Tackling taboo topic of reproductive health among youths

85 per cent live in the developing world. It also states that “their decisions about sexual behaviour and child-bearing are critical to the planet’s future, population size, dynamic and well-being.”

In addition, UNFPA says although most people become sexually active during adolescence, young people often have no access to the family planning services and education they need. Some of the biggest barriers are cultural taboos about young people’s sexuality.

“If we want to address population issues, combat maternal deaths and give young people a good, healthy start on their lives, their right to reproductive health and family planning information and services must be promoted, and changes in policies and regulations encouraged,” UNFPA adds.

The report says the highest rates of STIs world-wide are among young people aged 15 to 24. Some 500,000 become infected daily (excluding HIV). Two in five new HIV infections occur in young people aged 15 to 24.

Narating her experience with her project tagged Talk 2 Me, where “a synergy of methods of methods were brought together for improved results,” she listed the objectives to include providing opportunities for young people to discuss reproductive health issues on a monthly basis with their peers in school during Focused Group Discussion (FGD), gather questions, concerns and observations from young people for professional answers and advice.

Others are publish the questions and answers, reports from FGD and other articles in a newspaper format.
Emerging data on adolescent sexual and reproductive behaviour continue to indicate earlier ages of sexual initiation ranging from 12 to 16. They also show that some of the sexual encounters are unprotected, such that the outcomes include unwanted pregnancy, unsafe induced abortions and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS.