

TITLE: Adapting Oral-SIT for Adolescent Youth in Tanzania: Comprehension of Graphic Instruction Material

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TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Global Health and HIV testing researchers

ABSTRACT: Use of Oral HIV Self Implemented Test (Oral SIT) kits has been growing over the last few years. However, to achieve accurate results, each step must be performed correctly. The written instructions for the Oral SIT kit are a barrier in low literacy settings. We conducted an analysis that relied on data from a randomized experiment aimed at training Tanzanian adolescents (14 - 19 yrs.) with low literacy to implement the Oral SIT kit. The study used two different types of training strategies, a culturally adapted Graphic-Instruction-Book (GIB) illustrating each instruction in form of a picture or picture sequence, and the GIB combined with an instructional video in Swahili. Out of 254 participants, 184 participants reported misunderstandings with 1 or more pictures. Those in the GIB only condition reported misunderstanding more frequently than those in the GIB combined with video condition. A subset of the reported misunderstandings within both groups contained major errors that may affect fidelity. We analyzed how specific features of the GIB affected comprehension of the instructions and recommended changes to facilitate higher comprehension and lower fidelity errors based on participant generated solutions.

OBJECTIVE(S): Evaluate the use of Graphic Instruction Books as a tool for communicating Oral Self Implemented HIV Test instructions in low-literacy settings.
