

Literacy, Gender and HIV/AIDS Series

Nangi's Shattered Dream

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A product of a UNESCO workshop for the preparation
of gender-sensitive booklets on HIV/AIDS

Some other titles in the Literacy and HIV/AIDS Series

- *Home, the Best Medicine* (Zimbabwe)
- *Inherit Me, Inherit My HIV* (Zimbabwe)
- *Who Is the Chicken?* (Namibia)
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- *Nangi's Shattered Dream* (Namibia)
- *Breaking the Silence* (Namibia)
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- *Sugar Daddy, Sweet or Deadly?* (Malawi)
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Literacy, Gender and HIV/AIDS Series

*Nangi's Shattered
Dream*

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**A product of a UNESCO workshop for the preparation
of gender-sensitive booklets on HIV/AIDS**

**Adapted from a booklet produced at the UNESCO-DANIDA
Workshop for the preparation of gender-sensitive materials
(Okashati, Namibia, August 2001)**

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet is one of an ever-growing series of easy-to-read materials produced at a succession of UNESCO workshops partially funded by the Danish Development Agency (DANIDA).

The workshops are based on the appreciation that gender-sensitive literacy materials are powerful tools for communicating messages on HIV/AIDS to poor rural people, particularly illiterate women and out-of-school girls.

Based on the belief that HIV/AIDS is simultaneously a health and a social cultural and economic issue, the workshops train a wide range of stakeholders in HIV/AIDS prevention including literacy, health and other development workers, HIV/AIDS specialists, law enforcement officers, material developers and media professionals.

Before a workshop begins, the participants select their target communities and carry out needs assessments of their potential readers.

At the workshops, participants go through exercises helping them to fine-tune their sensitivity to gender issues and to how these affect people's risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. The analysis of these assessments at the workshops serves as the basis for identifying the priority issues to be addressed in the booklets.

They are also exposed to principles of writing for people with limited reading skills.

Each writer then works on his or her booklet with support from the group.

The booklets address a wide-range of issues normally not included in materials for HIV/AIDS such as the secondary status of girls and women in the family, the "sugar daddy" phenomenon, wife inheritance, the hyena practice ¹, traditional medicinal practices, superstitions, home-based care and living positively with AIDS.

They have one thing in common— they influence to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS.

We hope that these booklets will inspire readers to reflect on the problems and issues that ordinary women and men face in their day-to-day relationships.

In so doing, they might reach a conclusion that the responsibility is theirs to save their own lives and those of their loved ones from HIV/AIDS.

¹ The hyena practice is the custom of exposing young virgins to sex with an unidentified man as part of their initiation rites.

Nangi was 13 years old. She lived with her parents, brothers and sisters at their homestead in Oshamba Village, in the Oshana Region. The village is about 80 kilometers from Oshakati. She was a Grade-7 pupil at the Omukumo Primary School. She wanted to be the first woman doctor from her village.

My back has been giving me pain. I can also go to the Oshakati Hospital.

Can I go with you? I like talking to the doctors and the nurses. They're so nice in their white clothes.



But Nangi was left at home to go to school. On the way to Oshakati, her parents met Fanu.

Fanu, can you keep Nangi company after school? She will be all alone.

I'm relieved. She'll be with someone we can fully trust.

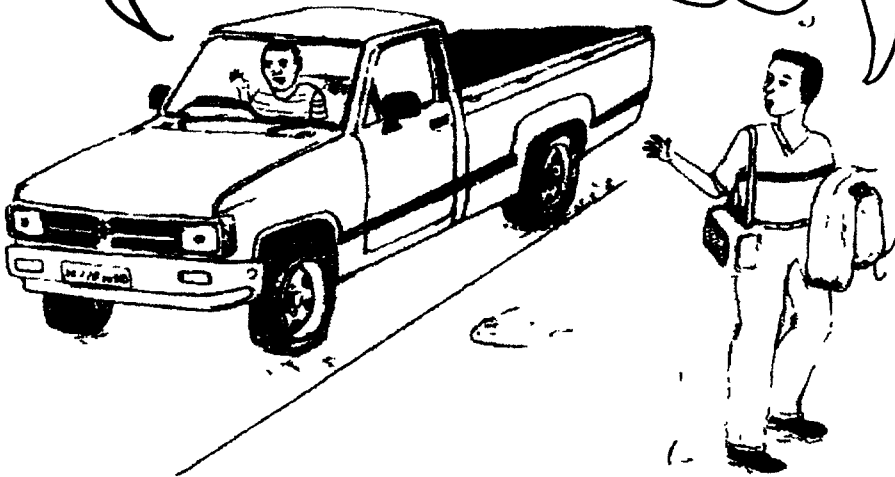
Sure, I can. Nangi and I always have fun together. She's my favourite little cousin.



Finally, Fanu arrived at Oshambo Village. He had shaved his beard and looked very young and different. He had also put on new clothes.

OK Fanu, you'll have fun with some pretty girl. I envy you. You're lucky.

Don't be silly. I'll just be with my little cousin. She's just an innocent girl.



Actually, Fanu was very happy that he would be at the homestead alone with Nangi. He had planned everything very well.

Hi, Nangi. Your parents asked me to come and look after you. They're worried you are alone at home. But you're a big girl now. Look at you, wow, you're pretty.

Wow, Fanu, these sweets are for me? You're rich? Tell me about Oshakati. You must have a pretty girlfriend. Tell me, quick!

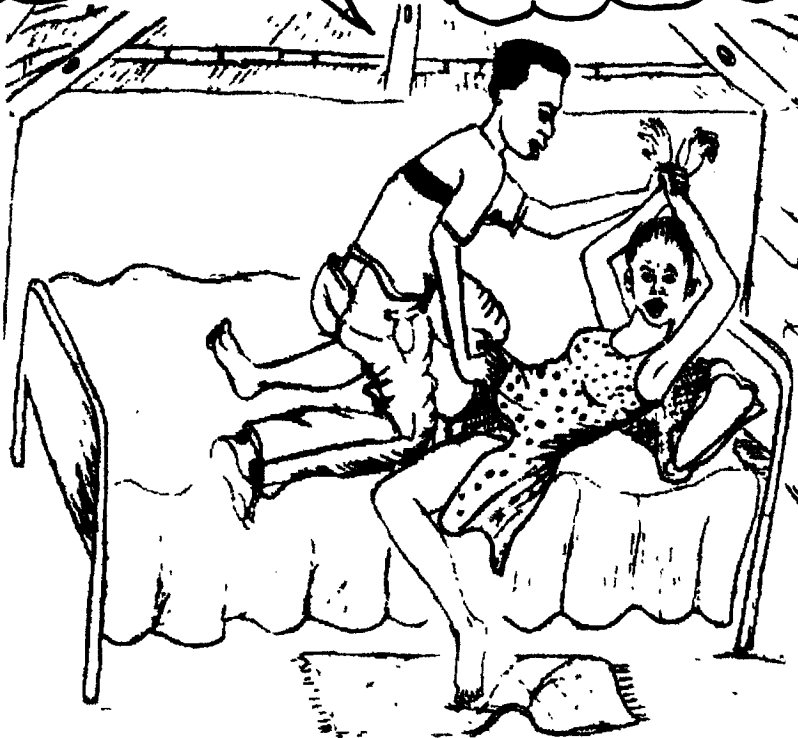


God! Nangi's still a little girl. Will I be able to go through with my plan?

At night, Fanu called Nangi to sleep in the same room with him. Nangi agreed easily. She wanted to hear all about life in the big town. But...

Let me touch you only once, Nangi. You'll like it. I won't hurt you, promise.

No. No. Fanu. What are you doing? Don't do this to me. Please don't...



Fanu raped Nangi. He told her not to tell anyone about what had happened. If she did, he would kill her. Nangi cried until very late. Fanu left very early the next morning.

