



ROSE ACADEMIES-UGANDA

Cervical Cancer Focus Group Guide

Focus Group Guide (for the interviewer)

Pre-Interview Information & Procedures:

Introduction:

Any persons conducting the interview/ asking the focus group questions should start by introducing themselves to the group present. Take time to introduce yourself and go around asking for group members to introduce themselves as well. By taking time to do this before asking questions trust is being built within the group.

Start by explaining the group's role today within this interview. The focus group/ interviewer leader will ask questions and give time for each participant to answer and respond to the question. The goal is to start a conversation about women's attitudes and beliefs about cervical cancer and cervical cancer screening. After the main question is asked, probe questions about the same topic will be asked to continue the conversation.

It is important to let the participants know that this focus group is a safe space, and if they ever feel uncomfortable they do not have to answer the question. Participants feeling safe and comfortable is a priority.

Focus Group Purpose & applications:

The interviewer/ focus group leader should read the following statement, or inform the participants of the focus group's purpose

- The purpose of this focus group is to gain a better understanding of women's current knowledge of cervical cancer, and cervical cancer screening. The answers given today will help Rose Academies create a program to educate all community members about Cervical Cancer and help Rose Academies promote healthy lives for all.

Questions or Concerns:

Before starting, the interviewer should ask the participants if they have any questions or concerns before beginning the interview. If so, address the questions accordingly.

Collection of Data/ Answers:

It is recommended to use a voice recorder or any type of audio recording device for this type of interview. This ensures the interviewer can focus on guiding the participants with questions, while no information is being missed. By recording sessions, Rose Academies can go back at any time to listen to the recordings.

- Important to receive permission from participants to be recorded

Understanding a Focus Group:

Purpose of a Focus Group:

- To gather perspective and information from the target audience/population around a certain topic (cervical cancer & cervical cancer screening). Focus groups are a standard research method to gauge a group's health beliefs, and the results can be used to enhance methods for health education programs around Cervical cancer. By understanding the target population's perspective and current beliefs about the topic Rose Academies will be able to better understand and address the needs of the population.
- These questions are all supposed to be “open-ended” therefore, there should be no easy “yes or no” answer. The hope/goal is there would be conversation or more to say around each question. Since this is a sensitive topic, and no one is required to answer anything they are not comfortable with, the probe questions can help draw out some discussion/ conversation when there is not a whole lot being said about any specific question.

Main Questions:

- These are the first questions to be asked by the interviewer to the group. These questions should facilitate the conversation within the group and then will be followed by probe questions.
- The main questions will be indicated by “Q” followed by a number. For example Q1.

Probe Questions:

- These are questions to be asked by the interviewer after the main question is asked and everyone in the group who wants to answer or speak to the question has spoken. If the conversation is not flowing or seems to die down, this is when the interviewer will introduce the probe questions. Their purpose is to spark and continue the conversation around the same topic in the main question.

Conducting the Fish-bone tool within Focus groups:

- **Reference the Fishbone tool diagram & written description**

Purpose of Fish-Bone tool for Focus Groups:

- Those leading focus groups can use an easel to draw out the structure of the fishbone when asking questions about barriers to screening.
- The “head” or end of the fishbone tool represents the problem: barriers to Cervical Cancer screening
- Each of the lines coming off the fishbone tool is different barriers women may face when it comes to screening for Cervical Cancer. You may identify one barrier such as knowledge, and draw additional lines from that barrier such as awareness of screening procedures, or understanding the personal risk that is all related to knowledge.

Fishbone tool during Focus Groups:

- Have a Rose Team member who is conducting the Focus Group draw the tool on an easel when asking the group about what barriers they can think of that would prevent them from screening. When participants identify barriers write them on the tool as a visual aid for the group, continuing by adding lines and barriers for each thing the participants identify. If identification of barriers slows down, refer to the existing Fishbone tool and ask participants if any of the barriers not mentioned yet are something the group would see as a barrier.
- Continue identifying barriers and bringing up barriers from the existing fishbone tool until the Rose team member feels like they have a complete list and understanding of the barriers the participants are facing.

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS:

Themes of the following questions: Attitudes, Access, Knowledge, Behaviors around Cervical Cancer & Cervical Cancer Screening

Q1: What kind of experience has your community had with cervical cancer or cervical cancer screening?

Probe Questions:

- Is Cervical cancer a concern among women in your community?
- Is this an issue people talk about openly?
- Where do you get information about the prevention of cervical cancer?
- Where would you like to get this information?
- What do you think is a good way to teach community members about sexual health in your community?

Q2: What do you think puts a woman at risk for cervical cancer?

Probe Questions:

- What do you think causes cervical cancer?
- Please could you name as many things as you can think of that could increase any woman's chance of getting cervical cancer?
- What things do you think affect a person's chance of developing cervical cancer?

Q3: Overall, what are the most important barriers to cervical cancer screening in your community?

Probe Question:

- What are some reasons you would put off going to the clinic or seeing a doctor/physician?

Q4: What do you think symptoms of cervical cancer may be for a woman?

Probe Question:

- If you know anyone who has been diagnosed with cervical cancer do you know what symptoms they experienced?

Q5: Do you think it is important to prevent cervical cancer?

Probe Question:

- What are some ways a woman can protect herself from cervical cancer?

Concluding Question

Q7: Is there anything else anyone would like to say about Cervical Cancer or Cervical Cancer Screening that we did not discuss today?

If participants have no other comments, this is where you thank them for their time and let them know their answers are confidential and the information provided today will help promote healthy lives for all in the community.