IDI-Client-009

Female- 30 years, married with four two children

Time start: 13.24 hrs

Thank you for agreeing to have this interview today, as I have explained to you earlier, I’m going to record our discussion so that I don’t miss any of your explanations, we agreed you are okay for me to use this audio recorder in this discussion. I’m going to ask you questions about yourself, your life in general and mostly HIV related matters. You are free not to answer any question that you feel uncomfortable answering , let me know, we go to other questions please be free to tell me anything that you think is important for me to know related to HIV care, If this is okay with you, we start the interview now.

Res: Yes we can start

Int: so my first question is when and where did you go for HIV test?

Res: Mmh! it is a long story my sister, it was about four or five years ago when I was pregnant, I went to the clinic for antenatal care , that time I was in living in …. With my aunt, they tested my blood and I was told that am infected with HIV (silence)

Int: Mhh... then what happened, tell me the long story, I have all the time

Res: I did not believe it because I was not sick and had no any health problem apart from being pregnant… I was not married but I had a boyfriend who was a father of my child but he had another wife, so I was living with my aunt.

Int: Mmh...

Res : I had a safe delivery without any complications, then when the child was about seven eight months I started having some health problems, sometimes fever but the major problem was that one of my leg was swollen and very painful day by day it was getting worse. we went to the nearby dispensary they gave me rangi mbili (these are antibiotics capsules with two colors- probably amoxyline or cloxacilline etc ) But there was no improvement

Int: Did you tell your aunt what the nurses told you when you were pregnant?

Res: No, she did not know, actually I did not tell anybody

Int: Mmh! then what happened next?

Res: When we saw my leg was still swollen, my aunt took me to a traditional healer, I was treated with local medicines and using a laser- blade the traditional healer made small cuts in the leg then applied some powdered local medicine and fortunately with time the swelling started to dissolve at last I was healed my leg was okay.

Int: Mhh!.....

Res: That was it, I continued with my life knowing that all is well, Then I come to live here in … where I met the man am living with now, I got pregnant again and this time I went to the clinic, they also told me that I have this problem (HIV) but again I just ignored and continued with my life.

Int: Mmh! Then,

Res: I was also lucky with this baby too, I had a safe delivery and everything was fine, Then when the child was about three years, I started having recurrent fevers, body weakness and then when I got mkanda wa jeshi (heperszoster), I was very sick, I got admitted at the … hospital the doctor advised me to go for HIV check up, then I said this is it, may be it is true that am infected! Then one day I decided to come here to test HIV.

Int: Mmm….

Res: Here I was also told that… I have the problem

Int: This time you did believed?

Res: Yes I completely believed especially after mkanda wa jeshi because even in the community everyone knows that when you get it you are very likely to have the virus.

Int: okay then what happened?

Res: here they checked my CD4 it was 102, then I started treatment in about two or three weeks after completing adherence classes, and now am doing fine as you see me, I have even gained weight… I tell you my sister I was dying if not for these Mashudu (ARTs) ooh… they helped me a lot, I tell people please go and test if you have it just start drugs I almost died due to my stupidity.

Int: Mmh, okay what about your husband, did you tell him about your status?

Res : Mmh!.(laughing), I did not tell him either he found it on his own way, actually he does not know that I was the one who had it first… because last year he started falling frequently sick then he said he want to go for HIV test, I said okay go ahead, he come here and tested, he was found positive and he is also on drugs.

Int : Mmh when he came back after testing did he share with you his results?

Res: yes… he told me that I have been diagnosed with this disease(HIV)… he suggest that I also go for testing…. But I told him for me am not sick and am not ready to test and he did not force me.

Int: Mmm!

Res: Basically he thinks it is him who has infected me …. But hee! I know the truth so we are all on treatment and we continue taking care of our children.

Int: Did you experience any side effects from ART

Res: No I did not have any serious problem, it was a bit of nausea and that was all.

Int: okay ... did you also share with other relatives about this

Res: Yes, I only told my aunt, I do not have many relatives my parents died a long time

Int: okay let’s continue with another topic, what do you think about people who test HIV positive but do not want to enter HIV care or they drop out even after starting treatment?

Res: Those a like me, As I told you I did not believe because , I was just okay not suffering from anything, others maybe they afraid people will know when they see them in a queue here at the clinic they will know he has it. But for me I have learned my lesson, I would be dead by now if not for these drugs, I will not stop taking them, HIV is not a joke you die if you not careful with your treatment.

Int: This time you did not go for traditional medicine?

Res: No, after heperszoter I just knew this is it, I just came here for ART

Int: and what about prayers, i heard other people go for prayers and stop treatment What do you think, have you tried?

Res: Yes, I pray in our church …they do pray for us … but I will not stop drugs I have learned my lesson now

Int: okay, what can you say about health services given at this site to HIV patients, and about the health care providers etc

Res: I have nothing to say they are helping us a lot and we are so many patients here but we have never heard them complaining they just work

Res: If I say anything bad about them I will be lying… for me personally I have never been treated badly with the nurses, Maybe other people.

Int: Would you like to make any suggestions on how to improve care in this hospital

Res: Mmh, the care is good but may be to increase the number of staff there are so many patients as you can see outside, there are only three nurse taking care of the whole group of patients is too much work for them.

Int: okay thank so much before we close do you have any question to me

Res: A question…. No

Int: Thank you so much for your time and see you another time

End of interview 14.07 hrs