

## **Bakuseka Majja Women's Group Meeting on Ebinno--09 08 08**

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**Location:** St.Lwanga Primary School Field, Buvulunguti Village, Bakamba Parish, Nawaikoke Sub-county, Kaliro District  
**Date:** 09.08.08  
**Attendees:** 25 members of Bakuseka Majja Women's Group (of groups A and B), Natalie Newell (group advisor)  
**Activity:** Group meeting to discuss the women's experience related to babies teething and knowledge of Ebinno ('false tooth')

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### **Agenda:**

- **How long has it taken their babies to grow teeth?**
  - **What have the women done with their babies when they are teething and why?**
  - **Have the women heard of Ebinno ('false tooth')?**
  - **Have any of the women's children had it and what did they do?**
  - **Impressions of the discussion**
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### **Minutes:**

- **How long has it taken their babies to grow teeth?**
  - All the women participated in discussing this issue and the period it took for their babies to grow teeth varied. The following women, randomly selected from the group to represent the different time periods given for their baby to grow teeth, said:
    - Hadija- 1 year
    - Robina- 6 months
    - Brenda- 3 months
    - Besi- 4 months
- **What have the women done with their babies when they are teething and why?**
  - The general initial response was 'nothing'
  - The babies fell sick for a short period and suffered from fever and diarrhea
  - When probed if the baby had any treatment of any kind, the responses given were:
    - The baby was taken to the hospital and given an injection of painkillers
    - 8 women answered that they gave their baby herbal medicine
  - When those 8 women were asked why they gave their babies herbal medicine they responded:
    - The babies body temperatures rose and herbal medicine was given to reduce the body temperature
  - The women were asked what the herbal medicine was. They said that the herbal medicine is made from the leaves of 2 trees, Lubirizi and Kikaaka (in the local language)

- When asked how the medicine was taken, the women responded that it is given to the baby to drink after mixing a concoction of the leaves with water
  - The cases in which the herbal medicine is not only for when the baby is teething but also when they are suffering from malaria as it is used to reduce the body temperature
  - The women were asked how they know about the herbal medicine. The following answers were given:
    - Ancestral (they just know through the generations)
    - It is announced over the radio
  - The women were asked how do they get/give the medicine:
    - The women get the leave themselves, make the medicine and give it to their babies themselves
  - The women were asked if they had ever taken their baby/child to get a dental operation. The general consensus response was 'no'
- **Have the women heard of Ebinno ('false tooth')?**
    - Yes, all the women agreed that they had heard of it
    - The women were asked what Ebinno is. Their responses were:
      - A disease that contains water and grows in the gums near where the molar teeth grow
      - It looks white in colour and when it grows it resembles real teeth in the early stage but when it matures it changes colour to yellow
      - They can burst and led to death in the baby
- **Have any of the women's children had it and what did they do?**
    - The women were asked how many of them in the group had children that had had Ebinno. 7 women responded 'yes'
    - The 7 women were asked what they did when their baby/babies had Ebinno. The responses were:
      - They were cut out. A razor blade or scissor were used and cut out by a local herbal doctor
      - Sometimes local herbs are administered and the Ebinno disappears
    - The women were asked what happens in the areas where the Ebinno was after they are cut out. The responses were:
      - Sometimes the teeth grow
      - Sometimes they never grow
    - The women were asked how they learnt/found out about Ebinno. The responses were:
      - They learnt/found out about Ebinno when they were young
      - They heard/saw the disease killing children
      - They know that if they do not get the Ebinno cut then the baby/child will die

- The women were asked how they can tell the difference between Ebinno and what they call 'normal teeth' as they said previously that they look the same. Their responses were:
  - A child gets the disease when they are young and not got any teeth yet (between the period of 1-3 months)
  - Milk teeth grow in the front of the mouth first, so the 'false teeth' are those that grow behind and are fake
- **Impressions of the discussion**
  - The discussion was very successful in terms that it was very open and all the women were fully participating and getting fully into the discussion
  - One of the group members Joy, is quite old and a herbal doctor so she was giving a lot of information about Ebinno
  - Some ladies in the group such as Namanganda was very vocal, gave a lot of information and would be willing to give more information/ a personal story on this subject if this is needed
  - The discussion was very interesting in terms of the women initially saying that they did nothing when their babies were teething, until they were probed further and the word 'Ebinno' was mentioned, then a lot more information was obtained