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**ANAL SEX REGARDED AS A TABOO IN SOUTH WEST NIGERIA MAKES RECTAL
MICROBICIDES UNACCEPTABLE: HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST COMES WITH A
SOLUTION!**

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ISSUES

There are indications of a re-emerging HIV epidemic among gay men and other MSM in Nigeria. The number of MSM reported with HIV or AIDS is now increasing in many African countries, including Nigeria. Same sex is a Taboo in this country as it is criminalized under sodomy laws with stigma and punishment to those involved. In this political climate, many gay men, MSM, and women and men who engage in anal intercourse face serious barriers information and the tools needed to protect themselves from HIV infection. The researcher, while executing his HIV/AIDS project among selected brothels in Amuwo of Lagos State (World Bank Assisted) in 2006 packaged a periodic educational programme on rectal microbicides and corrected the wrong impression of anal sex as a taboo.

DESCRIPTION

As a founding member of Nigeria HIV Vaccine and Microbicides Advocacy Services and a member of International Rectal Microbicides Advocates, the researcher used his NGO, United Nations of Youth Network Nigeria to educate the sex workers and other populations that engage in anal intercourse on rectal microbicides and human rights. He distributed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in English and major Nigerian languages free of charge.

LESSONS LEARNED

The study raised the awareness and good knowledge of rectal microbicides among the gay men, MSM etc. It revealed that heterosexual men and women also practice anal sex. The community now knows their rights and how to defend it when violated.

RECOMMENDATION

IRMA, GCM, AMAG, NHVMAS, development partners and others should sponsor periodic programmes and invest more on research.