That was horrible.
But I had to do it to
cure myself of this
damned disease.
God, forgive me. Oh
God!

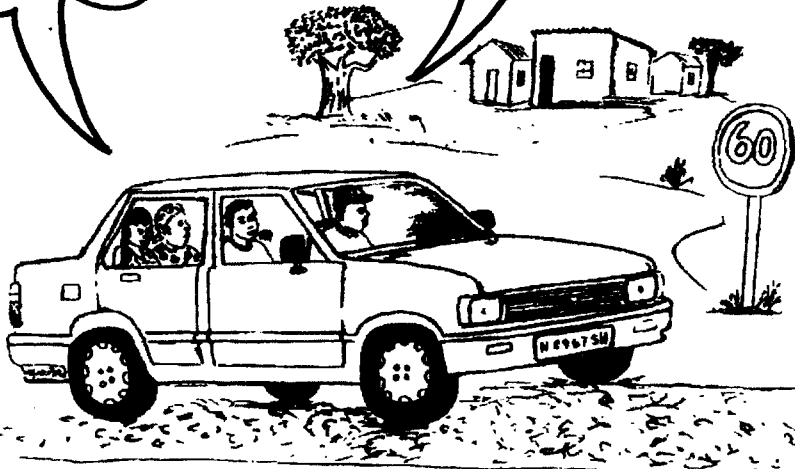


Fanu went away thinking that he was cured of HIV/AIDS

Nangi's parents were back from Oshakati. They found Nangi crying in bed. She told her parents the whole story. Her body hurt all over. She had sharp pains inside. She couldn't stop crying.

How could Fanu do that to us? We trusted him so much. He must have been possessed. To do that to his own cousin. Oh God, help us all.

This bastard, Fanu. He betrayed us all. He will see what will happen to him. He will pay for it. I'll kill him when I find him.

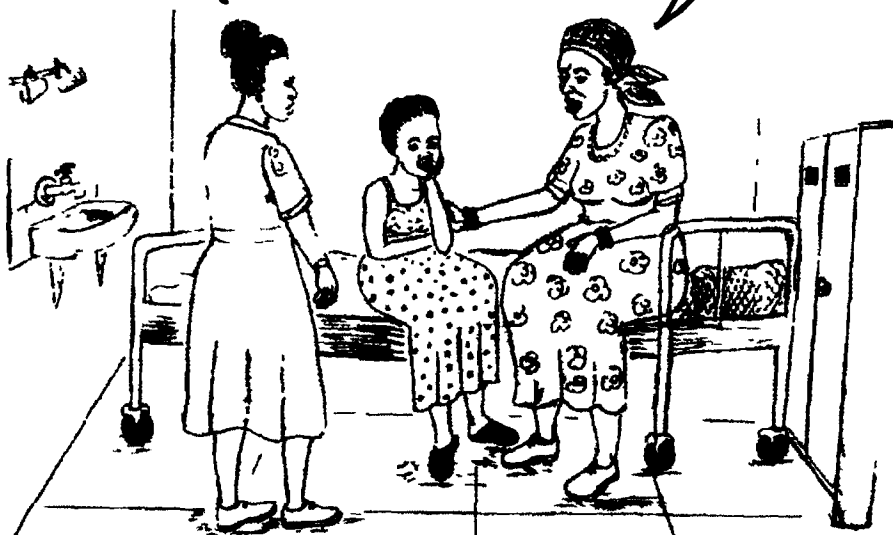


Her parents decided to take her to the clinic.

At the clinic...

Good afternoon. You both look upset. What can I do for you?

My daughter has been raped... Please examine her.



Let us send her to the Oshakati State Hospital. It's very urgent. We'll need to also check Nangi if she is HIV positive.

Do you know the person who did it? We must report him to the police. These days, there are more and more cases like this.

Oh my God, if Nangi catches AIDS from him, what will happen to her?



