIV.....	Human Immuno deficiency Virus
MASO.....	Midlands Aids Service Organization
MDGs.....	Millennium Development Goals
NGOS.....	Nongovernmental organizations
OVC.....	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
STI.....	Sexual Transmitted Infections
SRB.....	Sexual Risk Behaviors
SRH.....	Sexual Reproductive Health
YPWC.....	Young People We Care
YRBSS.....	Youth Behavior Surveillance Systems

ABSTRACT

Adolescent girls between the ages of 14 and 19 are at higher risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections including human immunodeficiency virus, unintended pregnancies associated with early and unsafe sexual habits. This has resulted in the researcher attempting to identify factors leading to sexual risk behaviors in Bafana ward 8 which can assist in coming with new strategies that can reduce the in withprevalence of high risky sexual practices and reductions in the spread of HIV virus among youths in rural communities.

In the light of the problem under investigation the researcher started off with looking into various challenges faced by the girl child so as to help get an understanding of the circumstances under which the decisions of sexual risk taking are made by adolescent girls in Bafana ward 8, the case study in which the research is to be undertaken. The challenges involved issues such as girls `access to resources such as education, employment opportunities, the poverty situation and cultural dynamics and its effects on girl child development. The study also looked into how the government of Zimbabwe, nongovernmental organisations and the community at large (the church inclusive) have made efforts to empower the girl child in the area of focus.

Factors influencing sexual risk behaviors among rural adolescent girls were identified as poor parent youth communication, peer influence, need for temporary economic gains, early sexual debut, early marriages, low self esteem, culture and inability to initiate safe sex. Community response mechanisms to the problem under investigation were also brought into picture.

KEY WORDS; Adolescent girls,
sexual risk behaviors,
sexual reproductive Heath, rural area.

i. INTRODUCTION

This study seeks to examine the factors which influence the sexual risk behaviors which young people engage in, including early sexual debut, cross generational sexual relationships, multiple sexual partners, inconsistent and low use of condoms, exchange of sex for financial or other commodities gains, indulgence as a result of parental neglect and/or abuse cases which can be seen as the violation of their rights as children. Studies have shown that such risky sexual behaviors among adolescents can lead to sombre health consequences such as STIs, HIV infection , teenage pregnancy hence an increase in both school dropouts and unsafe abortion rates. Previous researchers found that unprotected sexual behavior can cause a series of harmful physical, emotional and socio outcomes especially for girls Jebioy et al (2005). It is of concern that many of these young people do not perceive their high risk status in spite of indulging in these unsafe sexual practices.

Georges Guieller and Nyovana have identified persisting gaps when it comes to knowledge regarding adolescents` sexual behavior. They stressed that,“ For example, not much is known about what motivates young people to initiate their first sex, to have multiple sexual partners and to use or not use protection such as condoms”. These gaps of vulnerabilities amongst adolescents demands more research to be carried out on the causal factors leading to the engagement of these sexual risk behaviors by adolescents before tackling their aftermath.

According to Gwede et al (2001) young people engage in health compromising behaviors at a level that justifies the development and implementation of responsive, prevention and intervention strategies within a given country, which can be rendered as the basis of other various causal factors of risky sexual behaviors especially in the Southern Africa. This study therefore examines the factors leading to the occurrence of these risky behaviors at in Zimbabwe rural setting using Bafana ward as a case study. As it is partially mentioned above, these practices place adolescents at risk of infection of sexually transmitted Infections (STIs), HIV/ AIDS inclusive and unintended pregnancies. Studies have shown that nearly half of the 19 million new STDs each year are among young people aged 15–24 years. More than 400,000 teen girls aged 15–19 years gave birth in 2009.

According to Audry Pettifor et al (2004) it is estimated that 26% of females in the above mentioned age group in Zimbabwe are infected with HIV, compared to 10% of males in the same age range. Biological factors may partially explain the gender differences. The HIV prevalence transmission from male to female is estimated to be two to three times higher than female to male transmission due to genital anatomy, more inoculum from men to women and co-morbidity from other sexually transmitted infections (STI). This therefore explains why it is crucial to focus on the girl child in Zimbabwe as they have greater chances of vulnerabilities in the aftermath of these risky behaviors as compared to the boy child. There is also evidence from Kotchic (2001) that adolescents are becoming more sexually active outside of marriage. It is feared that this might result in an increase in the spread of HIV/AIDS among adolescents, increase the number of unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions and give rise to conflict between contemporary social values that forbid sexual engagement before marriage which can be detrimental to development.

ii. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Youth indulgence in risk behavior have come to a rise in the last few years in Zimbabwe as noted by C.K Gwende(2006) et al in their research entitled- healthy risk behavior of secondary school children in Zimbabwe. On the other survey that was done by youth behavior surveillance system (YRBSS) which monitors categories of priority healthy risk behaviors among young and young adults showed that the following are the major risk behavior that are found within the adolescents. These include tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, sexual behavior that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted (STD) including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections, unhealthy dietary behavior and physically inactivity. However most of these studies have concentrated on the boy child, little studies so far have been done to a target the girl child with regards to the topic in rural settings.

From the 1990s to the present research has also shown that Zimbabwe is in the mature stage of a generalized HIV and AIDS epidemic. However it is also important to note the importance of age,

gender and geographical differences in HIV prevalence within the country. There is evidence that adolescents especially in the country side have relatively poor access to health care and education. The Zimbabwe Behavior Change Strategy (BC) (2006-2010) report has it that “HIV prevalence in small towns, farming estates and mines located in rural areas exceeds that in the major cities, whilst transmission into and within subsistence farming areas is also extensive.” The pattern of spread largely reflects aspects of the country's relatively high level of development and social relations.

In this case teenage or adolescents girls have been mostly affected as there is evidence that HIV prevalence transmission from male to female is estimated to be two to three times higher than female to male. History has proved for a fact that the girl child suffers more consequences of these sexual risk behaviors most likely than the boy child. For example since Zimbabwe's social morals strongly condemn childbirth outside of marriage, many unmarried adolescents' pregnancies are likely to be at an increase. Such unwanted pregnancies can lead to clandestine and therefore likely unsafe abortion.

In addition there are additional medical concerns for younger mothers, particularly those below the age of 15 and those living in developing countries; for example, obstetric fistula is a particular issue for very young mothers in poorer regions. For mothers between 14 and 19, age is not a risk factor in itself, but additional risks may be associated with socioeconomic factors; for example pregnant teenagers are less likely than women over 20 to receive early prenatal care.

Worldwide, rates of causal factors for teenage births range widely. For example, sub-Saharan Africa has a high proportion of teenage mothers whereas industrialized Asian countries such as South Korea and Japan have very low rates. Teenage pregnancy in developed countries is usually outside of marriage, and carries a social stigma; teenage mothers and their children in developed countries show lower educational levels, higher rates of poverty, and other poorer "life outcomes" compared with older mothers and their children. In the developing world, teenage pregnancy is usually within marriage and does not carry such a stigma.

Hence given the above scenario the study seeks to examine the factors leading to sexual risk behavior among adolescent girls in Lower Gwelo, ward 8 in the form of pre-marital,

intergenerational and multi sexual partnering. The information may be used by development practitioners to create greater linkages between child protection and anti-poverty work in low- and middle-income countries which have been seen as the mother causal factors of sexual risk behaviors on rural Adolescents girls.

iii. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The girl child is important in development high levels of sexual it among them have been a rising threat to theory contribution to the country's developmental activities. This study therefore seeks to examine the factors that lead to sexual risk behaviors among adolescent girls, focusing on Lower Gwelo Bafana ward8. The research will focus on the following factors which includes acts of multiple partnering, unprotected sexual encounters, the failure to use contraceptives, peer pressure, ignorance, low self-esteem, poor parent-adolescent communication, poor educational levels, need for economic gains caused by deprivation as well as previous experiences of sexual abuses. These acts exposes young girls to various vulnerabilities, for instance acquiring STIs, unintended pregnancies and other health and economic problems related outcomes. This has affected HIV prevalence and has caused an increase in the number of sexually transmitted infections among young girls in the country with levels that can be most severe in rural or remote settings.

As such there is still need for researchers to evaluate the risk factors associated with these behaviors and help to adopt more protective policies and strategies that can be effective to address adolescent girls` reproductive health challenges. For this to be attained it is imperative to gain more knowledge in understanding the patterns of the leading factors to adolescents` sexual risk behaviors which are at the root of these risky sexual engagements. This research is also influenced by the work of Catherene Chilman (1990) who encourages researchers to promote healthy adolescent sexuality as a “normal, positive, central part of growth toward maturity” (p.123) rather than as an inherently problematic stage of development.

iv. OBJECTIVES

The objectives are:

- To examine the factors leading to sexual risk behaviors influence among adolescent girls in rural areas. Focusing on ward 8.
- To examine community in dealing with sexual risk behaviors.
- To offer solutions and strategies to deal with sexual risk behaviors amongst adolescent girls in Lower Gwelo.

v. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Risky sexual behavior is commonly defined as behavior that increases one's risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections and experiencing unintended pregnancies. They include having sex at an early age, having multiple partners, having sex while under the influence of alcohol or drugs and unprotected sexual behaviors.

While adolescents is transition from the childhood teenage hood. It is said to be associated with various changes in one's body for instance the full discovery of one's sexuality. In most cases it is when one develops intimate interests towards persons of the opposite sex which makes us understand why these changes can develop to unhealthy sexual habits if they lack guidance in decision making.

