INTERVIEW TWO WITH MARIANNE

Date: June 5th, 2014
Time: 11:43 am
Venue: Quiet Office
Member checked on: June 12th 2014.

Marianne enters the office, closes the door and sits down. Researcher recaps the last interview, including the specific topics covered within the Sexuality and Sexual Health strand of the HFLE curriculum.

R: Ok thank you for being here today. We will continue with this next interview to continue what we were discussing last time.

Marianne: Ok.

R: Alright, so tell me what are some problems or challenges that you experienced, in obtaining information about Sexuality and Sexual health topics?

M: Well, some problems that I had was that people wouldn’t trust you or wouldn’t think you would understand because of your age. Like how they explain it, they wouldn’t think you understand what you talking about. So it might be a little difficult for them to explain it fully.

R: Ok, is it that they think you are not able to comprehend anything more than the basics?
M: Yea.

R: Ok. Any other challenges or problems you may have faced in trying to get information about these topics?

M: Um…like from friends? You can’t really trust friends who tell you things like that. They might make foolish comments and thing so…you don’t know if to believe it or not.

R: Ok so say you wanted to find out something about er…like, how do people get pregnant? Would you have had any problems before, getting information on that?

M: Not really, but like when I was smaller my parents used to say, “Ask God.” They didn’t want to tell me, but now I know, yes.

R: Ok, so you know now how people become pregnant, or are able to conceive children?
M: Yes.
R: Ok but did you have any problems in getting information, say from other resources, other than talking to people then?


R: Ok so you can get some information from the internet. What about umm..any other places in Trinidad and Tobago maybe?

M: Yea like in books, parents, teachers, doctors and the health people who does come and talk here from time to time.

R: Ok so you’re talking about the people who come here into the school, external lecturers?

M: Yea

R: Ok. Why do you think it is difficult to get information on these types of topics?

(Marianne pauses before responding)

M: Well…..as I said before…people don’t trust you. They don’t think that you can cope with what they are going to tell you. If they give you an answer, you might not take it seriously.

R: Ok. Who are you most comfortable with, discussing topics such as contraception or maybe pregnancy?

M: Well, my mother, my sister. Basically any woman relative or female teachers in school.

R: Ok you wanna tell me why you selected a female relative or female teacher?

M: Like if you want to know more about pregnancy, they will know more about that. And by female, I mean an older female, who has experience

R: Oh ok, right. So you are saying you rather go to someone who you know and is related to you perhaps, and you would be able to ask these questions to someone who has knowledge of it before?

M: Yes.

R: Yes?

M: Yea.

R: What about the topic of relationships? Would you discuss that with any of your parents?

M: A relationship? No, not really. Maybe with one of my siblings.

R: But why not your parents?

M: Because parents tend to judge you sometimes.

R: What do they judge?

M: Like they might think you too young for a relationship, so they wouldn’t understand. But like if you have a sister, who you grow up with, then they would understand.

R: So is your sister closer to you in age?
M: No she is older, but she has more experience.
R: How much older is she?
M: She is like 16 or 17 years....
R: Oh she is 16 years old? But you are 14.
M: No, she is like 17 years older than me.
R: Oh! So how old she is?
M: Like 28, 29 years old.
R: Oh she is a lot older! Ok so she has probably ...
M: She has kids.
R: Right so she has lived and had experience with relationships and so on, so you feel comfortable going to her?
M: Yea (and nods yes).
R: So she would not judge you.
M: No she gives me advice.
R: Oh, but your parents might judge you.
M: Yes they might judge me. They might be like, when I was small I never used to do dem thing.
(Researcher laughs at Marianne’s logic of why her parents discouraged her from relationships. Marianne smiles)
R: You know that is something that parents would always try to do. You think...why do you think they tell you things like this?
M: Why? Well for some reason, that is the only thing that could come out their mouth. Growing up from before, if I do this and that, I would get real licks and whatever.
R: Right.
M: But they wouldn’t really like to sit down and talk to me about this one.
R: They wouldn’t like to talk to you about relationships? But they would talk to you about maybe pregnancy or contraception?
M: Yes.
R: But not relationships?
M: No.
R: Ok so...
M: Especially your father.
R: But you live with your mom and step dad? But your biological father lives where?
M: Toco
R: Ok so you don’t really see him as much?
(Marianne shakes her head in negative)
R: Ok so relationships is definitely something you would not talk to your mom about? Or your dad?
M: No.
R: You would talk to your sister.
M: Yea... or brothers... you know to hear from the other side
R: What the guys would think?
M: Yea
R: Ok I understand. Um.. do you think that the person you are comfortable talking to, can be relied on for accurate information?
M: Yea, kinda.
R: So this person you can trust to give you reliable information?
M: Siblings especially
R: Especially the big sister that you have?
M: Yea.
R: Ok. **Who would you be uncomfortable talking to, regarding Sexuality and Sexual health topics?**
M: Umm... guys mostly? Just guys on the whole... small, big...
R: Ok you want to explain why?
M: It’s just this feeling I have, I wouldn’t want to talk to guys about it, I don’t know why.
R: Alright but you did mention some siblings who are male?
M: Those are my brothers.
R: so you’re comfortable talking to them?
M: **Only for dem side of the story, but to find out “girly” stuff? Not really.**
R: so you wouldn’t want to talk to any males about “girl stuff”. “Girl stuff” meaning what?
M: Like you pregnant? Like in a relationship, what the girl does? That kinda thing. I just want to know what they guys think about the male side of things.
R: Ok. **How comfortable are you with discussing these topics openly with other people?**
M: Well it's a little uncomfortable, but once you gain my trust, and I know you can keep things confidential, then it is ok. I don't really trust people so much because I went through so much before. I don't really trust people.

R: Ok so trust is a main factor here, I am sensing. Is it that someone betrayed your trust and told someone else what you told them?

M: No, it's actually because I have siblings who that happened to, so I kinda afraid of it.

R: Oh so you learnt from your siblings’ experience, not to trust people and tell them everything?

M: Yes.

R: Ok, that also is interesting. So then my last question to you is this. How would you, as a teenager, prefer to learn about Sexuality and Sexual health topics? What do you think would be the best way to learn about them?

M: To learn from nurses and doctors?

R: Uh huh

M: Close relatives and read books.

R: Ok, so you would not prefer to learn about it in school per say?

M: Not really. Not so much.

R: You're not really comfortable talking about it in school?

M: No.

R: Maybe in the privacy of a doctor’s office?

M: Yea.

R: And with siblings?

M: Yea, close siblings.

R: And you said books?

M: Yes

R: Ok I just wanted to recap that. Ok thank you so much for coming in today. I really appreciate the information that you gave, and it will be strictly confidential, used only for this research project.

(Marianne smiles, and interview ends)