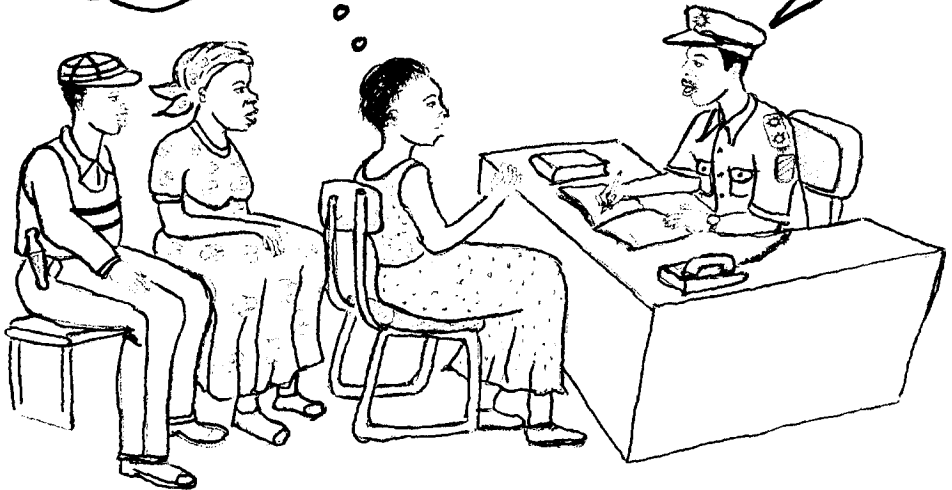
For once, Nangi was not excited by being near a nurse. She saw her life and her dream shatter before her eyes. No more doctor Nangi!!!

While in Oshakati, they reported the case to the Namibian Police.

Our daughter has been raped. It's Fanu. He's my cousin. What an animal! I want the law to punish him.

And my life? And my school? I want to die!

Men are raping their own children, sisters and neighbours. We need to put a stop to all this. Rape is a crime. No one should suffer in silence.



Now I'm going to prison. Worse, sleeping with Nangi didn't even cure me. Oh my Lord, this HIV/AIDS is ruining my life.



The police found Fanu and arrested him. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Fanu lived with HIV for a year before he died in misery. Having sex with a virgin like Nangi did not help cure Fanu of HIV/AIDS at all. Instead, it got him into even more serious problems.

After a year of counselling, Nangi went back to school. She talked to other villagers about the need to protect young girls from such abuse.

People think that sleeping with virgins will cure them of AIDS. That is not true. Look at Fanu. He still died of AIDS. Parents, protect your daughters. Don't repeat my mistake.



Nangi still went to school. Luckily for Nangi, she had supportive parents. They helped her live positively. She still hoped to become doctor Nangi.

Questions

1. Why was Fanu happy to go and stay with Nangi?
2. Why did Fanu rape Nangi?
3. Why did Nangi accept to sleep in the same bed with Fanu?
4. What happened to Fanu after he raped Nangi?
5. Do you agree with Fanu that having sex with virgins will cure AIDS?
6. How did Nangi turn her negative experience into a useful one?
7. What do you think of what Nangi did at the end of the story?
8. Do you think that Nangi's life is ruined ? Discuss.
9. Do you know any girl who became HIV positive because she was forced into having sex with an infected person? What do you think of that?

Written by Africans for Africans, this booklet is one of a growing series prepared during UNESCO training workshops to produce gender-sensitive materials for HIV/AIDS prevention for southern African countries.

When gender concerns are integrated into post-literacy materials which recognize local conditions, peoples' attitudes, values and beliefs, dreams and aspirations, they provide a powerful tool for tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic currently ravaging southern Africa.

The series is an effort at filling the void left by medically-oriented and didactic materials. They are based on the assumption that effective materials can help people change their attitudes which, in turn, will bring about positive changes in their behaviour.

These booklets reflect the way people communicate in southern Africa in the 21st century—their images, customs, attitudes and beliefs. They are aimed at helping readers - women and men, young and old – to raise issues and seek answers to questions concerning their risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.