

Module 5: HIV/AIDS and young people - Adolescent health and development with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health - Assignment

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## **Young people who should be targeted with HIV Interventions in Ethiopia**

The EDHS 2005 reported that 1.4 percent of Ethiopians of age 15-49 are infected with HIV; HIV prevalence in women being nearly 2% while it is less than one percent in males. It also indicated that 0.4% of respondents age 15-19 and 1.1% of respondents age 20-24 are HIV positive. Prevalence rates appeared to be higher among young females. Among women of age 15-19, 0.7% are HIV infected compared with 0.1% of young men of age 15-19 while the prevalence among young women and men of age 20-24 is 1.7% and 0.4% respectively. The report has shown that young Ethiopians are already infected and affected by the epidemic. Therefore, HIV interventions should target young people as these constitute are the largest proportion in the country. Young people who should be targeted for these interventions include:

- Young people living in urban areas particularly in areas where the prevalence is high like in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, etc.
- Orphans.
- Out of school young.
- Students in higher learning institutions.
- In school young people.
- Young people in the streets.
- Young unmarried women in rural areas.
- Young married women in rural areas.
- Young women who are in towns as maidservants.
- Young people in factories, construction industry.
- Young people who engage in substance use.
- Young taxi drivers.

## **Factors that make young people vulnerable**

There are multiple and interrelated complex factors that make young Ethiopians vulnerable to HIV. These include:

- Poverty and unemployment.

- Limited awareness level and misconceptions.
- Limited access to information and services.
- Harmful traditional practices.
- Gender based violence.
- The presence of “shisha” houses (substance use) and nightclubs near schools.

## **Most important interventions that contribute to achieving the UNAIDS goal**

Interventions to reduce the vulnerability of young people to HIV should include:

- HIV Prevention through various behavioral communication and change interventions, community conversations, youth dialogues, information provision through available media.
- Life skill enhancement especially among young women. This should include communication skills, negotiation skills etc.
- Improving the access to HIV related services including the treatment, care and support initiatives.
- Interventions that help create conducive environment.
- Improving livelihoods: creating opportunities that will address the unemployment problems.

## **Assignment document**

1. [Ferguson J. HIV/AIDS and young people. Paper presented at: Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research; 2010 Sep 26; Geneva.](#)