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Life at home was not very good. My mom could not even want to go outside because she was thinking the people will see her. She did not want to tell anybody. She just told her family and her children. So my big sister told my mom she must tell the people about it, she can forget about it and take her medicines.

She said...., she listen to my big sister, she took her medicines. She is no longer scared to tell the people about her status

My mom's situation did affect n...en. My mom was living with her sister. My uncle, when he saw my mor...ould do bad things. He would wait for my mom to come out of the toilet... a toilet paper and wipe off the toilet even though there was nothing to wipe off. I could not tell my mom when I saw my uncle doing that. But then I told my heart to tell my mom so that she can know that. When I told my mom her heart was broken. I told her no...., she must not try...., and my mom went like (making gestures showing that it has to stop). My uncle stopped doing what he was doing.

Even the spoon, even when my mom eats with a spoon. My uncle said she must have one spoon to use.

My mom then bought a house. Then I went to stay with my mommy and to look after her.

I watch the time for her to take her medicine. I must make her food before she take her medicine. I must sort out her bed to make it comfortable for her to sleep. After that I can go to play outside.



The situation has affected me, but when I'm at school I have to forget that to concentrate on my books because I was thinking I was going to fail this year, but I did not fail.

It has affected me badly in the community but I survived to hear that my mom is feeling better.

I survive just to be with my mom. When I go to play I'm not scared to tell the people that my mom is sick of HIV/AIDS. When she goes to the clinic, I'm not going to school; I go with her to the clinic. So I feel better.

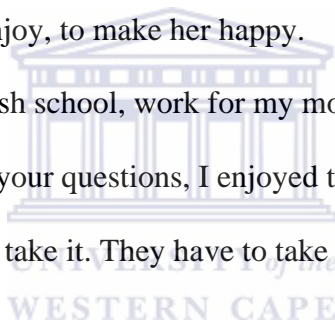
They react good when I tell them (about her mother status) because they are nice friends.

Sometimes my mom is sick. I'm going to spend the weekend with my family, with my father.

Sometimes I stay with my mom. Sometimes I do cooking with my mom, helping her in the kitchen. So I just want her to enjoy, to make her happy.

I wish that I may be able to finish school, work for my mom, and take care of my mom.

Thank you (the researcher) for your questions, I enjoyed them. Just for those (children) who their mothers have HIV they have to take it. They have to take care of their mothers and enjoy it.



### **Participant No. 3 (13 yrs)**

#### **LIFE BEFORE THE MOTHER'S ILLNESS**

Life was not good. For a long time she did not say anything. Only when I was about ten she then told me she was HIV/AIDS positive.

She used to cough a lot, when I asked she would say she is fine, that she does not have anything.

The after sometimes, when she was really sick, she then told.

It used to be nice before she got weaker. We used to play games together. I used to enjoy a certain game about writing names in the blocks according to specific alphabets.

I used to enjoy watching her singing and dancing.



Our happy time together was not that long because she used to leave, go to work and we would only see each other later in the evening.

I used to enjoy spending more time playing with other children, but I also had to pay attention to my school work.

### **LIFE AFTER THE MOTHER'S ILLNESS.**

I cried when I discovered that my mom is HIV positive, after that I could not say a word to her, for about a week I could not engage in a conversation with her.

When I first discovered about her HIV/AIDS status, it was when I went to the hospital to take the tooth out. I went with her. There I heard her mentioning that she needed to fetch ARV's. I already knew at that point in time that ARV's were for people with AIDS. I asked her why she has never told me before about her HIV/AIDS status and she said she did not want to hurt my feelings.

I was fine afterwards. I told her that I did not like how she never told me rightly that she was HIV/AIDS positive. She apologized.

At home it was not nice at all, I was always thinking about this thing of hers.

At school it has affected me just a bit; my performance is not that bad. In the community it has not affected me at all. My friends have not changed towards me. More so as some of them have HIV positive mothers like 'so and so' (referring to one of the participants she came with).

We do speak and that's nice yes, however I do get that feeling that she's not exactly what I expect of her, but she will remain my mother and nothing will change that.

Our happy times together have changed; however, we do still play games together.

I don't like the fact that she is now drinking, but when I tell her about it she tells me that it is her money she is spending on alcohol.

My wish is to become a nurse in future. I would give HIV/AIDS people ARV Treatment. I would also give some advice top HIV/AIDS parents that they should not drink alcohol because by drinking they really hurt their children emotionally. I know it because my mom is doing it to me.

**Participant No.4 (15 yrs)**

**LIFE BEFORE THE MOTHER'S ILLNESS.**

We were happy, she used to give us anything we wanted, she'll go to work, just work-work, and come back home and bring us something that could make us happy, something like food.

I used to make her coffee when she came back from work. And maybe she says I must wash her feet and I'll wash them.

My mother and I used to play cards, play cards and enjoy ourselves.

She cooked very nice food, whenever I asked for anything she would just make a plan for me to get it.

We used to spend lot of time together with my brothers. We would go to the beach, from ten to four. We would have plenty food and play.

I love playing with other children, but most of the time I like spending at home because there's lots of skollies out there and I don't like that.

**LIFE AFTER MOTHER'S ILLNESS**

At first I was sad. I did not know how do I, how can I talk about that. I was shocked because I hear other people say if you have HIV/AIDS you gonna die. And now that made me sad. But my mother tried to make me understand that HIV/AIDS is not just killing people. Only if you are not taking treatment then it will make you die.

I was happy because after I heard about her status she told me, No Vuyo, don't worry I'm gonna be alright. I'm gonna try my best to make you to be strong and accept that.

When she disclosed, she tried to sit down with us at home. But she does not talk to me because I'm the elder one with my brothers. Others don't stay at home. They stay in Gugulethu. Ann took time to make me understand, but I have tried, I have tried yeah. I told my brothers and sisters that we will be fine.

My life is bad now, the things I want at school I don't have, I cannot afford all the things they want at school. My mom would just say "I'm gonna try my level best to get everything you want, I'll go and look for money, I'll ask my brothers to help, I'll tell them we don't have money to buy food" and so forth. And that make me feel bad.

My mom tries to support me but she cannot afford many things like school fees, and new clothes. My friends, they always buy new clothes and when I talk to my mom she would just say "No Vuyo, I don't have money, but I will try all my best". She would make all these promises.

I feel bad and I told myself that okay, so my mother always tell lies to me, always, always; "I'll buy this and that for you". She lies to me.

I tried to speak to her about it, I asked her "Mom, why do you always tell me you gonna bring-bring me something, something? No, Vuyo you know at home we don't have money to buy food".

And I try to understand but always she promises me anything I ask her to bring me. Always she promises me that. I understand that at home we are suffering and all that, but always promising me that really make me feel bad.

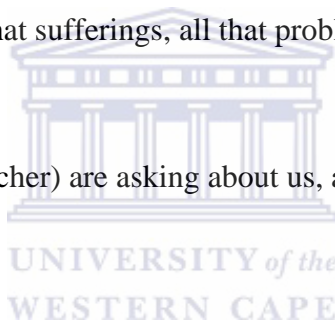
It would make it better if she was not making promises because I will know that she cannot afford it.

I don't think my life at school has been affected because I try my...., after she told me about her .....,status I understand a lot, and she always comfort me. Maybe something happen to me outside and I talk to her she tell me okay, what I must do. But now I'm fine at school. I always do my schoolwork and I don't have any problem. My school performance is perfect.

Most of the time she is not at home. She is at her sister's place. She spends most of the time there with her. Sometimes it makes me feel happy, but other times it makes me feel bad because most of the time she is not at home. Other time I go to her sister and share these things with her. Her sister will try to comfort me and she will give me her own money to buy food because at home we don't have money to buy enough food. After school as soon as I get home I go to her.

I can wish for..., at home, all that sufferings, all that problems must go away, and get all what we want.

All these things you (the researcher) are asking about us, are you gonna make our situations positive?



### **Participant No. 5 (14 yrs)**

#### **LIFE BEFORE THE MOTHER'S ILLNESS**

Life was not good. My mother was sick and she was not right. For a long time she was not aware she had HIV/AIDS. Eventually she went to Karl Bremmer Hospital, and that's where she found out she was HIV/AIDS positive.

We used to spend time together, just have happy moment together.

We joked together, played together.

She loved singing, and made jokes about how they do things at church.

We used to spend the whole day together, enjoying each other's company.

I would play with other children for about an hour and go back to the house. I used to enjoy that.

### **LIFE AFTER THE MOTHER'S ILLNESS.**

It was difficult; I thought she will die early.

