Adolescents and young people prepared to make their own reproductive decisions.

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Myself and out of school adolescents.

Who are adolescents?

- Adolescence is the period of transition from childhood to adulthood, and involves physical, psychological, cognitive and social behavioural changes.
- Adolescents are people between the ages of 10 and 19 according to the W.H.O and other United Nations agencies.
- Adolescent population of the world as at 2010 is estimated at 1.2 billion persons.

- Adolescent population in Nigeria is 22.1% of the total population and estimates to 35million persons.

What are reproductive decisions?

These are:

- The decision to initialize sex.
- The decision to use or ignore contraceptives during or after sex.
- The decision to choose personal sexual interests.
- The decision to get married.
- The decision to procreate.

What right do young people have to make reproductive decisions?

What are reproductive rights :

- These are the right of all to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence. (W.H.O).
- The right to legal or safe abortion
- The right to birth control
- The right to access good-quality reproductive healthcare
- The right to education and access in order to make free and informed reproductive choices.

Infringements on adolescent sexual and reproductive rights.

- RAPE
- CHILD MARRIAGE
- SEXUAL SLAVERY
- INCEST
- DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SEXUAL CHOICES.
- DENIAL OF ABORTION.

WHAT ARE THE SOCIETAL EXPECTIONS /NORMS PERTAINING TO ADOLESCENT SEXUALITY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS IN NIGERIA?

Expectations about the male child.

- Its alright to have sex before marriage.
- He can have as many partners as he desires as long as he can carter for them.
- He can work freely into a store to purchase condoms and other contraceptives.
- He can talk about sex openly.

Expectations about the female child.

- she's not allowed to have sex before marriage
- She has no right to legal abortion.
- She cannot work freely into a store to purchase condoms or other contraceptives without been tagged a sex worker.
- It is awkward for her to talk about sex openly.
- She can be betrothed at an early age against her wish. (especially in the northern part)

Strategies to prepare adolescents to make informed reproductive decisions.

- Leadership from the very top is key to addressing young people's sexual and reproductive health needs. Government must invest in policies and programmes that can enable young people to access SRH information and services.
- It is important to integrate sexuality education into school curriculums and programs as the school provides a very good platform through which millions of adolescents can be reached
- ✖ Sexual reproductive health information and services through the public health system and media also can reach out-of-school youth and integrate young people into a system they will use as adults.
- ✖ Youth-friendly services are needed to reach young people with information and treatment.

Strategies to prepare young people to make informed sexual and reproductive decisions (cont'd)

- Education, Education, Education! Investing in education for adolescents especially girls will enable them to live healthy and productive and especially save the lives of their children also.
- Gender inequities that expose young people to sexual and reproductive risk must be addressed and eliminated wherever possible
- Involving young people in designing and running programmes aimed at helping them often leads to unique approaches, improving the projects' success rate, while teaching the young people communication, negotiation and civic participation skills

Our Contact.

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BOTTOMLINE

- can adolescents make their own sexual decisions?
- YES THEY CAN!!