

Gelling Medical Knowledge: ethnography and clinical trials

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22 April 2009, MTN AGM: Washington





“I’m getting too old to hunt. Let’s contact that anthropologist who wanted to study us and eat the students he sends to do the research”

'Doing Ethnography'



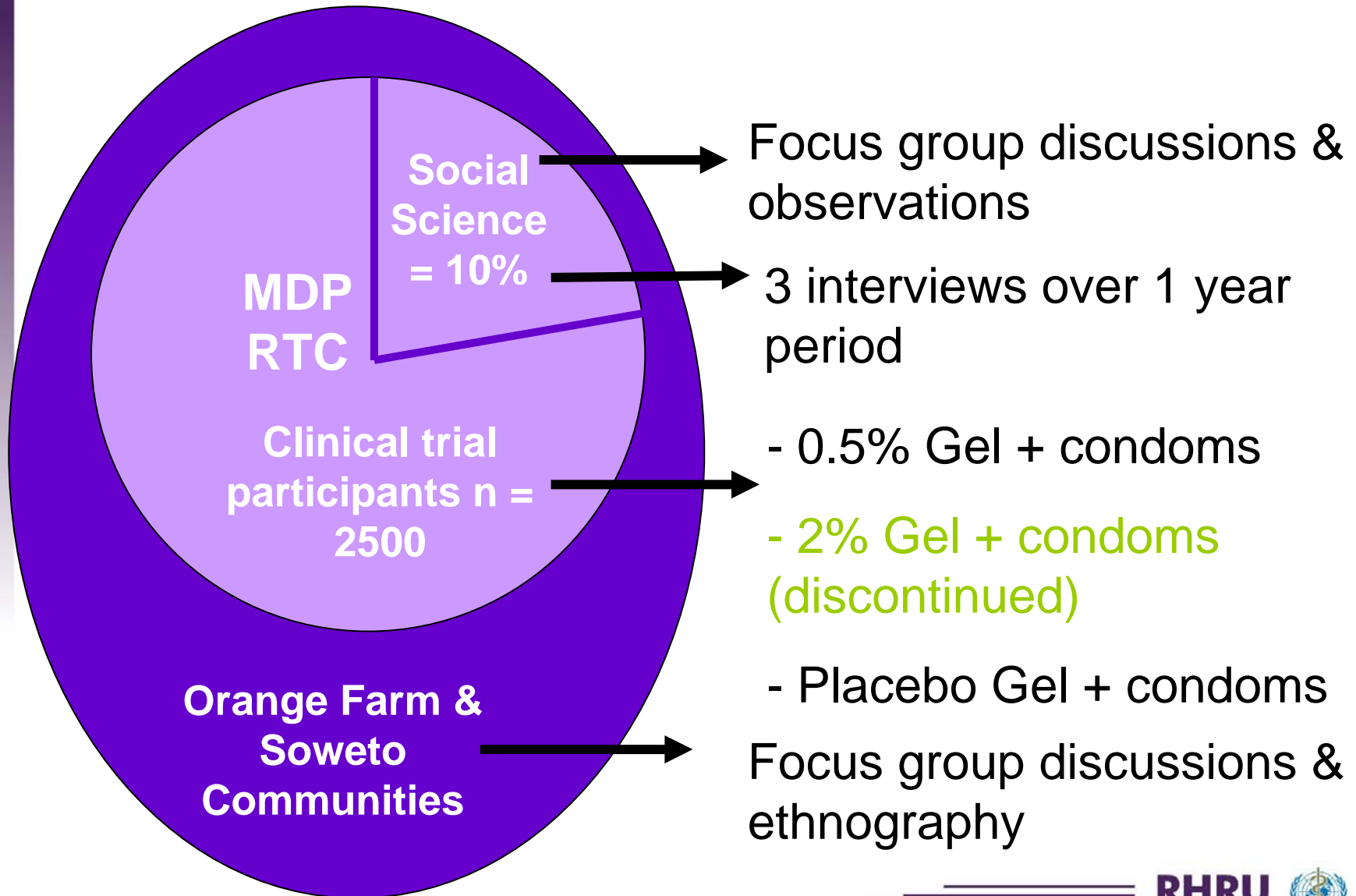
Participant Observation

What do people say they believe and do ...

