The Arm Our Youths (ArOY) Health Campaign

an OCI Foundation's initiative for Nigerian Youths against breast & cervical cancers

MODULE: AN INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Assoc. Prof. CHRIS IFEDIORA

(MBBS, MPH, FRACGP, HMS-SEAL, FIMC, CMC, AFANZAHPE)

- Griffith University School of Medicine, Gold Coast, Australia
 - President, OCI Foundation International (Nigeria and Australia)





OUTLINE

- 1. The Facts
- 2. Introducing the OCI Foundation's ArOY Campaign
- 3. Trial Quizzes





"...we rise, by lifting others"

INTRODUCTION: THE FACTS 1

- Research-evidence show that anti-breast and anti-cervical cancer campaigns should:
 - 1. Primarily target teenagers (boys and girls)
 - 2. In senior secondary (high schools) of developing countries.
- The primary goals of the ArOY Health Campaign are:
 - Integrating preventive cancer strategies;
 - Into the academic curricula of senior secondary (high) school students
 - Targeting them in their mid-teens
- The Campaign is vital, since:
 - Cervical cancer particularly, and breast cancer to a reasonable extent
 - Both have their roots in the teenage years



"...we rise, bu lifting others"



INTRODUCTION: THE FACTS 2

- The ArOY Health Campaign in Nigeria:
 - The only accessible, affordable, sustainable and realistic approach
 - Gives millions of women the chance of survival against the 2 cancers.
- Empowers Young Nigerians:
 - With self-awareness and confidence
 - Necessary to take charge of their own health.
- The acquired knowledge:
 - Helps them adopt positive attitudes and preventive behaviours
 - That will ultimately prolong their lives.
- It offers governments and concerned stakeholders
 - An evidence-based, cost-effective and sustainable life-saving intervention option
 - A way around bottlenecks that limit
 - Large scale implementation of other effective but capital-intensive strategies.



"...we rise, by lifting others"



INTRODUCTION: THE ArOY HEALTH CAMPAIGN 1

- The Arm Our Youths (ArOY) Campaign is a Health Promotion initiative
 - Novel
 - Harvard-endorsed and WHO-supported
 - Evidence-based
- Introduces anti-breast and ant-cervical cancer teachings into the academic curriculum:
 - Targets all senior secondary schools in Nigeria
 - As way of tackling both breast and cervical cancers
- It aims to :
 - Start from the high (senior secondary) school years
 - When most young adults are teenagers
 - Reach all other Nigerians through the <u>FREE CERVIBREAST MOBILE PHONE APP</u>



"...we rise, by lifting others"



INTRODUCTION: THE ArOY HEALTH CAMPAIGN 2

- Must Include <u>BOYS</u> (not just <u>GIRLS</u>)
 - Given that sexual pressure from <u>MEN</u> contributes significantly to the problem
- Women also need the support of MEN in the fight:
 - To maintain the required lifestyle
 - Provide funds for tests, screenings, and so on
- Males, therefore, <u>MUST</u> be empowered alongside the women
- They need to be part of the solutions:
 - If long term beneficial outcomes are to be realized



"...we rise, bu lifting others"



IMPORTANCE OF THE ArOY HEALTH CAMPAIGN

• PRESENT:

- 1. For the foreseeable future (at least), the unfortunate reality is that:
- 2. The Campaign is the only option available to tens of millions of women in Nigeria

• FUTURE:

- 1. Complements future government-sponsored programs on screening and vaccination
- 2. By preparing an informed and compliant population
- 3. Will help overcome vaccine-hesitancy
- 4. Will help increase uptakes to screening and vaccinations
- 5. Ensures the efficacy and sustainability of any programs
- 6. Produces future leaders that can prioritize and adopt desirable policies
- 7. Could provide the missing puzzle for cervical cancer eradication (overcomes hesitancy)
- The Campaign has significant support from a number of reputable institutions:
 - Including those from Nigeria, Australia, Canada and the USA.



THE END

Let us join hands to ARM OUR YOUTHS

- ... While Young
 - ... All of them
 - ... Right Now



"...we rise, by lifting others"

... Let's do it for our families, our states, and for our Country

THANK YOU!!!!

