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• AMAZWI ETHU: SPEAKING BACK - A PHOTOVOICE STUDY OF ADOLESCENT RISK AND RESILIENCE

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ORIGINS OF THE STUDY

Previous longitudinal study

-The Well-being of South African Children:
Household, Community and Policy
Influences [SIZE]

About Vulindlela community

The aim of the present study

**-The aim of present study was to
develop a deeper understanding of the
beliefs and aspirations young South
Africans hold about their place in the
world and how these constructs
influence their health behaviours and
risk assessments**

- Adoption of a qualitative
Photovoice methodology

Why this approach?

Participatory

It is bottom up

It acknowledges the
participant by giving it *VOICE*

It is empowering



How we did it?



PHOTOVOICE

- Participants were trained on Photovoice
- Disposable cameras given to older adolescents (15-18 years old)
- Given prompts e.g (please **take no more 3 photos** of things that make you **happy or excited** , **describe who you are**, **challenges faced by woman/man in your community**)
- Discussed pictures in a group setting

FOCUS GROUP

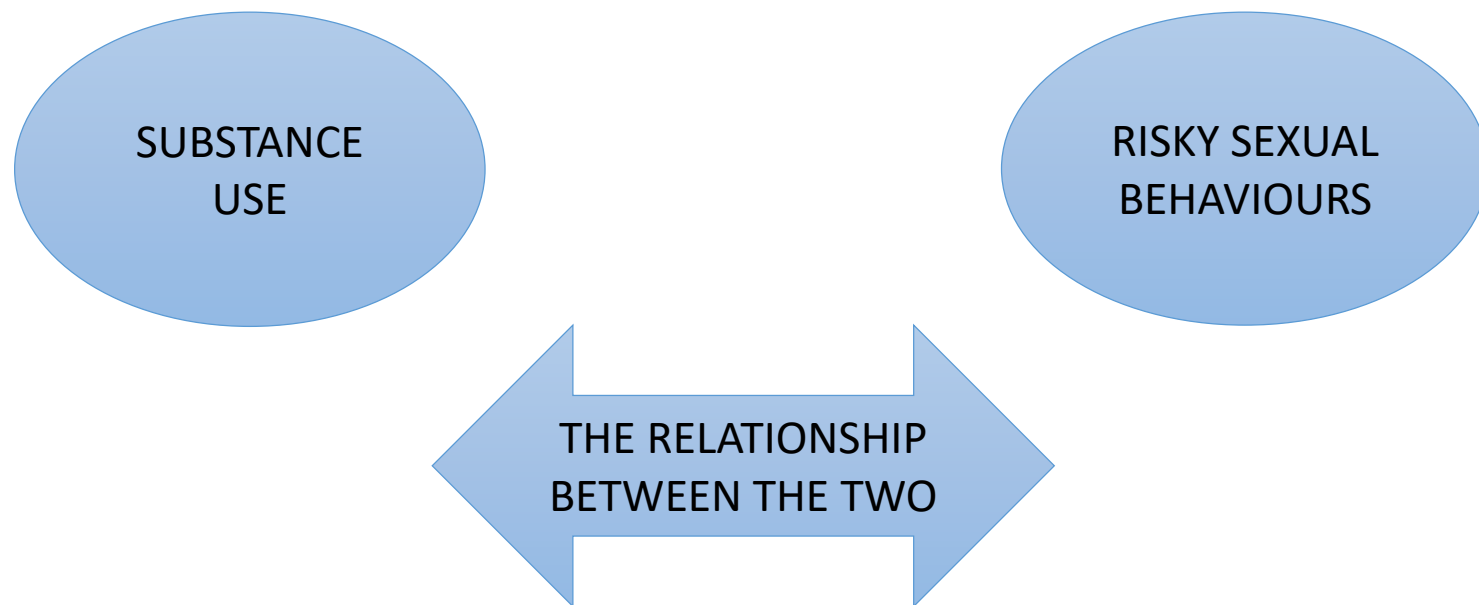
- FGDs with:
 - 12-14 year olds
 - 15-16 year olds
 - 17-18 year olds
- FGD covered questions on community, families, substance abuse and sex , amongst others



What did we find?



FINDINGS





SUBSTANCE USE



'Here, I was trying to show a picture of peer pressure; that young people my age don't just start smoking and doing drugs, but friends influence them because they want to fit in ... You cannot fit in with them if you do not smoke!'
(Focus group (FG) 3, male, 17 - 18).



RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIORS



'What I heard is that girls, like women, use it for sexual activities ... they say it makes boys... You see when they have sex you become [aroused] and that... The sister I was sitting with told me that, you see. But she told me not to [tell other people]. She said like with your partner, what can I say? He says you 'They insert it here [pointing towards the vagina : Focus group (FG) 3, male, 17 - 18).



THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO





IMPLICATIONS

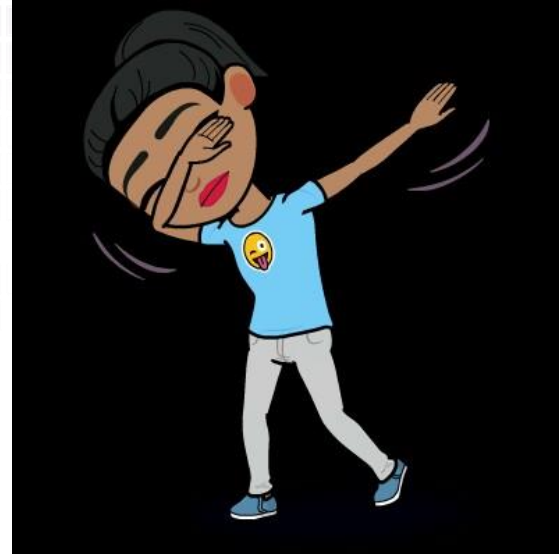
- Using participatory/emancipatory approaches give adolescents opportunities to voice their concerns in **their own right**, rather than researchers 'coming in' and making assumptions on what is important or not
- Visual methodologies **give voice to adolescents** and allow for **alternative ways of capturing and disseminating the concerns of adolescents, as they see and experience them**
- Different to other studies, we focused on both the 'positives' and challenges in the community
 - In relation to the challenges, the findings are not new however it offers **new insights** into the experiences of **youth in semi-rural communities** which are often neglected in the literature
 - This information is imperative for the adaptation or development of interventions that are **culturally sensitive and contextually appropriate** to adolescents and the larger community
 - Future steps:



FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- How can we encourage the positives in order to address the challenges?
- How can we use the challenges to develop or adapt interventions to address them?





NGIYABONGA!!



SO ... DO YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS FOR ME?