My mom told me herself. She called me and my sister and told us she is HIV/AIDS positive.

I felt very bad. She was crying as she was telling us.

It is fine; we are still together as a family. However, her situation does hurt me, because she cannot work as she used to. At times she does not have money for our school fees. And sometimes I think about it so bad that it affects my sleep.

There is an older sister at home who helps out with groceries, and her (mother) own sister also helps out.

Sometimes I have to leave early at school because my mother would be very sick. My school performance dropped. When I write tests my mind is always preoccupied with my mom's conditions.

My life in the community has not changed because my friends in the community are not aware of my mom's HIV/AIDS status.

My mom and I currently spend very little time together.

I wish I can wake her up so that we can engage in the conversation, and that she would at least try to speak, but speak a little bit and fall asleep again. I wish she can stand up, get better and be well with her health.

**Participant No. 6 (14yrs)**

**LIFE BEFORE THE MOTHER'S ILLNESS**

Life was good, we were fine. I did not stay with my mom. She lived at Makhaza with my stepfather and my two little sisters. And I lived at Site-C with my grand mother. We used to see each other. We would have good times. She would tell me fairytales. I used to enjoy that. During holidays I would visit her in Makhaza.

I used to enjoy watching her cooking. She cooked very nice food.

When she visits us in Site-C we used to spend half a day together, and then she will go back to Makhaza.

It was nice to stay with my grandmother. She also told me bedtime stories before I go to sleep. I enjoyed that as it also helps me to fall asleep very quick.

**LIFE AFTER THE MOTHER'S ILLNESS**

It was so painful when I discovered about my mom HIV/AIDS status. I thought she will leave me. But as time went by, I realized that AIDS does not kill when a person manage herself very well by treating it, and visiting the clinic.

My mom disclosed her HIV/AIDS status herself. She first called me and sat me down. We first played some cards games and then she told me. After that she called my two sisters in and told them as well. She was very calm. I felt so bad. But when she finished telling me, she also explained more about what HIV/AIDS is to give me a better understanding.

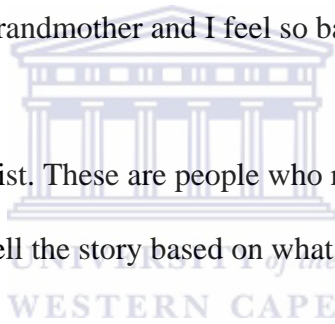
My mom used to be so quiet. She would close herself in her room and would not speak to me when I visited her in Makhaza. But now the situation became better than it used to be.

My grandmother and I have accepted my mom 'situation. My grandmother understands because when my mom disclosed she also explained to her more about HIV/AIDS. My grandmother said to my mom that she is still her child and nothing will ever change that.

My mom 'situation has not affected me at school. I have realized that when I passed all my tests. In the community people treat us very well because they know that AIDS does not just infect a person. They don't gossip about us, they know that what my mom has she did not choose to have. I now stay with my mother, so I get to spend more time with her.

When my mom gets sick, my grandmother and I feel so bad, that's because we really love my mom.

I wish to become an Archeologist. These are people who research about things that happened long time ago. They dig bones and tell the story based on what happened with regards to those bones.



**APPENDIX 6**

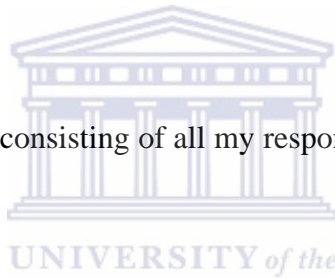
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**PARTICIPANT’S APPROVAL OF DATA VALIDITY**

**Title of Research Project: The experiences of adolescents living in households with mothers who are HIV/AIDS positive**



I have read the data transcripts consisting of all my responses and I declare the information therein valid.

The study has been described to me in a language that I understood and I freely and voluntarily agreed to participate. My questions about the study were answered. It was explained to me that my identity will not be disclosed. The interview sessions created a warm and caring atmosphere and I felt comfortable to answer all the questions. Throughout the process, I was aware that I can withdraw from the study without giving a reason at any time and this will not negatively affect me in any way.

Participant’s name.....

Participant’s signature.....

Date.....

Student’s name: Tsweleng M.P

Student number: 9408943



Programme: MA Child & Family Studies