Factors that influence sexual risks behaviors are the aspects that fuel the engagement into unsafe sexual practices in this case for adolescents in rural settings. These factors may range from one's family and community surrounding systems, poverty and educational levels just to mention just but a few. These factors helps us to understand the scope and the nature of the risky behaviors among adolescent girls.

vi. THEORETICAL FRAME WORK

Systems theory have guided the researcher to examine the influence of behaviors of subsystems which according to Kotchick (2001) emphasizes the reciprocal relations among multiple systems on a person`s behavior”(ie self, family and the extended part of the family : the community at large...) on young people`s decision making processes. According to this perspective an acute and comprehensive understanding of adolescents sexual risk behavior must include knowledge both on personal and environmental factors which may influence the decision making which may directly promote or reduce one's engagement into sexual risk behaviors.

The theory 'focuses on interactional processes of family life rather than viewing adolescents in isolation (Spring, 1999). The study will thus take `community` as a larger part of the multiple systems which impacts directly into the lives of young people at large. Laurie W. Howell(et al,2001) has it that the systems theory foundation applied to family process, helps clinicians and scientists alike understand that a family system should be seen as more than just a collection of people, but also as individual members who influence one another in a variety of ways which according to Broderick (1993, p. 37) is an example of an open, ongoing, goal seeking, self-regulating, social system, and that it shares the features of all such systems

vii. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This questions were designed to bring out the general background of the respondents including age, occupation, religion and household head which was going to contribute in understanding the what influences theory decision making.

It also brought out the respondents' major sources of sexual issues which may include health workers, peers, mass media and the extent at which parental community lines are available.

The questions were also designed to reveal one's protective measures and some of the reasons behind first sexual debut and the issues influencing the continuation of the risky behaviors. This can help to make the study a success.

viii. ASSUMPTIONS

Adolescent girls in rural areas indulge in higher risk behavior.
Leading factors to risk behaviors vary from place to place.

ix. SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

The main purpose of the study is to bring out some of the causal factors of risk behaviors among adolescent girls using Ward 8 as a case study. This research is greatly influenced by the devastating state in which most girls have thrown themselves into. Consequences of high risk taking behavior like early child bearing and contraction of the deadly disease among others have deprived and killed so much potential in the lives of these young girls. Though most operations turned a blind eye to the development of rural adolescents to young adult girls it's still not too late to make efforts to deal with this challenge. Thus the study may help to provide data to development practitioners so as to gaze focus on finding long lasting solutions to this problem.

The study may also be of important to the academic community as it may add a knowledge base of primary factors influencing sexual risk behaviors amongst adolescent girls in rural areas. The findings of the research will also give a hint on possible gaps as far as the research on the topic is concerned and in drafting preventive measures against the causal factors. The collected information might also be used by education authorities as guidelines in drafting rules and regulations that can be used a guideline for young girls in their processes of decision making in their lives pertaining the topic.

The research will also encourage other stakeholders to embark on awareness programs from time to time on sexual issues especially in the isolated country sites. To the community it may help the parents to be aware of how their children maybe prone to sexual activities and remind them of the role they ought to play as parents in helping minimize risk taking behavior that can be detrimental to the development of these young girls who can be instrumental in making the community at large.

x. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- Some of the girls were comfortable to talk about their experiences and what they know about the sexual behaviors fearing being judged by the locals hence some of them will withheld information from the researcher.
- Reluctance among the respondents was another challenge as they did not take the study seriously.
- Closure of schools was another challenge faced by the researcher.
- Financial constraints was another challenge in carrying out the research as she does not have a fixed source of income. Some girls could not answer some of the questions asked because they may assume that the information would be used by the school authorities to trap them for the school going girls.
- Despite the limitations the study was undertaken. The participants were assured that their views would be used for academic purposes only.

xi. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology refers to an instrument and style used to construct and generate research techniques. This section will focus on the methods that will be used in the study according to the research design, population sampling method, instrumentation, data collection and analysis.

This study will used the qualitative method of data collection so as to gain insight into the context in which factors influencing sexual risk behaviors can be brought out among the girls in Ward 8, Lower Gwelo making interventions in this population.

xii. Research Design

The research used the case study approach in order to explore a general problem or issue within Bafana Ward 8. Kineer and Taylor (1995) asserts that, a research design is a master plan that specifies the methods and procedures for collecting and analyzing needed information. A good

research design serves many purposes; it forms the essential framework for research action and minimizes the danger of collecting haphazard data, Cohen and Manion, (1991).

This study will adopt the qualitative research methodology. It is considered to be most appropriate because of its investigative nature. Descriptive research will obtain information concerning the current status of the phenomenon. Descriptive will obtain information on why adolescent girls are engaging in risk sexual behaviors, concerning the current status of the phenomenon and clearly stating factors which influence sexual risk activities among adolescent girls.

xiii. POPULATION SAMPLE

The population for this study will consist of 100 in and out of school girls in the ward.

xiv. SAMPLING

The sample size will consist 50 school going girls and 50 out of school girls. The researcher is going to use qualitative methodology. The research will make use of purposive sampling for example respondents that have an understanding of the problem under investigation so that all adolescents girls in the selected. However, every researcher must keep in mind that a good research which can yield reliable, valid and accurate results is to test all the people in that particular population. If testing all the individuals is impossible, that is the only time sampling techniques can be used.

xv. DATA GATHERING INSTRUMENTS

According to Bell (1985), research instruments are the tools used to gather data during a research. The success of any research is a function of the appropriateness of tools used during the research. The research thus will make use of desktop research or secondary sources, questioners and key in format interviews on factors that influence sexual risk behaviors on adolescent girls in Lower Gwelo ward 8. These instruments had their advantages and disadvantages.

xvi. QUESTIONNAIRES

The researcher will use open-ended questions to aid in the collection of data. Open format questions are those where there is no prompt for the answer and are good for finding out subjective data or when the range of responses is not tightly defined. The open format questions are difficult to code responses, each has to be read individually and they require more thought. Thompson(ed) (1996) states that questionnaire refers to formulated series of questions especially for statistical analysis. The questionnaires will help to obtain information from a large portion of the targeted respondents. The common mistake of asking too many questions and making the questionnaire too long will be avoided as people tend to answer falsely hence the questionnaire allows the researcher to get adequate information. There are very time and cost effective particularly in data collection. They can be given to large numbers of people simultaneously. Therefore it is possible to cover wide geographic areas and to question a large number of people, which makes it relatively cheap.

Questionnaires reduce bias. There is uniform question presentation and no middleman bias. The researcher's own opinions did not influence the actual respondent to answer questions in a certain manner. There were no verbal or visual clues to influence the respondent, Zenda (1992). Questionnaires may also have certain disadvantages such as the unwillingness by respondents to provide information. The inability of respondents to provide information due to lack of knowledge is also a drawback.

xvii. KEY INFORMAT INTERVIEWS

Interviews were used with key informants such as institutions and these include officers from ZRP representatives, church leaders, NGOs, committee members of projects in the area and also the village heads. Interviews were held in ward 8, Bafana in gathering data on the efforts put forth to empower the girl child and its response to the challenges faced by the girl child the area which are somewhat interrelated to factors that influence sexual risk behaviors amongst adolescent girls . Interviews had the advantage that they are flexible. The questions were modified to suit the needs of the interviewer. Interviewees are more likely to respond. They

provide a depth and breadth of information. They provide a depth and breadth of information. With interviews, a higher response rate is generally achieved. Questioning allows for probing for reasons. Data collection is immediate. Greater data accuracy is generally ensured. Generally more questions can be asked. Responses are also spontaneous

The interviews had the disadvantage that they primary data which had to be reinterpreted to be more meaningful. The moderator must always keep order, focus and time since it is easy to divert from the intended objectives during interview. Another disadvantage is that the interview preparations, arrangements and sessions may take longer time in terms visitations. Some respondents may also have limited co-operation during the sessions, hence the need to make pre-arrangements for the interview. The interviews may not be wholly reliable because some interviewees tell lies to please the interviewer.

xix. LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter is going to cover mostly the literature on which this research study is based. It involves the theories, and other explanations to the research problem. The chapter will also highlight on studies done on this particular topic subject that can be linked to the study. The chapter will also give an outline of the short comings of the previous research from which the knowledge gap is identified

Saunders et al (2007) describe literature review as the foundation for the research that is being carried out. It also states that the aim of the research is to help the researcher with a deep understanding of the subject by clarifying the research questions further. Rowley and Slack (200-+4), further state that “A literature review needs to draw on and evaluate a range of different types of sources including academic and professional journals articles, books and web-based resources”.

Tobin and Okogie(2010) states that teenagers engage in a spectrum of sexual behaviors and they are determined by the following factor. Human societies differ greatly in the cultural rules

regulating sexual risk behavior .Cultural values and attitudes regarding sexuality are distilled through experiences in everyday social contexts. Interactions within families, peer groups, and other daily contexts can influence whether and when an adolescent will initiate sexual intercourse.

