

## APPENDIX E

## INTERVIEW ONE WITH JAMES

Date: May 13<sup>th</sup> 2014

Time: 9:48am

Venue: The Business Room

Member checked on: June 12<sup>th</sup> 2014.

Researcher: Ok so please state your age?

James: I am 15 years old

Researcher: And your gender?

James: Male.

R: Er, religion and ethnicity?

J: Um, Negro and Christian.

R: what part of Trinidad do you come from?

J: I come from Cumuto.

R: Please describe your family unit at home. Do you live with your biological parents?

J: I live with my biological mom, and well...step-father.

R: step-father...ok fine...um..Did you ever have any experience with sexuality and sexual health education in school?

J: Um..primary school.

R: Primary school? What about secondary school?

J: (shakes head in negative) er, no.

R: No? ok. What did you learn about in primary school?

J: Protection, and um, **abstinence** and stuff.

R: Protection and abstinence, ok. In what subject areas did you learn about these particular subjects.

J: Biology and well...HFLE.

R: So there was biology and HFLE in primary school?

**Comment [AG1]:** Abstinence promoted

J: er...

R: Or was it science?

J: Science. (nods in approval)

R: How was that taught ...was it taught as part of the subject or separate?

J: No, it had a day they taught that alone.

R: so it was really just one day that they exposed you to it?

J: Well after that day, they had **classes** that talked about that stuff.

**Comment [AG2]:** Primary school classes on HFLE

R: ok, so tell me, what do you understand by the term, "sexuality"?

J: Gender? (laughs)

R: You think its gender?

J: Yea...or..or..what you attracted to?

R: you think is about attraction?

J: Yea

R: Alright. So what do you think the term, "sexual health" refers to?

J: How safe you are sexually?

R: ok, so you think its about being safe in a....sexual context?

J: Um hum.

R: Alright, Ok. Can you describe the stages of life of a human being? Each stage?

J: Miss like...um....conception?

R: Right

J: After conception (whispers, "I cant remember)....well...then its early childhood? When you're born? Then to adolescence and then adult.

R: Okay, great! But can you describe the differences between males and females?

J: Yea

R: you think you understand the differences?

J: yea (chuckles)

R: Ok I see you're giggling. So describe in your own way, how you think a woman may become pregnant or conceive a child.

J: Through sexual intercourse.

R: Through sexual intercourse with...

J: a Male? (laughs)

R: alright, with a male. Ok. So do you know of any ways by which a woman might not become pregnant?

J: Um...it have **abstinence**. Using protection.

**Comment [AG3]:** abstinence

R: Right

J: And probably aborting the child if she already gets pregnant?

R: ok but we just looking at before they start to get pregnant.

J: well abstinence.

R: ok. So you have an understanding of the term "abstinence"?

J: Yep

R: from primary school?

J (nods affirmatively)

R: ok. Good. Tell me if you can define the term, "Sexually Transmitted Infections" in your own words.

J: It means you can get it through sex?

R: right, ok. Good. Describe some ways, by which you think a person can get a sexually transmitted infection.

J: If the person they are having sexual intercourse with, is infected. Or maybe through a blood transfusion.

R: Ok. And how do you think a person can avoid getting a STI?

J: Abstinence

R: Abstinence. Any other ways?

J: Protection

R: Abstinence and Protection.

[pause for 5 mins]

Interview continued

R: So tell me at what age, do you think boys and girls start becoming attracted to each other? Explain.

J: Ah....probably, around....well at least around 13 -14 so? That is when you enter secondary school and people want to start having boyfriend and girlfriend because they see other people having that.

R: so is it that they want to? Or that they see other people have a relationship.

J: It could go both ways.

R: when you say 13. Is that form 2 level?

J: Form 1, 2 sometimes.

R: Oh ok. How do you know when someone is attracted to the opposite sex? What would they say? What would they do?

J: They would show signs (laughs). Um....I dunno (laughs).

R: Ok, you not too sure. Have you ever seen other people?

J: Yea. Well everybody different. Like it wouldn't have something that everyone will always do to show that they attracted to you or something like that?

R: Have you ever noticed this kind of behaviour amongst your peers?

J: Yea

R: Yes. Explain their behaviour around the person that they are attracted to.

J: Well normally they wouldn't be as friendly as they are with the person they are attracted to. I dunno. They will be friendlier to the person they are attracted to, than to other people they are not attracted to. Um yea.

R: So extra friendly to that person.

J: (nods yes)

R: Have you ever heard of the term, "conception"?

J: Yes.

R: "Pregnant"?

J: Yes

R: Sexually Transmitted Infections?

J: Yes

R: So could you tell me in a nutshell, what the term conception means?

J: When the baby is being formed?

R: What about pregnancy?

