

Cheelo, M. (2008). Community mobilization using participant peer educators in mdp 301 clinical trial in mazabuka-zambia Microbicides 2008. Delhi.

Background Microbicides Development Programme, a clinical trial site that is researching on a Microbicide gel PRO 2000/5 has been finding challenges in community mobilization as it has been using local peer educators to sensitize the women. It was for this reason that we decided to recruit and train 10 participants to help us sensitize one community. This study assessed the effectiveness of using participant peer educators. Methods: The 10 participant peer educators went for door to door sensitizations for one week in one residential community. On the forms they had was this information: Age, sex, house number of the person talked to. Results. The total number of people talked to was 760. Among these, 420 are women. 85% (357) showed interest in discussing with participant peer educators because they wanted to know their experiences with the study gel. 10% (42) thought that it was good for MDP staff to work together with peer educators so that they could explain the scientific aspects of the study. 5 % (21) were still not convinced. Conclusion Before this exercise was done, we used to get 4 to 6 participant s locator verification forms (form containing participant s address) from Clinical reception in a month from this particular community as compared to now when we have 10 to 15 locators in a month. It is evident that the community feels more comfortable and secure to be sensitized and encouraged by women who have used the study product. However, it is very important that the community mobilization team work together with the participant peer educators so that they are able to explain the scientific aspects of the study.