Parent–child relationships, are important in adolescent sexual behavior. Better parent–child relationships are associated with postponing intercourse, less frequent intercourse and fewer sexual partners. Poor parent-child relationships may enhance susceptibility to peer influences or increase the propensity to associate with deviant friends (Whitbeck, Conger, & Kao, 1993)

xix ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The nature, purpose and process of the study will be explained to the respondents after which verbal consent were obtained from those who agreed to participate in the study. Respondents will be assured of confidentiality, privacy and anonymity of info provided and giving the choice not to partake in the study

CHAPTER ONE

THE PLIGHT OF THE GIRL CHILD IN LOWER GWELO

1.0. INTRODUCTION

This chapter explores some of the challenges and opportunities adolescent girls face in Lower Gwelo, ward 8, taking into consideration factors such as access to health, education and employment opportunities. It will also touch on how cultural dynamics and poverty situations effect on their lives. Another objective in this chapter is to explore governments` efforts in empowering the girl child in Lower Gwelo , also taking notice of how other players like the nongovernmental organizations have tried to compliment the initiatives put forth by the Zimbabwean government in empowering adolescent girls in Lower Gwelo.

1.1. COMMUNITY SETTING

According to the Midlands Province profile Lower Gwelo, Ward 8 is also known as Bafana and the ward provides shelter to a population of 9012. The ward is the only one in the constituency that boasts of a female councilor. It is located 35km north of Gweru. There are four primary schools in the ward, these include Nhlangano (2002), Mkobar, Lowergwelo Mission and Insukamini (1945). Lower Gweru and Nhlangano are the two secondary14 schools in the ward, with Lower Gweru having an `A` level status. The clinic in the ward is known as Lower Gweru and it is mission owned. The clinic has two nurses, 4 maternity beds, 8 general beds and no doctors. Is the business centre Insukamini is the name of the RSC in the ward.

It is a multi-cultured community consisting of the Xhosa/ Fengu, the khalanga, Shona and the original Ndebeles being the dominant ethnic groups. Christianity plays a significant role in shaping livelihoods in this community. The principal language is Ndebele and is virtually understood by the whole community. This mixture has had a number of possible both negative and positive effect on the community`s livelihoods and has been another contributory factor to

the increase of risk factors among adolescent girls in the area. the area is characterised by high unemployment rates especially to the youths and gardening virtually forms the basis of livelihoods for most of the families.

1.2. POVERTY SITUATION

Poverty has been one of the most prevalent and urgent challenges facing young girls in Lower Gwelo. Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency(2011\12) defines poverty as the inability to attain a level of well-being constituting a realistic minimum as defined by the society. Most families are poor, the cost of living is extremely high, and the basic necessities of life are beyond what they can virtually afford for most of the families. There is wide-spread ignorance of the needs and rights of teenage girls resulting from high levels of lack . It has exposed the girl child into various forms of exploitation .For instance challenges such as lack of sanitary pads due to the failure of guardians to afford as a result of limited income generating mechanisms available. This has resulted in most of the school-going adolescent girls have been force even to prematurely leave school or least bunk school one week in every given month during their menstruation week.

Poverty has driven some of the adolescents between the ages of 14 and 19 into domestic work in the local households or urban areas and as store keepers or bartenders as Which in the end is relied upon to cover the household financial constrains. These scenarios have exposed some of these poor girls to exploitation. For example some of them have found themselves working for several months without getting their wages and get chased away empty handed. There is evidence from a story shared by one of the respondents.

“I am 18years old I stay with my little brother who is 2years younger than I am and our 9year old little sister. My mom was recently forced to come back from the diaspora where she worked as a house maid since my father`s death in 2005. It became really difficult for us to make a living so I decided to go work as a bartender at the local bar since I had finished my Ordinary levels where I worked for 3 and half months without getting paid until I decided to stop working

after I learnt that the ones that came before me had faced the same challenge... my other objective was to raise money so that I could go to a tertiary college...it was a disheartening experienceem to leave empty handed after those months of labour."

According to MASO (2014) findings in Lower Gwelo others also end up getting sexually exploited by male land lords, fall pregnant and end up having a burden of raising fatherless children. Poverty has thus undermined girl child development in most parts of this area.

1.3. CULTURAL DYNAMICS

Culture refers to knowing/possessing and being able to use the rules, customs, and traditions in a given society (Pearce, 1990). The cultural orientations and practices are not always favorable for the girl child development in most households in Lower Gwelo. There are various domestic work burdens placed on female adolescents which includes water gathering, childcare, house cleaning, gardening among other responsibilities placed on their shoulders. In most cases these interfere with their educational processes which is responsible in as empowering the girl child to lead brighter future. This is evidenced by the quotations from the respondents below.

"House chores especially fetching and cleaning is not a problem during holidays ,when schools I am always late because we have to walk long distances to fetch water before we go school . Sometimes I don't go to school if I find the ques long..."

"Normally it's only during the farming season where I find it hard to balance school and work at home because we have to help in the fields..."

Also the general economic subjugation of women and girls generally has greatly contributed to promiscuity in terms of how the girl child is treated, some girls embark on sex for work or food if they are not provided enough by their guardians. According to the World Youth Report (2003) the different values associated with the gender stereotypes created by a patriarchal society are evident. School, peer groups and commercial mass-media entertainment convey sexual

stereotypes that shape the viewpoints held by young people and manifest themselves in matters such as career choices.

1.4.0. GIRL EMPOWERMENT

The issue of girl empowerment cannot be tackled by a single entity. It requires combined efforts by various players in the community which may include the law enforcers (the police), church leaders, nongovernmental organizations and the community as a whole. According to the World Youth Report (2003) the concept of girl empowerment emphasizes personal agency and human dignity in striving to take charge of one's own life as well as enabling them to address their own concerns and helping them to become more independent.

1.4.1. The government and Girl empowerment

Zimbabwean government has embarked on various projects in efforts to better the girl child particularly in Bafana, ward 8. For the example the government of Zimbabwe has adopted the BEAM program which has been designed to help the girl child have educational opportunity. According to Barrett and Brown (1995), empowerment of women (girls inclusive) promotes gender balance and creates a people partnership with strong community organization. However challenges still emanates in that it does not allow the girl child to further their education upper to tertiary levels which has remained an imparement to girl development in the ward.

None governmental organisations have thus tried to compliment these efforts. For example MASO has been assisting at least 10 adolescents in each of the Secondary schools in the ward, 5 of which are females. Ganyane Khosa has it that education guarantees the girl child a positive future as fully grown women hence this shows evidence of how the local government is determined to empower the girl child in rural areas specifically in the Bafana ward. Thus the Vungu Constituency Profile (2011) report shows a total enrollment of secondary students at 4 933 of which 2 420 are males and 2 513 are females. Thus a large number of the respondents had and some were still obtaining secondary education.

The government's efforts to open up educational opportunities have been undermined by that it is insufficient to cater for a large number of girls some of these girls face challenges of having to work for themselves in order to complete their education. In some cases others in area failed to write their ordinary level final examination because of high costs of examination fares. Various NGOs have also assisted girls who have been forced by their past experiences to become their own agents of change. For instance the sister to sister project facilitated by MASO officers have been instrumental in some of the girls` lives. More work thus still need to be done by the government in terms of contributing in issues to do with girl empowerment in Bafana ward.

Lack of access to local tertiary institutions is another major challenge when it comes to girl empowerment; the community cannot afford to let the girls further their education mostly because of the costs associated with them. More so the present situation discouraged them from continuing in school because to them, evidence of the benefits of going to school is becoming less and less by the day. Looking at the socio-economic state for instance does not inspire them to further their education. Being educated or not is just the same at the moment for most of these girls, with the uneducated seemingly having better lifestyles because of the shady deals they undertake or by working in the Diaspora whilst the most educated rom around without reasonable jobs thus causing a regress in girl empowerment as some of the girls do not have are not motivated enough.

1.4.2. Community and Girl empowerment

The community is one of the greatest entities when it comes to girl empowerment. In Bafana ward very little has been done by the community in terms of empowering the girl child. High poverty lines have played a significant role in owing for the failure of the community to create the platform and environment favorable for girls to get to a point of self empowerment both socially and economically. A number of responses were given from a discussion when elders of the community were asked about what the community has offered to empower the girl child.

“ When it comes to female children it is difficult for us to help them because the land is only major resource we have, we are poor the best we can do for them is to teach them how to do gardening. It is unfortunate though that the land is becoming more and more unproductive and the climatic conditions have been disappointing lately. You feel for the young girls who are starting to make a living, they struggle a lot to get food and clothes for themselves and their small families because they barely have and know other means of making a living except farming and we as a community cannot help them out .”

Further in this community a girl child is not considered worth to own anything since the community expects them to get married and leave everything she owned under her parents` watch and be under man`s control whom according to the local belief is the one responsible for procuring all the resources needed for survival. Below is the comment from the counselor on girls access to community resources.

“Generally we cannot say girls have any access to resources because this is a patriarchal society... the only way they can access resources is through man when they get married where they will also face various forms of exploitation through their subduction to men.”

More so the power differential between adolescent girls and the older from a girl child empowerment perspective has been the major impairment to girl child development in Bafana ward. Though girls are empowered with skills in terms of the agricultural activities which is the basis of economic development and survival, because of the power differences girls are forever bound to be loyal to the fulfill the interests of their older counterparts in the community. They do not get the opportunity to explore other genres or to test their own capabilities in terms of other economic activities that is to say that agricultural experiences and skills remain insufficient as an empowerment entity to the girls. For this reason these girls remain in the predicament of the chains of poverty which runs through generations as they mature to have their own families.

1. This thus gives us a broader picture of the girls position in the area when it come to access to resources. It has always remained as one of the major concerns in Bafana ward when it comes to access to resources.

1.4.3. Church leaders and Girl empowerment

Bafana ward is dominated by the Christian faith belief for example 80% of the population are church goers. For example the seventh day Adventist church and various Pentecostal churches dominate the place. This means that church leaders have a great influence in the community and have a part to play when it comes to girl empowerment that is in terms of promoting and upholding the rights of the girl child.