J: Well...the process in which the baby comes alive and enters the world? (laughs)

R: And a Sexually Transmitted Infection?

J: Infections you get through sex. (laughs shyly again)

R: Um....where did you learn about these terms?

J: Through hearing people talking. Um...and well school, um science.

R: Great...so you learnt about it in Science class? At which level?

J: Er...Form One.

R: So you did come across it in Form One? Ok. But you had previous knowledge in primary school?

(James nod affirmatively)

R: Where else did you learn about this, outside of school?

J: At home.

R: Home? From whom?

J: My mother.

R: Your mom told you about it....anyone else?

J: other family members like my aunts. Even one of my teachers.

R: Ok so you heard about other people talking about people being pregnant and so on?

(James nods yes)

R: Ok fine. Think carefully about this. Describe some activities which young persons who are dating, may be involved in and lead to risky situations that might result in them contracting a STI or becoming pregnant. (James looks confused, so Researcher repeats the statement.)

James pauses a bit and then answers

J: well first off, intercourse. Like from kissing?

R: So you think it starts with kissing?

J: Yeah

(James pauses again. Thoughtful.)

Researcher probes

R: What else do you think can cause them to become pregnant?

**Comment [AG4]:** James was unsure of the risks initially

J: Touching.

R: Kissing and touching. Ok.

J: well....

R: You understand that if you start kissing and touching somebody, it could probably lead to them having sex? What could cause a person to have sex?

(James pauses in thought)

J: Probably the influence....

**Comment [AG5]:** Has an idea of risks

R: The influence? Of what?

J: um...one of the partners might not want to do it but the other one would encourage the other person to...

**Comment [AG6]:** Peer pressure

R: So what you are describing there is like peer pressure?

J: Yeah

R: What if a person takes drugs?

J: Yeah that too...

R: Would that cause them to lose their judgement and...

J: Yep

R: what about alcohol?

J: Yea

R: so these things would decrease...a person's ability to resist....and probably have sex?

(James nods yes)

R: Ok. Can you describe some activities that may cause a young person to have unprotected sex?

(James asks for the question to be repeated. Researcher repeats the question)

J: Well maybe it was a spontaneous event? If it just happens spontaneous and they didn't plan it?

**Comment [AG7]:** James is not fully aware of what can cause a person to lose their inhibitions but this response is maybe more to his knowledge.

R: ok so a spontaneous event where they didn't plan it. Ok. Describe some alternative activities what young persons can engage in that would not place them in such risky situations. What can people do together that would not cause them to get into such problems?

(James pauses and then responds)

J: Um....um...

(he shakes his head, not coming up with an answer)

R: Ok, not sure? No problem. Do you believe that students in Trinidad and Tobago, should have access to accurate information regarding topics based on Sexuality and Sexual Health?

J: Yep, I think so.

R: if you think so, then, please explain why.

J: because its important for the youth and the people of Trinidad and Tobago to know the dangers of sex. Yea, the dangers.

R: ok. So I'm going to give you a list of topics based on Sexuality and Sexual health, and I want you to take a look at them and tell me which ones you learnt about so far, throughout your high school experience, maybe even from primary school. Ok? So I'm going to pause recording for you to have a few minutes to look at this list. Then we will resume the interview.

**Comment [AG8]:** This list of topics was extracted from the SSH component of the HFLE curriculum (2009) and from the recommended text for teaching HFLE in secondary schools by Drakes et al(2011). See Appendix A.

(James agrees, the list is given to him and the recording of the interview is paused for 5 minutes, on the ipad, to allow him some time to review the topics of Sexuality and Sexual Health that he may or may not have learnt about).

Interview resumes

R: Did you learn about any of these topics at home?

J: Yea...most of them actually.

**Comment [AG9]:** Information provided by his mother

R: Which ones?

J: Um, puberty, gender roles, sexuality, sexual choices, HIV, AIDs, STIs.

R: ok, so you have been informed of these topics at home?

J: yep.

R: and who would have informed you?

J: My mother.

**Comment [AG10]:** Role of parent

R: So your mum communicated a lot of this information to you?

J: yep

R: From what age?

J: Maybe around the age 9-10.

**Comment [AG11]:** Primary school. Pre-teen

R: ok so she started to talk to you from even before you left primary school? There were some topics she did not discuss with you...but do you understand why she did not discuss them?

J: I guess

R: which topics in particular, she did not discuss?

J: Cervical cancer...and...yea that.

R: So she discussed contraception with you?

J: Yep.

R: Ok. Did you learn about any of these topics at school?

J: Some.

**Comment [AG12]:** Some topics not covered in school

R: Some, right. Ok, and er...you can just highlight which ones again, in high school?

J: High school...gender roles, sexuality, reproductive health, sexual choices, what does it mean to be ready, sexual abuse. Sexual Abuse was the last one.

R: Ok and what subjects did you learn these from?

J: In some subjects they would talk about it. Some of the teachers would talk about it, but we mostly did it in Science **though**.

**Comment [AG13]:** Taught in science

R: Oh Science

J: Yea

R: What about Social Studies?

J: Yea, in social **studies** too.

**Comment [AG14]:** Social studies

R: Um...did you all have any other exposure, say from lecturers outside of school, coming into school to talk to you about these things?

J: A **few**

**Comment [AG15]:** External lecturers came and spoke to them in school about sex and risks.

R: A few? Like what form were you in?

J: Form 2.

R: Um, which topic you think was not taught by teachers in school?

J: Cervical Cancer

R: So they taught you about contraception?

J: **Yea**

**Comment [AG16]:** contraception

R: They did?

(James nods yes again)

R: Tell me something, are there any topics that you are interested in, but you did not learn enough about?

J: Yea

R: Which ones?

J: Miss could you repeat the question please?

R: The question is, what do you think was missing from the information you got?  
What do you think would help you later on?

J: Um, contraception.

R: Alright, contraception.

J: Yea

R: Any other information?

J: er...(pauses)

R: Do you plan to have a relationship some time in the future?

J: Yes.

R: well maybe some information about relationships (dynamics between boyfriend and girlfriend) would be helpful?

J: Yes

R: Did you ever hear about these types of topics and information from any guest lecturers like nurses or child line or doctors who came into school?

J: Yea

R: Did you ever see any of these people outside of school for information?

J: No, never.

R: Never, ok. Tell me who you think is the most reliable or accurate source of information regarding sex education or sexuality and sexual health.

J: Parents.

R: Ok, parents. What about teachers?

J: Not all.

R: Ok, what about social media? Social networking sites, you would trust that?

(James pauses)

**Comment [AG17]:** James said earlier his mother and teachers spoke about contraception, but he stated he wanted to learn more, which suggests that previous discussions were not thorough or did not answer his concerns about this topic.

**Comment [AG18]:** Relationship information

**Comment [AG19]:** External health professionals

**Comment [AG20]:** Did not visit a health centre to speak to the nurse/doctor about these matters

**Comment [AG21]:** Believes that his parent is the best source of information about SSH

**Comment [AG22]:** Does not think teachers can provide the best information

R: What types of media would you trust?

J: Internet.

R: What types of websites?

J: Well, it have sites that could actually teach you about that, so...those.

R: Medical?

J: yea.

R: What about medical brochures, and tv?

J: Yep.

R: Did you ever hear about any of these topics from your friends or peers? Any of these topics that we talked about?

J: Some.

R: What do you think about getting information from your friends?

J: Well, it not necessarily always highly accurate.

R: Ok. So you, in your opinion, think that parents are the most accurate source of information? Second to them would be who?

J: Professionals.

R: Professionals in the field of...

J: In the field of medicine

R: In the field of medicine, ok very good. Tell me something, when other people from organisations such as Child Line come in and talk to you, would you trust the information that they share?

J: Yea

R: Why?

J: Because that is their profession, so they supposed to know what to do.

R: So you believe that the information they provide is accurate?

J: It doh always have to be accurate. I doh believe it always accurate.

R: Alright, no problem. So who would be the most likely person you would go to for information?

J: My mom.

**Comment [AG23]:** James searches for information on medical websites? The internet is one of his sources, but is it always accurate?

**Comment [AG24]:** Peers talk

**Comment [AG25]:** The information from his friends is not always reliable

**Comment [AG26]:** Doctors, nurses

**Comment [AG27]:** Health care workers

**Comment [AG28]:** Trusted source: parent

R: Your mom? Your parent. Ok great. Tell me, what would be the most difficult topic to get information on for you?

J: Um...contraception maybe.

**Comment [AG29]:** Again contraception

R: Ok, why do you think this particular area is a bit difficult to get information on?

I: Because not much people that you know will actually know about it.

**Comment [AG30]:** James doesn't know how or where to get information on this

R: Right. So in your age group, your peers maybe will not know about it.

I: No.

R: Ok last question, what do you think will help you have greater access to information about Sexuality and Sexual health?

J: Bring it more to the students?

R: Like how?

J: Actually having sexual education classes

**Comment [AG31]:** School

R: So in school?

I: Yes

R: Oh so a designated time in school for sex education class?

(James nods yes)

R: Ok. Anything else?

J: Probably helping people become more comfortable in discussing it?

**Comment [AG32]:** Open discussion

R: Oh ok, that is interesting. Alright well thank you very much. I really appreciate the time you took to be part of this interview.

(James smiles)

J: No problem.

[end of Interview with James]