

**A Study of the Knowledge, Attitudes and
Practices in the use of Sexual Enhancers,
among men ages 18-55 at the Slipen
Road, Comprehensive Health Centre in
Kingston, Jamaica.**

A Thesis

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ABSTRACT

The Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices in the use of Sexual Enhancers among men ages 18 – 55 at the Slipe Road Comprehensive Health Centre in Kingston, Jamaica.

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With low sexual desire now a leading psychiatric complaint, millions of people are seeking ways to enhance their sexual lives. The imperative to use sexual enhancers is great since self image, self-worth, and identity, particularly amongst men, are strongly related to sexual performance during intercourse⁴.

This study is aimed at examining the factors influencing the use of sexual enhancers in adult males in a Health Centre in Kingston and St. Andrew and to elucidate the effects and/or side effects from the perspectives of these men. The study utilizes the Health Belief Model in order to determine how the men's beliefs and attitudes may influence their willingness to adopt a healthy behaviour.

A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted at the Comprehensive Health Centre in Kingston and St. Andrew, using quantitative data in the form of a structured questionnaire.

This was administered to 153 men visiting the Health Centre, by face to face interviews. The study was further strengthened using qualitative data derived from two focus group discussions with men from the same target group.

All the men knew about some form of sexual enhancers and had been shown or told how use them. Of all the substances used as sexual enhancers, 'the stone', a rock-like solid, was most widely known (98%). Most men (32.7%) thought that both the male and the female should suggest use of the sexual enhancers. The stone was also the most widely used substance (30.7%) followed by Anafranil an antidepressant, prescription item, (22.9%).

Within the last 12 months (53.2%) of the men used sexual enhancers at least sometimes with regular partners while, a higher percentage (66.6%) used at least sometimes with their non-regular partners. Most of the men agreed that, if the male is in a stable relationship, there is no need to use sexual enhancers as there is little or no pressure to 'over perform'.

The major limiting factor was that the majority of the men were from the lower socio-economic group. Education and training of both men and boys are essential to adjusting attitudes and beliefs and debunking myths thereby reducing some risky sexual behaviour.

Key words: Kirt Stephenson, Comprehensive Health Centre, sexual enhancers, perceptions, beliefs, attitudes, risky behaviour.