A bad picture has been painted around the area due to the increase of child marriages. Though church leaders touch on the issue there is very little done in terms of protecting the girl child. During a discussion the community highlighted how most religious unions emphasize on biblical ways of marriages rather than addressing the issue of child marriages.

On the other hand there has been cases of rape and child abuses in churches which go unreported. In some cases church leaders being the perpetrators but the cases go unreported because the church members will be afraid of tarnishing the so called `man of God`. For a example a lady from Insukamini one of the areas in Bafana expressed dissatisfaction on the issue.

“ We have an AFM church leader `umfundisi` whom after pregnanting a 16 year old girl was only demoted from the church leadership but not handed over to the police to prevail and it is not fare both for the child and the parents who will be left to face the burdens of raising a child of another selfish and irresponsible grown man”

According to the local based organization in Bafana, Midlands AIDs Service Organization 21 % of girls in the ward getting married under the age of 18 belong to one church or the other. In support of this point a member of the SDA church membership revealed this;

“Our leaders are supposed to be the light of our communities ,I have served in this church it has been a couple of years now but I do not recall our elder (pastor) directly addressing the issue of child marriages in church gatherings and I think its not the best for us as a society...”

In relation to children`s rights this means that the church leaders have not been using their influence to make better the life of a girl child which has had crippling effects to girl development.

1.4.4. The Police

The police are the major law enforcers in which the community looks up to for its protection and for the maintenance of peace and order in the society. Despite the availability of the ZRP offices in ward 8 life has been difficult for the community in terms of security issues, the police force has been characterized with high signs of corruption, discrimination and lack of care. In many cases it has poor public services and failed to remove fear and protect community members. A few individuals commented on the issue.

“This community is as good as not having any police at all. They send police from Mashonaland to Midlands who do not know and care for our people, all they worry about is money. They do not care about removing the perpetrators from our community to protect our children instead they take money from the rapists and murders and let them remain in our midst. Our children have no freedom to walk around without fear because they are well aware anything can happen to them any second. It is a very disappointing.”

“We do not feel comfortable when we see these police officers because in most times they want to take from us rather than protect. It is even better to report cases to the chief because only there cases are properly, these police officers tend to be useless in this small community”

In times where the police are willing to do their job according and play their protective role in the community they face various challenges which makes it virtually impossible for them to carry out necessary procedures. One police officer was asked to comment on how they work with the community in dealing with issues to protect the girl child .

“The major challenge we face in working within this community is that community members barely cooperate to give reports of cases. For example in most rape and various abuse cases especially on girls becomes very difficult to deal with. Witnesses are normally afraid to come up front and testify on issues that happen around. No one wants to testify, For example in most abuse cases neighbors are usually well aware but it is not possible to get all the evidence for them hence all efforts to protect these girls become worthless. We as the police are willing to protect the citizens of Zimbabwe but if only they can cooperate with us then it will be a lot easier.”

1.5. MINORITY ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Adolescent girl`s lives in lower Gwelo is normally characterized by Low self-confidence as they have fewer financial resources, and higher unemployment than their male counterparts even across the district. They are also challenged by the need to balance numerous family and community responsibilities. Though `Bafana ward is one of the few wards in the Vungu Districts with better services in terms of health and water facilities Vungu Constituency Report(2011). Health wise many barriers exist, including embarrassment and fear of discrimination (for example in a case of STI infection) ,negligence of guardians, negative attitudes on the part of service providers and prohibitive costs.

“In our days being educated or not is just the same. There are no jobs. Its worse for us girls the best chances of us getting employed is to become a vender, bartender, work as a house maid or even go to the Diaspora and find something out to do like the rest of the youth...”

“when I grew up I always wished to be like one of the educated women who drive their own cars and look after my parents but my parents are too poor they cannot afford to take me to the college because it is too expensive for them now I’m just staying at home hoping to get married to a rich man one day...”

“I do not want my children to be uneducated like I am, my wish is for them to learn and speak English unlike me their mother but now I am not sure if that can be possible schools fares are going up and the piece jobs I do to help my girl child learn are not sufficient to keep her at school it breaks my heart...”

A study carried out by Masinire (2014) in the Bafana ward shows positive results in terms of women’s access to for instance in water resources. He revealed that women and girls do play a pivotal role in terms of water harvesting like fetching water from the local sources. Empowerment also refers to the creation and expansion of one’s knowledge, skills, decision making and other power bases giving them the capacity and capability to exercise influence and leadership on their own (The National Gender Policy: Republic of Zimbabwe, 2013). Women and (in case of Lower Gwelo) play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water yet they are rarely included in its management, neither are they consulted in programs and policies to do with the water resource management in many developing nations as stated by Calder (2005). His research findings also showed that these girls and women also face various challenges such as walking long distances to fetch water at their nearest water sources which reduces their time in terms of taking part in other economic activities.

The study established that young people had virtually lost confidence in the future prospects of the country. For the majority of them spoken to during the study, leaving the country into the Diaspora was the only viable option for the youth to live a decent life.

“for the sake of her children In this community when a girl finishes her ordinary levels around here if she does not go to the Diaspora to work find work like the rest of them do she is expected

to wait until she gets a man or guy who can marry her, make children and become a good house wife who can at least work with her hands in the gardens to provide food for her family, what is important is for her to just learn how to preserve her marriage.”

“This community has nothing to offer us to make a life out of it the easiest way available to make money is to join the illegal gold planners but it is very difficult to make it there because people kill each other there. If you are weak like most us then it is a done deal for you”

1.6. Conclusions

Although efforts have been made to attain equality, equity and social justice in adolescent girls` positions in terms of education in Lower Gwelo, they continue to be marginalized in the enjoyment of legal and human rights 6hù6by cultural dynamics which emphasizes socially constructed gender roles that suppress girl capabilities and disempowered them. a lot still remains to be done by the Zimbabwean government, Community as well as other stakeholders like the nongovernmental organizations to improve the girl child`s position in the society and in alleviating their poverty levels for developmental purposes.

CHAPTER TWO

2. FACTORS INFLUENCING SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIOURS AMONG

ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN LOWER GWELO, WARD 8

2.0. INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a period of rapid change to an individual's life. It is caused by biological change, the transition from childhood to adolescence brings about cognitive, social, and emotional changes as a result a growing number of adolescent between the ages of 14 and 19 in Lower Gwelo ward 8 are becoming at higher risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections as they are increasingly becoming highly sexually active. Though there has been much research done on issues to do with young girls sexuality, there is less information regarding factors that influence the predominance of sexual risk behaviors in rural Adolescent girls. This chapter focuses on the leading factors to sexual risk behaviors amongst adolescent girls in Lower Gwelo ward 8. This information can assist in understanding sexual risk behaviorism in relation to preventing the spread of HIV and AIDS.

Factors revealed from this research includes parent- adolescent communication on sexual health issues, low self esteem as one of the major driving force of risk taking directly evolving from high poverty levels in the Bafana Ward as well as previous experiences of sexual assaults, ignorance, mass media, early first sexual debut, initiate safe sex as greatly influenced by cultural gender stereotypes, influence from peers, need to exchange sex for economic gains as well as lack of guidance.

2.1. FACTORS INFLUENCING SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIOURS

A number of adolescents between the ages of 14 and 19 in Lower Gwelo are highly sexually active, yet in most cases many do not take appropriate protective measures to prevent the spread

of the viral disease HIV as well as preventing unintended pregnancies and other health related problems.

2.1.1. EARLY SEXUAL INITIATION

Adolescents knowledge about sexual risk taking has received considerable attention as a predictor of sexual risk behavior but in Lower Gwelo there does not appear to be a clear association sexuality or HIV and adolescents sexual risk practices as evidenced by the thinking behind first risk sexual debut amongst adolescent girls .According to Dekeke GD & Prof. Sandy PT (2014) timing of sexual initiation is considered as an important factor in discussions relating to pregnancy and STDS among youths. A significant number of these first experiences took place without condoms. The research showed that the majority of adolescents do not plan to have sex. During the interventions, a question was asked of the main reason why adolescents had first sex. The finding was that 60% of females aged 14-17 years and 20% of those between 18-19 years of age admitted on being involved in sexual activities when asked said that *"it just happened"*.

Below are some of the responses from the participants between the ages of 14 and 17.

"I thought everyone was doing it and why not me so I did it."

"I was just tricked that it was not going to be painful and long."

"I just felt like it."

"Thought we were playing and it just happened"

"When I started it was all like a joke I just wanted to know what it felt like..I could not stop thereafter"

Responses from the girls between the ages of 18-19

"I had turned 18 so I was old enough"

"My boyfriend did not believe I love him thought the only way to make him believe was to give to him."

"Was scared to wait until I was too old because I was told when you try when you older it becomes more painful."

"I did it because when you turn 18 you can do whatever you want"

These responses show high levels of vulnerability these young girls are exposed and it calls for measures to be taken to help young teens in positive decision making on their sexuality.

Results also highlight the fact that in many cases sex is not planned but *just happens* during social events (weddings, birthday parties, religious camp meeting, Festive celebrations). This becomes a continuous habit which is detrimental to the lives of these young girls. Majority of the respondents indicated that they had their first sexual initiation on the above mentioned set ups. This increases chances of being infected with sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies hence an increase of unsafe abortions which can cause various continuous health complications like uncontrollable bleeding among others.

