**GIRL POWER IN DEPTH INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

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| **DATE OF INTERVIEW** | 23/Jan/17 |
| **Visit**  | * 6 Month (0)

\_\_ 12 month (1) |
| **PARTICIPANT ID** | 11027 |
| **Clinic number** | 1  |
| **DURATION OF INTERVIEW** | Start: 10:52 End: 11: 51 |

**Transcript**

[Initial sections redacted]

I: Okay. Have you ever heard of a drug called PrEP?

P: No.

I: PrEP. You’ve never heard of it?

P: No.

I: Okay. PrEP is a new drug that has been developed and in some countries it’s already on the market now. People are accessing it, but here in Malawi, we’re hoping that it’ll be on the market soon. This drug is taken by people who have been tested and have been found negative, but when they look at their lifestyle, they acknowledge that they are at risk of contracting the disease at any time. So they take the drug as a preventative measure so they don’t contract the disease. The drug is supposed to be taken daily when you feel you’re at risk. Be it that you’re at risk a certain month, so that particular month, you take the drug daily. And so when you’re having sexual relations with people and you happen to encounter one that is HIV positive, because of the drug that you’re taking, the drug acts as a defence mechanism against the virus from multiplying and you thereby don’t get infected. Yes, so that’s how the drug works. It is a preventative drug.

P: Just to prevent.

I: Yes. Someone who is already infected cannot say I’ll stop taking ARVs to start taking PrEP. No.

P: It means the person will die.

I: The person will die. There is no sense in that. This drug is for people who are HIV negative. But are at risk of contracting the virus due to their lifestyle. Yah. So this drug is called PrEP. So far what you’ve heard of this drug, would you want to have access to it?

P: Yes.

I: Would you take them?

P: Yes.

I: On a scale of low, moderate or high, how much are you interested in the drug?

P: I am very much interested?

I: Alright. So why are you very much interested?

P: Because if I am at risk of contracting the virus, then I will not contract the virus if I am on the drug. So I will be protected. You know how HIV/AIDS has no medicine, so it is very scary.

I: Alright. So what has pleased you the most about this drug?

P: The one thing that has pleased me the most is that when you take the drug, you don’t contract the virus, you’re protected.

I: Mmh.

P: That is what has pleased me not to contract the virus.

I: Alright. So what do you think can cause you unrest about this drug?

P: There is nothing about this drug that has cause me unrest.

I: Alright. So if you were to compare the condom method or taking this drug as a preventative measure, what do you have to say about that?

P: The condom is better since the drug has to be taken daily, and you may forget at times.

I: Alright. So form what you’ve heard about this drug, what impact do you think it can have on a relationship or marriage?

P: Protection the most.

I: Protection?

P: Yes.

I: You feel that it cannot bring any trouble?

P: No. if you’ve agreed and understand each other, there would be no trouble at all.

I: Okay. So if you were to start taking this drug and you happen to start experiencing headaches, dizziness the week that you commence, would you continue taking them?

P: Yes, I can continue. I would also go enquire a doctor of what I’m experiencing, and the doctor would be able to tell me.

I: Okay.

P: That I should continue or not.

I: In your thinking, how do you think the drug should be packaged when being introduced here? So that it should be easy to be secretive about it that one is taking PrEP.

P: The packaging. Are the drugs tablets?

I: I don’t know, since the drug is not here yet. But if you were to package it, how would you do so? In a tablet, capsule, or liquid.

P: Liquid.

I: Liquid? Why?

P: Because the liquid would not be a giveaway, as compared to tablets where it’s a giveaway that a person is taking medication.

I: Which is the best place to access these drugs?

P: At the Hospital?

I: What sort of Hospital? One that has Girl Power or what?

P: That has Girl Power.

I: Alright. You remember I said the PrEP drug is to be taken on a daily basis? So what sort of assistance do you think the youth may need in order for them to remember to be taking it daily?

P: They would want to have weekly meetings at Girl Power and discuss. That would pose as a reminder because they are talking about it.

I: About the drug?

P: Yes.

 [Final sections redacted]