

In-depth interview guide

Research Article Title: Challenges and Support Experienced by Family Care Givers Seeking ART Services for Children Living with HIV/AIDS: A phenomenological study.

Introduction: The purpose of this study is to investigate the challenges and support systems as experienced by family care givers of children with HIV who seek HIV care for their children at St. Joseph's Hospital in Jirapa Municipality, Upper West Region of Ghana, and how these challenges and support systems influence adherence to ART among children with HIV/AIDS. It will be appreciated if you could respond appropriately to all the questions that will be asked in this interview. You are assured of confidentiality of any information shared. Thank you for agreeing to take part in this interview.

Section A: Socio-demographic characteristics of participants

Can you please introduce yourself and your child? I want to know you better.

Possible probes.

1. Please how old are you?
2. What is your marital status?
3. What is your occupation?
4. What is your level of formal education?
5. How are you related to the child?
6. What is the age of your child?
7. How long has your child been on ART?

Section B: Family Care givers of HIV/AIDS children challenges when seeking ART services

Please tell me some of the challenges that you go through as caregiver of a child with HIV/AIDS in ensuring the adherence to antiretroviral therapy.

Possible probes.

1. Tell me the challenges you encounter ensuring strict adherence to the antiretroviral therapy?
2. Tell me how these challenges mentioned above influence the adherences of your child to the antiretroviral therapy?
3. How easy is it for you accessing the HIV/AIDS medications?

Thank you so much for sharing that with me, and I appreciate it. Now, I like to talk with you about the available support systems for you and the child.

Section C: Support toward adherence

Please tell me the support you get from others and how it helps you to ensure the child adheres to the ART.

Possible probes.

1. Describe to me the forms or sources of support you get?
2. Explain to me how the sources of support play a role in the child's adherence to medications?
3. How does your family support you in ensuring that the child takes the medications well?
4. What kind of support do you get from the health sector/hospital to ensure that the child stays on the ARTs?
5. What role do your friends play in supporting you to ensure that the child stays on the ARTs as ordered?
6. How easy is it for you getting these supports?

Thank you for spending time to take part in this interview. We appreciate every bit of information provided.