2.1.2. POOR PARENT-ADOLESCENT COMMUNICATION

Adolescents` sexuality is a significant development stage which needs parents and guardians to play their part to offer guidance and direction as this stage is where most adolescents are not sure how to behave or handle the changes they experience in their bodies especially with regards to their sexuality. HIV/AIDS issues are generally characterised by poor parent-youth communication on sexual youth reproductive health (SRH) issues. This has hindered young people from developing healthy decision making mechanisms and relationship. For most of

respondents' parents and other adult guardians mostly do not feel comfortable giving advice or inform young people about it.

Below are some of the quotations from the respondents that prove poor communication between youths and parents on sexual issues.

"I have never spoke to any of my parents about sex because to them I am still like little girl to talk about those things. They would even kill me just to hear that I have a boyfriend. Mostly If I am seen standing with a boy they shout at me and accuse me of sleeping around with men."

"Talking to my parents about sex can never happen. We are not even allowed to watch people merely kiss on TV"

"I am normally told not to play around with my body until I get married, no much detail about sex I have heard from my parents"

Parents perspectives on parent-youth communication on sexual issues.

"Why would a normal parent talk about sex to their children. How are you going to discipline her when she is starting to behave in an unacceptable way when you are the one who taught her the ways."

"Children of today know even more than we do about sex even if you tell them the right ways they just ignore and regard you as old fashioned. Mostly we just see by a growing tummy so it's pointless..."

"Media has found way into our society, our little children send each other funny videos as a parent I'd say it's critical and crucial for us to advice our children before they are led astray in this corrupt world of ours.. "

"That is why they have their aunts and uncles it is their role to play, ours is to make sure the kid has the food on the table, cloths to wear and a roof under her head."

This shows that most parents in Bafana ward8 do not concise it their role or appropriate to talk to young girls about issues to do with their sexuality which is the reason why the area experiences high risk taking behaviors on adolescent girls.

Yes, culturally it is the norm that aunts have to discuss issues of sexuality with the adolescent but in Lower Gwelo the emergence of media and social network has killed that pattern hence young people rely on information they discuss amongst each other and for those with access to the internet services tend to get the little information which in most cases is even miss interpreted and miss leading.

Research has is that parental-adolescent communication can be instrumental to provide monitoring to young people`s behaviors. Advancing this line of inquiry, researchers have also attempted to differentiate between the relative significance of parental monitoring, communication and support as they may be related to STI risks. For instance girls who revealed a positive line of communication on the topic with their parents, adult guardians like brothers and sisters had a more constructive view of sexual engagements.

2.1.3. TEMPORARY ECONOMIC GAINS

According to Peter A (et al) adolescents, like adults may be prone to engaging in risky behavior due to perceptions of personal vulnerability and the tendency to focus on the immediate rather than long term consequences. This is the case with the majority of both school going and out of school adolescents. At least 1 out of every 4 respondents was found to be engaging into risky behavior for economic gains. For example one local lady aged 35 gave a report of some mother figures sending their adolescent daughters out to the Urban or influence them to get into

relationships with older man whom in return would buy the family groceries or aid the family financially as illustrated below.

“Life is very difficult for us I sell vegetables and tomatoes at the local shops, sometimes it is very difficult to get buyers yet at home I am expected to bring at least bread or something to help my siblings to carry to school but I realized its so much better to have a man who will buy me a bread and other small things to take them home with me, that way I won’t have to worry a lot even I don’t get buyers for the day”

“When my father died, our bread winner I never thought i will be happy again. I am grateful for the support group because the activities we do every weekly have made me strong and have learnt a lot. I have realized I can live longer despite HIV positive.”

“I get bored of eating sadza and vegetables everyday these days there are many “windis” and taxi drivers they can take you to town freely and buy you whatever you want If get In a relationship with and full his needs”

The lack of educational support for young people, especially girls at higher levels of learning that is Ordinary and advanced levels get involved in inter-generational sexual relationships for money to buy food and pay for other learning expenses for example buying stationery. 15% admitted to have had sex for financial or economic gains. This exposes these young girls to sexually transmitted infections and there are reports around about how some of the girls with similar habits ended up getting pregnant and dropping out of school of which mostly with no hope of them coming back to school thereby destroying possibilities of them attaining a better tomorrow.

“I met a boy who bought me a phone something I always wanted and many gifts like watches I thought he really loved me because he also promised to marry me it is unfortunate that I fell pregnant and he denied his baby telling me he a wife and kids but I had to drop out of school and had the baby anyway at 14. Now I ‘m just seating at watching my kid grow “

“Ah I thought I was just having fun enjoying my youth not that I lacked anything. I got pregnant and that was the end of it all...”

These behaviors are greatly increasing and are most likely to increase the HIV/AIDS pandemic and unsafe abortions in the area which is an obstacle to these girls' development as they are most forced to involuntarily drop out of school.

2.1.4. LOW SELF ESTEEM

In Lower Gwelo low self-esteem is a phenomena which is greatly associated with negative self on grounds of different factors for example one's family social status in term of poverty levels which can be revealed through the type of dressing, food one eats the home set up, self or parents health status (particularly the HIV / sexual abuse status) as well as having persons in the community having knowledge concerning one's private life mostly associated with sexual abuse experiences.

The findings show that for some of the girls sexual engagements have a direct or indirect influence on them as individual. It is basically one's ability to fit in for instance the claims that *sex makes them feel important* is an important aspect to be taken note of. It means that such risky behaviors can be even more prevalent as one can utilize the least given opportunity to engage in sexual activities regardless of the aftermaths just to feel important.

A local leader who is a chairperson for a newly formed Young People We Care Club (YPWC) which operates under MASO for persons between the ages of 13 and 24 concluded that mostly because of high poverty levels girls tend to engage in risky relationships in order to feel visible. She stressed that older adolescents between the ages of 16 and 19 find more confidence in having multiple relationships mostly with older man who are between 5-10 years older than them, which places them at even higher risk of contracting the pandemic.

Studies have also shown that in most cases of this kind such girls have no confidence in initiating safe sex which has placed most of these adolescent to have unintended babes, unsafe abortions and most of all to become a threat to the community as they are most likely to spread the disease the more in the community after contracting the disease.

2.1.5. ECHANGING SEX FOR MONEY

On account of poverty and the urge to lead a better life some of the adolescent girls in Bafana ward have been enticed into dangerous sexual practices including prostitution with the need for money being the main drawer factor of the behavior. From the research carried out it came out that some of the guardians and caregivers also play an important role in sending their own children into prostitution either due to economic pressure or child abuse.

2.1.6. FAILURE TO INITIATE SAFE SEX

The researcher found out that risky unsafe sexual practices are predominant on the girls who are highly sexually active either with a single or multiple partners due to failure to initiate safe sex. . Jackson (2002) alludes that cultural and behavioral factors such as gender stereotypes reduce the leverage women (and girls) have in negotiating protection with their sexual partners. This has in most cases resulted in unplanned pregnancies and STIs infections during adolescence which is said to often disrupt the educational completion and subsequent rise to mobility of many young people. For example some of these girls are taught by their aunties and religious leaders to be passive sexual partners. This affects their ability to assert themselves in the society.

Thus in most situations, the foundation of intimate relationships among young girls and boys are in principle perennially the cause of subjugation of these adolescent girls and the basis of their vulnerability.

Another aspect that makes it difficult for the girls` initiation of safe sex is the limitations in the access to condoms in the area. Normally there is only one or two places where adolescents can buy condoms and adolescents may fear to get condoms from these places for fear of the news

spreading to others in the village. From the researched data, girls between the ages of 14-17 significantly expressed discomfort when it comes to condom to condom procurement. These attitudes towards the procurement of condoms from the local is illustrated by the following quotes the researcher got from the discussions during research.

“I am shy to buy condoms here, when the people see me buying condoms they will think that I sleep around with every man and I am a prostitute...”

“Everybody knows my parents around this place I `m afraid they will report me at home And they will kill me because we are forbidden from having sex before we get married”

In some cases the responded showed fear to initiate safe sex especially to those with partners that have a negative attitude towards the use of condoms as they fear the consequences associated with it.

“I am 17 years old and my boy friend is 25 years of age. We always have dry sex because I want to prove to him that he is the only one in my life because I do not want to break up with him I love him and he promised to marry me when I finish school.”

For others, since they are in relationships with men 5years or more older than it becomes very difficult to resist unsafe sex as they take advantage of the biologically weak young girls. Females are said to be more physically susceptible to sexual abuse than males which may compromise their capacity to effectively negotiate condom use (Briere & Elliott, 2003; Dembo, Schmeidler, & Childs, 2007; May-Chahal & Cawson, 2005; Ohene et al., 2005) especially in this context.

The research also showed that adolescents whose partners had negative attitudes towards condoms (for example finding them to be uncomfortable) were less likely to have used them and the beliefs that one doesn't have the same feeling during sex when using a condom are common among adolescents. These older man often have more power than most of these adolescent girls sexual partners and typically drive condom use at the time of indulgence.

“My boyfriend is an illegal gold planner and he does not like using condoms he gets angry at me and threatens me every time I try to talk about safe sex. He tells me he has never seen anyone eating a sweet with its cover on it.”

These attitudes have strong negative influence on condoms use is detrimental to teenage pregnancies. For example at least 15 of the respondents were with child. This shows how severe the use of condoms is in the area. A worrying trend is the comparison between rural and urban girls where girls living in the rural areas are twice as much affected by teenage pregnancies (144/1000 girls) compared to 70/1000 urban according to some findings.

