

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION	AFRICAN POPULATION AND HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER
PROJECT NAME	EPINA PROJECT
CONTACT TYPE	IDI Minor
FILE NUMBER	211120_1503
DATE OF THE INTERVIEW	21/11/2021
DURATION	14 minutes 47 seconds

I: We will start our conversation and I would like you to speak up because we have vehicles outside making noise. You told me that you don't know that you have epilepsy, you said the only problem you know you have is having a headache and painful ribs?

R: Yes.

I: In your opinion, what causes epilepsy?

R: I do not know what causes epilepsy.

I: You have never heard of it or people talk about it, maybe in school or such discussions?

R: I have only seen two people who have epilepsy.

I: Have you heard any discussion maybe in school about epilepsy and its causes?

R: No, I have never heard of it.

I: Is there something that can be done to prevent someone from getting epilepsy?

R: I do not know, I only saw them and heard that it is epilepsy but I did not bother.

I: So, you did not hear what happens if someone has epilepsy?

R: Yes.

I: When you get headaches and painful ribs, where do you usually go to hospitals?

R: For the headache, I usually take medications because the doctor said I have seizures and gave me a prescription, and whenever I take the medication the seizures stop.

I: Is there anything that happens to you apart from having headaches and painful ribs? When you get headaches what activities are you unable to do?

R: When it cools down, initially I am able to do my activities.

I: Do you get a constant headache or does it stop and continue?

R: I usually get headaches and then they go away.

I: What are some of the fears that a child living with epilepsy gets?

R: I have never seen a child with epilepsy.

I: You told me you are not aware that you have epilepsy and, in the hospital, they told you it's just seizures?

R: Yes.

I: When you have been attacked by seizures is it only that you have headaches or do you usually have anything else going on?

R: Yes.

I: What activities would you say you can't do when you have headaches?

R: When my headaches cool down there is nothing, I can't do

I: What about before it cools down is there an activity that you can't do?

R: I normally sit down until my headaches cool down then I can continue with what I wanted to do.

I: Do the headaches happen at school, at home or anywhere?

R: The headaches usually start anywhere I am.

I: Where do you usually get health services when you have headaches

R: Thika.

I: Why do you usually go to get health services at the Thika?

R: That's where I went for the first time when I had an epileptic moment at school

I: What is your opinion on the services that you get at Thika?

R: They treat well.

I: Do they have medications and tests for epilepsy?

R: I have never seen any.

I: What would you recommend to be changed at the services you get at Thika?

R: Being given a lot of medication.

I: They usually give you a lot of medication?

R: Yes.

I: When they give you these medications what do they tell you they are for?

R: They tell me that the medications are for cooling my mind.

I: Having painful legs and headaches, how do you say they have affected your life?

R: They made me to drop out of boarding school to day school. It has also affected me that I cannot read a lot because when I read a lot, I get headaches.

I: What do you mean by you cannot read a lot?

R: Before, how I used to study is that when I don't understand something, I used to cram it but for now I cannot be able to cram because I will have headaches.

I: Do you have any other effects apart from having headaches when you cram and dropping out of boarding school? What are the other effects that have happened to you?

R: It causes me to faint and then I'm taken to the hospital. Well, they might not release me yet and maybe in school there are exams going on, therefore, I'm unable to do the exams.

I: So, it is the headaches that cause you to faint? Do you have any other effects?

R: When I get headaches, I have to take medications. If I do not take the medications, I might have seizures anytime.

I: What are some of the things that having headaches make you not do?

R: I am usually restricted from reading a lot and also from going anywhere, that I should stay in the house.

I: Why?

R: They say that I might go out and faint or maybe forget to take my medications therefore it forces me to stay in the house.

I: Has this condition caused any effect on the relationship between you and the family

R: No.

I: What about your relationship with friends?

R: It has not affected.

I: What about other people who may be in school?

R: For school, it has affected me because the principal refused me to be in his school when he received the information that I had fainted and was taken to hospital since he has never seen any other child fainting in school.

I: What about other children?

R: It has not affected.

I: How do you think epilepsy will affect you in the life to come?

R: I don't think so because I will get healed.

I2: Which facility did you say you usually go to in Thika?

R: Health Facility T.

I2: Are there specific days you go to the clinic and for how long?

R: Yes, I usually go to the clinic after 6 months.

I2: How do you follow up on your medications?

R: I usually take two in the evening and then I take one in the morning

I2: You told me that the institution you were in, the principal refused you to be in that school because you had seizures. Was it a public school or a private school?

R: It was a boarding school that was public and was far from home.

I: How has your experience been living with headaches and having to faint?

R: According to me it has been very hard.

I: Would you explain it more to us and the things you are not able to do because of your condition

R: Mostly it has affected the way I study because I cannot go to a friend and we study together because if I was to go and then I have a headache I might collapse which will be a problem.

I: What about home chores?

R: Before, it's when I would not be able to do anything but, for now, I'm able to do any home chores.

I: What about sports especially in school

R: I can play any game in school.

I2: You said that you are told that you usually get seizures. Have you never known that you had a seizure?

R: That is what the doctor at Health Facility M told me because I never knew that I had a seizure. The first time the doctors said it was blood and then they confirmed it to be seizures.

I2: So, they did not tell you which disease it was?

R: Yes, I was just told that I had a seizure.

I: Is there something that can be done to prevent fainting and headaches to children like you?

R: I was told that if I follow medications it will stop.

I: As we finalize our conversation, I don't know if you have a question?

R: Is the disease I have epilepsy?

I: Because the doctor did not tell us and I am not a doctor I cannot tell which it is, all I can recommend is that when you go back to the clinic with your parent you get to ask the

doctor to explain well. Do you have any other questions? If you do not have any other questions, then we have completed our conversations and thank you very much for your views.

.....*The End*.....