

CYBERSENGA PHASE ONE

QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS: PARENT CONSENT FORM FOR CHILD PARTICIPATION

Background/ Purpose

We are from Mbarara University of Science and Technology, University of California, San Francisco, Internet Solutions for Kids Inc. (a US-based nonprofit company), and Harvard Medical School, USA. We are conducting interviews with children and teenagers at your child's school to better understand the information, motivation, and behavior skills young people in Mbarara have to act in ways that can prevent HIV. We are asking permission for your child to take part in a single interview. By taking part in this interview, your child will give us a perspective on youth behavior and communication.

Procedures

We will talk to your child about the information he or she has about HIV transmission, the motivation teenagers have to behave in ways that reduce the risk of HIV transmission, and behavioral skills teenagers have and do not have to reduce the risk of HIV transmission. Topics will include sex and abstinence. Your child's ideas will help us identify and refine information that we will include in a web site for teenagers. The interview will last for approximately one hour.

Participation is completely voluntary; it is up to you whether your child participates or not. The information that your child provides during the interview will be kept confidential. Only members of the research team will have access to the data.

Audio-recording

We are asking permission to audio-record your child's interview. The purpose of the recording is to aid the researcher in writing up the interview so that nothing is forgotten or inaccurately reported. The recordings will not be made available to anyone outside the research team. The audio-recording will be erased from the recorder as soon as it is transferred to the computer. Computer files of the audio-recordings will be password protected during the study and destroyed at the end of the study. Refusing the audio-recording does not mean your child cannot participate in the study.

Risks and Discomforts

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

Benefits

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

Alternatives

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

Compensation

Your child shall not be paid to participate in the study. He or she will receive one hour of free Internet time or an equivalent free cell phone airtime card, depending on his or her choice.

Confidentiality

Your child's privacy is protected as a participant in this study. There will be a number rather than your child's name on copies of his/her interview. All of the interviews and other research documents will be kept in a locked office of research study personnel at Uganda Research Initiative in Mbarara, Internet Solutions for Kids and at Harvard Medical School in the United States. Computer files will be protected with a password.

None of the information your child gives us will be shared with anyone outside the research project. We will not report this information to you or to his/her school. His or her name will not be used in any written reports or published articles that result from this project.

Though unlikely, there is always a chance of breach of confidentiality when taking part in a research study. We will make every effort to protect your child from this risk. Every effort will be made to ensure that descriptions of individuals in reports or articles are done in ways that mask the identities of these individuals.

Rights of Refusal and Withdrawal

Your child's participation in this study is voluntary and you have the right to refuse to allow your child to participate. If you or your child changes your / his / her mind about participating at any time, including during the interview, you/your child have the right to withdraw.

Questions and Contact Numbers

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

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

Signatures

I understand that the information given above is true to the best of my knowledge and ability. I have provided all the necessary information the parent/guardian may need to voluntarily make his or her decision to allow his or her child take part into this study. I also understand that the parent/Guardian has the right to allow his/her child to participate or not to participate. He/she/the child has the right to withdraw from the study and even during the course of the interview if chooses to do so.

 Signature of the Study coordinator

 Date

I have read/been read this information, and I understand the purpose of the study. I have had the opportunity to ask questions, and questions that I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction. I understand that my child's participation is voluntary. I consent to allow my child to participate in this study and understand that I or my child has the right to withdraw from the study at any time.

I will allow my child to take part in the interview.

 Signature of the Parent/Guardian

 Date

I agree to have my child's interview audio-recorded

Yes

No