The participants also revealed that getting infected with HIV or any other sexually transmitted infection it not a big deal in itself as most of them are more worried with getting pregnant instead. Thus they prefer making use of other methods other than the use of condoms which include the withdrawal method, birth control pills, depo and the morning after pills. For example at least 20 % of these participants made use of other forms mentioned and only 7 of them admitted the use of condoms to prevent pregnancy instead. This thus puts them at much higher STI-risk of infection.

“...at least if you`re HIV positive you can take medication and live normal life but I cannot afford falling pregnant because I will be forced out of school and maybe chased away from home so I use depo just to make sure then I won`t have to worry about these so called condoms. After all sometimes the break so there is no difference if you are men to be infected you will be infected condom or no condom”

“Boys are fond of refusing their babies when a girl falls pregnant. I do not want to have a babe and raise him all by myself so I use contraceptive every month because we get them free from the clinic.”

Early pregnancies are also linked to higher abortion rates resulting from the failure to initiate safer sex. At least 1 in 10 abortions worldwide occurs among girls between the ages of 15 to 19

years, meaning that more than 4.4 million adolescent women undergo the procedure every year; 40 per cent of these abortions are performed under unsafe conditions. Self-induced abortion is also common among adolescents in many countries.

Boys and men are socialized to think that sex is their right and they are entitled to it whenever they want it, masculinity is culturally constructed (Bourdillon, 1987). Most relationships have men taking the lead in the when and how aspects of sex. It is difficult for women to initiate sex or discussion about sexually related topics.

2.1.7. SEXUAL ABUSE

Rape and other forms of sexual violence are increasing, and young girls tend to fall victim to intimate violence more often than do older women. For the victims discovered by Midlands Aids Service Organization (MASO) (2014) in ward 8, 30 per cent of the sexual abusers of these girls are the duty conveyors such as fathers, uncles, grandfathers who are supposed to be torch bearers in the adolescent sexuality socialization stage. Adam (2005) states that adolescents who once encountered sexual abuse and neglected during childhood age by adults often exhibit risky sexual behaviors at a high extent. Daniel (1996), says that adolescents engage in risky sexual behaviors either as a result of what they see around them or from what they copy from peers and adults. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS (2009) young adolescents girls who experience sexual abuse and coerced sex when they were young have shown to indulge in sexual risk behaviors. Adolescents are also having early sexual intercourse as a result of sexual abuse.

Research has shown that of all the different kinds of sexual abuse, sexual violence inside the family appears to have the most damaging effect on the victim, and incest seems to be the most difficult experience to survive mentally. After being raped or abused within their own families, girls suffer from various sorts of fears, shame, guilt, nightmares, insomnia, anxiety and depression, which can result in suicide attempts or aggression and anger thus according to Douglas Kirby (2011). Despite the seriousness of this type of violence and its consequences,

many rapes, sexual assaults and cases of sexual harassment still go unreported because of the stigma and trauma associated with them and the lack of sympathetic treatment from legal systems; many girls and young women say nothing simply because they do not want their parents and others to find out about their degrading experience. With overdone corporal punishment Straus asserts that the price of such disciplinary “virtue” includes adolescent depression and suicide, generalized alienation, as well as the fusion of sex and violence

Studies have shown girls who are victims of abuse have decreased ability to negotiate condom use with abusive partners (Santelli, 1996). Tsitsi Panganai sees sexual violence as greatly associated with a number of mental health and behavioral problems in adolescence and adulthood (Briggs & Joyce; 1997). Abused women reporting experiences of forced sex are at significantly greater risk of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder than non-abused Women (Creamer, Burgess & McFarlane, 2001). In another study of adolescents in France, a relationship between having been raped and sleep difficulties, depressive symptoms of which self-blame is among the most common of both short- and long-term effects of sexual violence and functions as an avoidance coping skill that inhibits the healing process.

The victims will often internally blame themselves because of the violation of boundaries, broken trust, and the feeling of personal danger which occurs with rape. As a result the victim will look for support from the husband, boyfriend, or spouse who may be willing to accept reality and leave or blame the victim.(Tangney and Dearing,2002). Thus some of the girls end up engaging in sexual risk behaviors because of loss of self respect and support.

From some the discussions it also came out how some of the girls are manipulated by man young or old promising them to marry them but get dumped after having fallen pregnant. Girls in this position normally face the burdens of looking after the kids by themselves and suffer heart break and rejection.

2.1.8. PEER PRESSURE

Peer pressure has a lot of bearing in adolescent's decision making especially on issues to do with sexual activities. Most respondents reported to have gained education about sex from their peers. Thereby believing that their friends are also sexually active. Thus at least girls 42 of the school going respondents clearly indicated that their friends that are not sexually active and revealed an ability to resist sex at all costs.

There is also a belief that is common among the girls in the area especially the school leavers that abstinence is a sign of lagging behind and lack of opportunities. Young adolescent girls are more likely to follow norms of their peer negative networks. For example when individuals are centrally embedded within those channels there is a high degree of reciprocal behavior relationships isolated

“At school some girls have pornographic magazines thus where we normally get to discuss about sexual experiences and learn then we go experiment from the knowledge.”

To support the point above Whitaker and Miller (2000:251-273) alludes that peer pressure can cause teenagers to engage in sexual intercourse even when they are not prepared for it. This is probably because youths have the potential of internalizing the opinion of their peers, and externalize the same when exposed to destabilizes, such as the presence of a sexual partner (Duncan 1992:319-327). Duncan (1992:319-327) stated that no influence in a youth's life is as powerful as peer pressure since they can mobilize their energy either to engage or not to engage in sexual risk behaviors. Some studies suggest that having a larger network of friends, or a network that includes a higher proportion of older or opposite-sex friends, may be linked to sexual activity (Miller et al. 1997; Cavanagh 2004).

2.1.9. CULTURAL PRACTICES

The findings of the research proved that there are various cultural practices that have a bearing in adolescent girls sexual risk behaviors in Bafana ward. Cultural values such as adolescents

sleeping arrangements, funeral ceremonies and other traditional gatherings, sex education provided by aunt figures and its passive attitudes towards arranged early marriages, the *sibali* relationships where a brother in law treats his wife's sisters as his second wife in a wife, forced marriages. These cultural aspects regarding issues of high sexuality among adolescent girls are distilled through experiences in everyday social contexts. .

One respondent in our discussions testified how they sneak normally for new year celebration parties where a lot of sex talk goes on between boys and girls and it may be hard for some of the girls to resist some of these temptations. This is the period where most girls fall pregnant.

Also from the words of a MASO OVC co-ordinator Nyathi operating in Bafana ward8 that "*culture kills the potential to develop on most teen rural girls because they are often obliged to enhance family wealth through lobola which forces them to get married earlier than the age of consent, an infringement to the rights of the girl child.*" One can conclude that cultural dynamics which raise high expectations on girls play a significant role in encouraging early marriages. This places them at risk of contracting STIs.

In support of the above point Jackson (2002) stated that the training of adolescent girls into future wives involves a process of having sexual intercourse with an anonymous man selected from the community, a clear exposure to diseases, unwanted pregnancy, early marriages and psychosocial consequences. At the end of the training session the girls are given new names depending on their sexual performances and how good they are in practicing new tactics. it as a way of survival and affects girls as young as 13.

More over culturally the common belief in the area is that once a girl is pregnant by a guy that guy should automatically become her husband mostly because the parents are afraid to be humiliated since they strictly observe the Christian faith belief one way or the other. In these situations were at least 3 respondents from the surroundings. Thus girls who are pregnant are forced to marry those boys or man when they fall pregnant. In most instances these girls are forced to get married to boys who barely even love and care for them who end up cheating on

them at times with multiple partners extending the chain of unprotected sex thereby putting these girls in risk of contracting the HIV infection.

A study by Tsitsi Panganai shows that socialization of the boy child can lay a foundation for sexual violence in the Shona or Ndebele cultures which are dominating in the Vungu district, ward 8 inclusive. The boy pursues a girl proposing and the girl is expected to play hard to get otherwise she is labeled as sexually weak and promiscuous. It is for this reason that when a boy makes sexual advances to his girlfriend, he does not take seriously her attempts to say “no” because he anticipates them anyway, and this adds to his aggression and use of force (Mungwini and Matereke, 2009). Thus men are always have to determine the amount of force they have to use on a woman. If it is too much it becomes rape and if it is too little it achieves nothing (Musarurwa, 1988). For this reason most girls have fallen into sexual activities unwillingly in the area because of lack of knowledge with regards to their rights as girls they let these issues surpass without getting reported for their protection. Thus foundation laid by society makes it difficult for these girls and the rest of the community to define sexual violence in their cultural context.

Early sexual intercourse has been very common because of practices that put young girls at risk of unprotected sex, probably with an HIV infected partner especially if the man is infected, because sometimes the man’s age is usually double or more than the age of the girl. In the Zimbabwean Ndebele/Shona culture *umlamu/Chiramu* for example leaves adolescents girls at a very compromising situation. *Umlamu/Chiramu* is when a younger sister’s of the married wife is culturally allowed to sexually play with the sisters husband. Some of the young sisters may even end up having sexual intercourse with these men after having been by one thing or the other. Some girls who would have just played with the sister’s husband may feel like experimenting after they have enjoyed the play. For example a 29 year old mother of three who happens to be married to a polygamous man with 5wives, of which she is the 4th wife reported that these practices led to her nephew aged 15 getting impregnated by her husband who is almost 4th fold her age in her own house. This shows the seriousness of the situation.

Most religious leaders in Zimbabwe reveal that some unique church principles encourage early sexual inauguration among adolescents’ girls. Particularly the Johanne Masowe apostolic sect

justifies marriage of the girl child even below 15 year of age. For example, a 2000 study titled A dynamic Contextual Analysis of Young Peoples Sexual Reproductive Health in Zimbabwe indicates that the Apostolic church (Mapostori) expects girls to marry older polygamous men as part of the process of meeting God's expectations. While this practice may offer parents increased financial security, it is potentially harmful since older men are associated with higher levels of HIV infection. Also, in the wider society older men prefer to have sex with girls because of a myth that suggest that sleeping with a young virgin "cleanses one of the infection.

2.2. COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO ADOLESCENTS RISKY BEHAVIOUR

Young people have been disempowered by current economic challenges for example high unemployment¹ and under-employment rates that have exposed them to poverty and at loss with regards to survival strategies. Out-of-school youth were realized to be a lot more affected because society expects them to be independent and instead to remit support to their families, in spite of their levels of economic disempowerment owing to the current economic situation. This has prompted young adolescent girls to engage in various risky behaviors thus the community has adopted various ways as a way of responding to the factors influencing the risky behaviors mentioned earlier in the chapter.

The community takes advantage of the Christian faith doctrines which dominates the ward to try and provide direction and guidance to the young lives. When asked one old lady who is a guardian to at least 5 teen orphans was proud that at least devotion to Biblical teachings had been influential in taming her grand kids behavior when it comes to sexual risk behaviors as they stick to abstinence awaiting marriage which according to the Christian faith the most and only appropriate time for a girl to be sexually involved with not more than one man who is non other than her legally recognized husband.

Since poverty or deprivation is the most urgent driver of adolescent risk taking behaviors the community has adopted the income generation projects initiated by various organisations like

MASO, CARE, PLAN, AGAPE amongst others. These have been assisting the community to manage to send their female children to school, buy necessary stationary and deal with various food insecurities. These projects have improved livelihoods hence forth the reason for reduction in some of the sexual risk behaviors among local adolescent girls.

More so these projects have also assisted out of school young girls by keeping them busy as they spend more time helping their guardians with in running the projects thereby reducing chances of them engaging in these risky habits. In some cases business initiatives such as backyard tuck shops, hair salons are simple projects which have been run commonly by girls in the area. These help to reduce Illegal or adverse coping strategies including prostitution, crime and others Teenagers and young adults have been drawn into these activities, to make a living, deepening the generation gap between the old and young. From the interview the researcher also found that instead of spending time engaging in risky behaviors most young girls from the ages of 17 end up leaving the country into the Diaspora as a viable option for the youth to live a decent life.

Again community based organizations have been assisting the poor households with educational assistance payment of school fees and started income generating projects like poultry projects though four of those who were going to schools said it was not easy for them to keep the projects running and had since stopped because the projects had to be balanced with school work which would affect school in the end. Six respondents who owned accommodation offered a room to rent to individuals as a source of income and they were relying on the rentals as income base encountered a challenge with some lodgers who were difficult in paying rents on time. The issue of sustainability of the livelihoods which were recorded from the interviews plays a pivotal role in earning the children a living through positive coping strategies. Most heads felt the jobs they engaged in were short term and seasonal therefore could not be relied upon and also some jobs had small income like phone airtime vending which one respondent was doing during weekends and school holidays.

Since the AIDs pandemic took most adult lives most grandparents took over the parenting role so as to reduce the child or youth headed household and offer guidance to young girls. This would

intern reduce chances of adopting to risky behaviors by teenage girls and maintain households and families together.

A community care giver is a person who regularly voluntarily assist a household whose members are related or not related to him/her in doing household chores, offering advice, giving spiritual, psycho-social and material support. Questions on information regarding the community volunteers were aimed at establishing information about the welfare of the children in the community. All the community volunteers interviewed had an understanding of the situations of the child headed households in their community. The researcher also sought information pertaining the number of years of experience as community volunteers and the number of children they assist in the community.

Three community volunteers interviewed indicated that they had more than five years experience working as community volunteers and working with average of 10 and 15 children per volunteer. The children included orphans who were in the care of their relatives. The Community Volunteers have reasonable experiences to share about the situations of the child headed households in the community. The researcher asked the caregivers about the psychological wellbeing of the children and how they related with friends and peers and all the caregivers agreed that they believed the children`s psychological wellbeing would not turn up to the best stable status.

The care givers discussed concerns around information and education on health care, that education on reproductive health and HIV and AIDS was be beneficial to efforts that address the concerns of the child headed households. They noted that lack of education on reproductive health increased the vulnerability of children. Increasingly, child-headed households had become accepted as a form of alternative care and as a placement option for children in need of care. The question arose as to whether it was justifiable and legitimate to regard child-headed households as a novel alternative care mechanism to cope with the increasing number of children without parental care. In one study, child-headed households were posed as third in the line of preferred forms of alternative care, the order of preference being:

The organization proposes to participate in community dialogues so as sensitize the community and other stakeholders on issues affecting youths and to capitalize in advocacy on youth issues. Young people and adults openly discussing issues through communication skills acquired and able to engage the community on issues that affect them. Youths, partners (Service Providers) and the community got an opportunity to interact and clear myths and misconceptions on about youth sexuality. The FGDs are a useful vehicle of further clarifying issues with young people. It also gives the youths the opportunity to organize themselves and impart information to their peers on various topics such as drug and substance abuse.

Some volunteers have established good working relations with responsible authorities in the communities through trainings on Child rights and Caring Skills workshop was held at MASO Centre. Volunteers testified that Child Protection committee (CPC) had been formed and this has gone a long way in protecting children's rights particularly girls. It must be noted however that girls are a special group in because of their increased vulnerability to abuse hence through social and kids' clubs discussions center around how best to protect the girl child. Girls have been included in the recently established child-led CPCs and will be pivotal in abuse reporting and will be instrumental in advocating for children rights.

Just like cultures in most parts of the African continent the dominating cultures in Lower Gwelo ward 8 (Christian and Ndebele) views any sexual relationship with an unmarried girl as unlawful unless sanctioned by marriage and authorized by the parents. In a way this is directed at protecting the unmarried woman from sexual abuse or harassment. However should a man have sexual intercourse with an unmarried woman, seduction charges are paid to the girl's parents irrespective of whether the girl gave consent or not (GoldGin and Gelfand, 1995). Furthermore, the parents of the woman, in these cultures, as stated by Ncube (1998), retain power over their daughter's sexuality even after attaining 18 years which is the legal age of majority or 16 years which is the legal age of consent, until the girl is married. After marriage the power is then ceded to the husband upon payment of lobola.

More so the elders in the community have continued to encourage abstinence among young people as a way of reducing sexual risk behaviors. Though there are others who fail to abide to such advice there is still quit a number of girls in ward 8 who adolescents who are aliens when it comes to sexual involvement issues one way or the other.

Efforts are also made in terms of reporting most abuse cases so that all the perpetrators who are a threat to the lives of these adolescent girls are brought to justice. This also helps to protect the health of the victims by making use of health centres where the victims can be given the PMTCTs. Thus helping discipline man in the ward and minimizing sexual abuse cases on adolescent girls either by family members or other community members at large. This thus protects the psychological well being of a child which plays a significant role in decision making processes. This however on the other hand becomes less effective as some of the victims are afraid to disclose cases of abuse especially when they are happening under home setup. This means that such scenarios would persist without any hope for betterment yet in the processes its greatly distractive to the girl child's development physically and otherwise.

Also in some cases it becomes difficult even after reporting sexual abuse toward these young girls said one lady when interviewed since the Police have been taking bribes from the accused persons and end up brushing it all away. At times these abuses continue happening to negatively effects the community at large.

2.3. CONCLUSION

The findings from the study indicate that factors leading to sexual risk behavior increase problem risk-taking and that as risk-taking tendency increases, the probability of exhibiting problem behavior increases because of factors such early sexual initiation, lack of experience and information on reproductive health issues, sexual abuse, need to exchange for economic or money gains. When looking at the risk factors particularly the risk factors of the personality system (i.e., stress, depression, self- esteem,) result in an individual's risk-taking, hence her increased display of problem behavior. Risk factors in the perceived environment (e.g., life setting, relations with parents, and attitudes of friends) have a significant impact on adolescents'

risk-taking and thus increase the probability of them exhibiting problem behavior. Finally, a positive relation has been determined between risk-taking tendency and problem behavior.

Considering the specific context in which they live. In particular, while risk factors that lead to problem behavior could be reviewed, the ways to reduce risk factors should be reconsidered with respect to protective factors. Cooperation between family, school and the whole community at large should be established so that counseling services can provide guidance not only to the family but also to the adolescent by providing them with the information and skills needed to ensure their sexual and reproductive health over a lifetime. Such guidance should at least focus on identity development, self-awareness, and future orientation.

The lower Gwelo community has made efforts to deal with factors leading to sexual risk behaviors like making use of grandparents in playing the parental role on orphaned teenage girls, engaging in income generating projects to provide food and education to some of these young girls to keep them from adopting or turning into the risky behaviors as a way of living better life. Some guardians have encouraged hopeless girls who are out of school to the Diaspora where they get better job opportunities and a better living which has indeed worked to some extent. But so much still needs to be done as risky behaviors have proved to be vastly increasing among rural

CHAPTER 3

CONCLUSIONS, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.0. INTRODUCTION

The results from the study shows that most girls in rural settings particularly in Lower Gwelo have their first sexual encounter in their teens. Given that many of them do not always use condoms and other forms of contraception consistently or effectively pregnancy and STD are real risks in the lives of most of them. Thus, there is need for appropriate and more education about the value and benefits of delaying sex as well as accurate information about condoms and other forms of contraception. Understanding the factors outlined here can also help programs target with more intensive and effective interventions on the girl child. It is imperative that programs get to focus on factors that are strongly and causally related to sexual risk related issues and that are amenable to change by the program. A point to be noted from the study is that the factors that influence rural adolescents sexual risk behaviors and decision making are rooted in communities, families, schools, faith friends and peers as well as in individuals. Some factors are direct while others influence directly.

Again this study addressed issues that include not only female dynamics on factors that influence their choices on matters involving their sexuality but also education, their access to resources such employment opportunities, empowerment, attitudes, values and inequalities embedded in the cultural dynamics towards the girl child. The research also evolved around various challenges faced by adolescent girls using Bafana ward 8 as an epitom of adolescent girls situations in rural communities and the efforts that have been made by the community in dealing with such challenges which have become some of the obstacles to their development thus becoming indirect contributors to sexual risk behaviors among adolescent girls.

On issues to do with sexuality factors such as relationships with parents, situations of lack resulting from high poverty, ignorance and attitudes of friends have determinative effects on sexual choices made by adolescent in Bafana ward8 . The community has thus taken upon itself to try and bring possible solutions that can be on its reach in dealing with factors that influence risky behaviors among adolescent girls in their community.

3.1. CHALLENGES FACED BY THE COMMUNITY

One of the observed phenomenon was lack of female role models as one of the major reasons why adolescents tend to make poor choices (sexually) which has great implications to the well being of their livelihoods. This makes it Most of girls thus have no targeted goal for example the girls who cannot even spell out the kind of profession they would delight to persue. Thus measures and strategies should be employed to allow local girls to access quality education and pass so that they become role models to inspire their youngsters in the community. Such initiatives can holistically help improve the circumstances under review then it would be easier to talk about sustainable development.

when it comes to non state players like the none governmental organisations in their interventions to promote girl child development in Bafana ward has been undermined by various factors such as community resistance such as their refusal to grant freedom of attendance to the girl child to the proposed programs and in cases where freedoms are granted the girl child tends to be reluctant and the fear of expressing themselves on issues that concern them. Also another major challenge is that most nongovernmental organisations that have operated in the area have had very few programs directed targeted on the girl child, most of the programs do involve them indirectly which is not the best to in alleviating the current girl child situation.

Furthermore there seems to be limited resources in Bafana ward. For instance the major resource sustaining livelihoods is land where they survive through garden. This resources turns out to be insufficient for the community to offer to the girl child which makes it virtually impossible to

alleviate poverty which happens to be the major factors influencing sexual risk behaviors among the local adolescent girls

With all things equal one of the most prominent challenges faced by girls are cultural practices. Since the community traditions are directly influenced by religion which forbids the use of condoms and contraceptives it has fueled the difficulties in discussions between parents and the youths. As a result it remains quit heady to deal and correct factors that influence sexual risk behaviors in the area.

3.2. PROBLEM ANALYSIS

Some of the challenges of lack which Bafana girls face were observed to be as a result of parents ' negligence to take full responsibility of their duty to provide for the girl child. For example when it comes to education you will realize that most families have all the resources that can be instrumental in acquiring educational funds like more than 5 cattle in a house hold which can be sold to educate these young girls. To them investing in the girl child is a waste of time and resources as the social norms believe a girl child when mature ought to simply get married, be under one man and make children thus resulting to high levels of negligence and undermining the rights of a girl child which is an impendment to her development.

For those in genuine situations when it comes to developing the girl child educationally there seemed to be no knowledge within the community with regards the scholarship systems. For this reason quit a number of intelligent girls who have managed to pass with high grades have remained seated at home as a result of ignorance. This shows that the government and other stake holders still has a great role to play when it comes to helping the community develop through dishing out necessary information.

There is generally great reluctance within the community when it comes to observing and preventing factors influencing sexual risk behaviors. The community is fond of being spoonfed by nongovernmental organisations and thus they tend to be reluctant to matters that will give

back material things in a short space of time thus community response mechanisms are not exercised to their fullest.

3.3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ The numerous issues affecting the girl child ranging from issues of education, to girl child labour especially at domestic level will require concerted efforts by the government, community and nongovernmental organizations to champion the rights of the girl child.
- ❖ There is need for the government and other stakeholders to sensitize parents and guardians in rural communities on how to open up frequent and positive lines of parent-youth communication about sex. This can in the long run lead to less risky sexual behaviors, which in essence relates to the use of condoms and one sexual partner phenomenon.
- ❖ There is need for community leaders to encourage members of the community to create a platform and favorable environment for the girl child to attend gatherings and programs which are designed to be beneficial in educating them about their sexual health issues which may bring unnecessary risk taking habits to an end. In rural areas need to be more connected to the internet so that they may access most recent and relevant information on their sexual reproduction health issues at their fingertips which can tame some risky behaviors.
- ❖ There is need for condoms to be put in schools for easy access to those who are already indulging.
- ❖ Teachers, other school staff, religious leaders and health-care providers must become a major source of information on adolescents' sexual reproductive health and better yet identifying teens at greatest risk of unprotected sex. Some of the most important factors are readily measurable (age, family income, school performance, and engagement in

other riskin need of help and they should always be in a position to deliver to the rural adolescent girls.

- ❖ Programs providing teenage girls with the basis for developing programs to prevent teen pregnancy and STD/HIV should be put in place.

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	Jehova`s Witness	
	Zion	
	Muslim	
	Johan Masowe	
	Pentecostal church	
Parent/ Guardian		
	Both parents	
	Mother	
	Father	
	Grandparents	
	Relative	
Occupation	Other	
	student	
	School leaver	

CONSENT FORM

PROJECT TITLE: AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE EFFECTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON THE HEALTH OF WOMEN IN GWERU URBAN

Principal Investigator; Miss Epheanitus Ndlovu ,student with Midlands State University]

Phone number; 0778448407

Supervisor; Mr T. Chibanda

You are being asked to participate in a research study of the factors influencing sexual Risk Behaviors on Adolescent girls in Bafana ward 8. The purpose of the study is to identify how the health and development of girls are being affected by sexual risks behaviors.. There are no risks involved...If you indicate your willingness to participate in this study by signing this document, I assure you that any information obtained from you will remain strictly confidential but will be used only for academic purposes.

Voluntary Participation ;Participation in this study is voluntary. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue participation at an time.Before you sign this form, please ask any questions on any aspect of this study that is unclear to you. Signatures

Participant _____

Date.....

Researcher _____

Date

Appendix 1 (questionnaire)
SECTION A;BACKGROUND

Age

Occupation

What was your last level of school?.....

If at school, what grade/ form are you in?.....

Who do you stay with?.....

Which church do you go to?.....

As a girl , what challenges do you face in your community? [give a brief explanation]

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

APPENDIX 2 QUESTIONNAIRES

SECTION B: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH KNOWLEDGE

{Please tick where possible}

How can people protect themselves from getting HIV

	Yes	No	Don` t know
Avoid sexual intercourse (don` t play sex)			
Have faithful one-to-one relationship with uninfected partner			
Use condoms during sex			
Avoid sexual contact with sex workers (prostitutes)			

Take antibiotics prior to sexual intercourse			
--	--	--	--

During which times of the menstruation does a woman have the greatest chance of becoming pregnant?

	Yes	No	Don` t know
During her period			
At about 14th day of her cycle			
Right after her period has ended			
Just before her period begins			
A person can have a sexually transmitted disease (STD) without knowing it.			

APPENDIX 3 QUESTIONNAIRS

SECTION C: INFORMATION ON SEXUALITY AND HIV/AIDS

[Please tick where necessary]

Have you ever discussed about sexuality and/or HIV/AIDS with other people?

If yes, with whom?

01. Mother

02. Father

03. Brother/Sister

04. Other family member

05. Friend of the same sex

06. Friend of the opposite sex

07. Boy/girl friend

08. Teacher

09. Health practitioner

In general, what has been your most important source of information about AIDS or HIV?

01 .Teacher/school AIDS clubs

02. Friends

03. Mass media

04. Family

05. Health practitioner

06. Books/films

07. don` t know

[please tick one]

Have you ever had sexual intercourse?		
How old were you when you first had sexual intercourse?	Less than 18	
	Equal or above 18	
	Don` t know	

Who was the person?	Boy/girlfriend	
	Husband	
	Other person	
How many different partners have you had sexual intercourse with in the last 12 months?	One	
	Two or more	
	None	
If yes Which method or methods are you currently using to prevent AIDS or STDs?	Abstinence	
	Condoms	
	Faithful to one partner	
	None	
Did you or your partner use any contraceptives during the first sex?		
Have you ever received anything in exchange for sex? If yes specify what		

	Yes	No
Is there any pressure from your friends for you to have sex?		
How most of your friends indulge in sexual activities?		
Does sex make you feel more important?		
Would you consider abortion		

APPENDIX4

COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS

What do you think are the major factors influencing risky behaviours amongst teen girls?

As a community what are you doing to try to reduce factors influencing Sexual Risk Behaviors on adolescent girls?

Interms of development what efforts have you made to ensure girl child development in your community?

Can you really say girls have access to resources in Bafana ward?

What do you think can be done to reduce risk factors and help girl development?