...what they actually do



MDP301 Social Science





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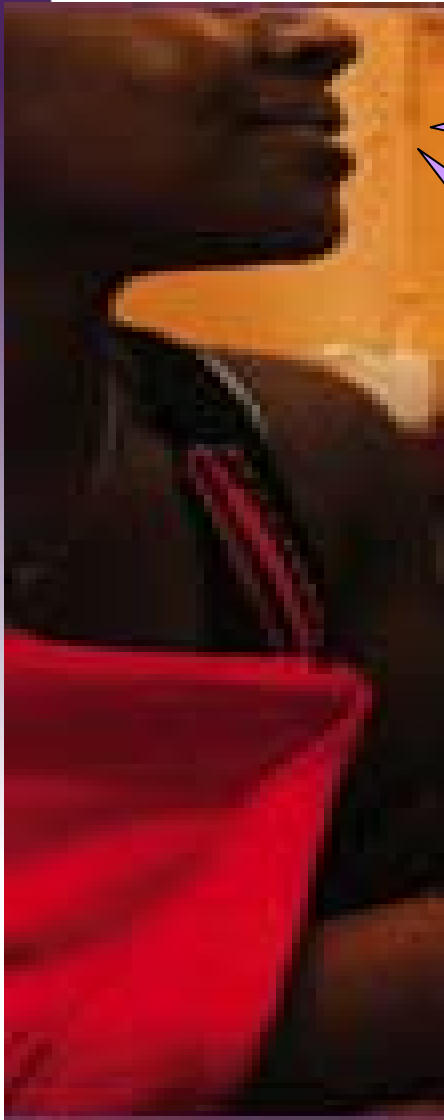




what women know...

...what they
experience

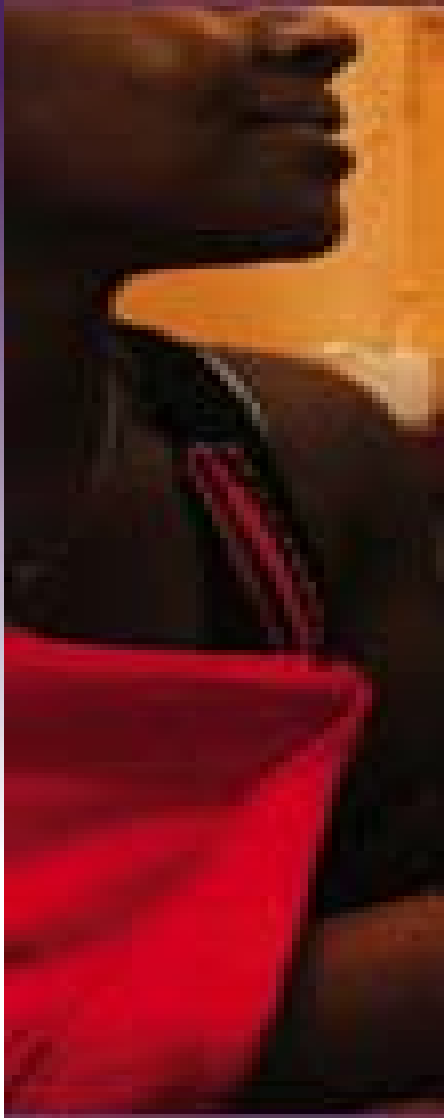




I believe that I was given the one with percentages [.5% or 2%] because of the way things happen in my body

I think maybe I had been using the placebo gel because I did not experience any side effects

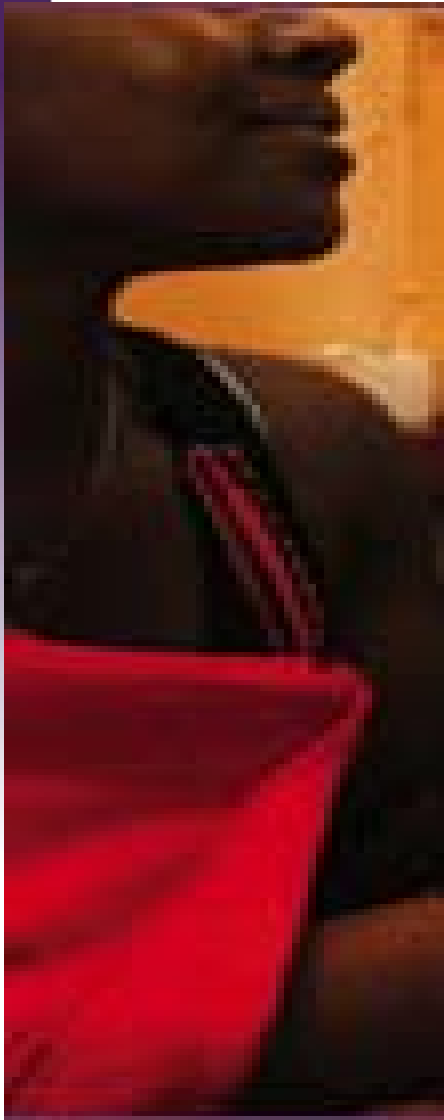




I was happy when it came out especially when I saw that it was dirty, it meant that the gel was cleaning me

If you have an infection the gel will clean it out

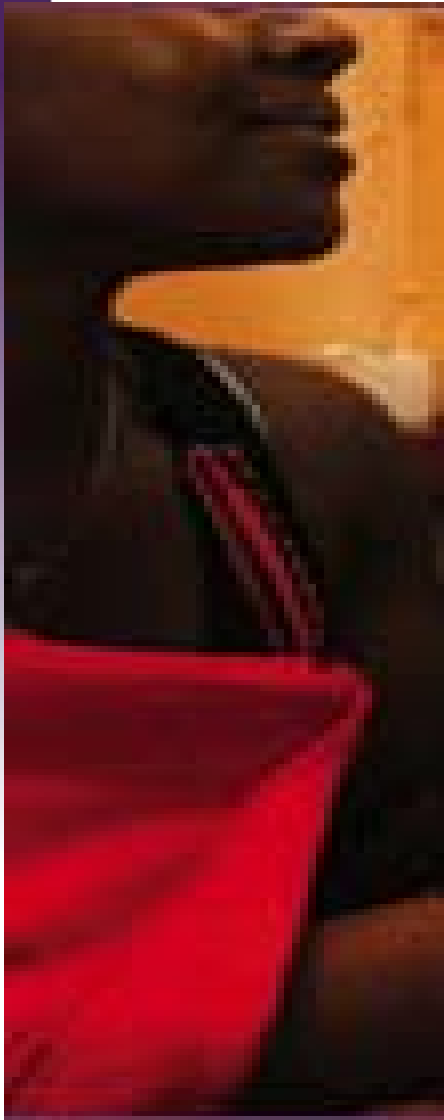




I thought that it was searching for diseases inside me whilst protecting me at the same time by removing all the dirt

The gel is preventing us from many diseases including HIV because it flushes out everything that is dirty

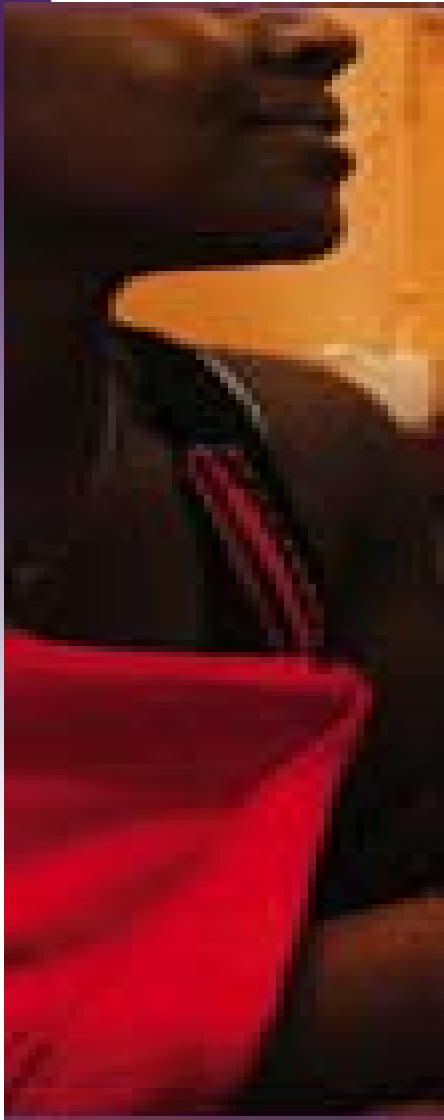




I started using the gel and as a result of continuous use, my pores are now open. My body is no longer stiff and I don't get tired any more

I am always energetic like somebody who is using drugs. It has even opened the veins to my kidneys

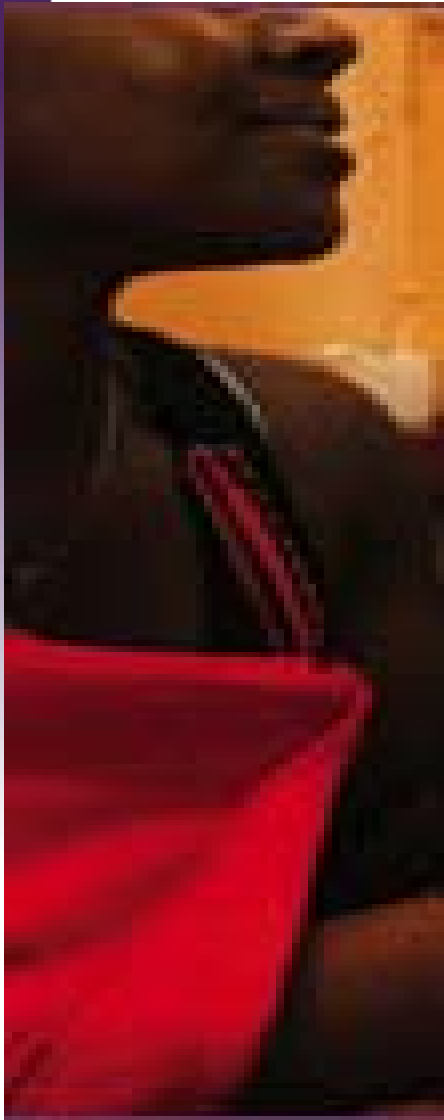




I use it twice a week so that it can clean me

I told her to insert the gel even though she was not having sex and the following day she said the pain has stopped and she was able to walk. She said it has removed dirt from her womb





They said that they are still testing the gel to see if it can protect against HIV infection but I believe that it can protect me

I think I am using 2%. I think it is the one that can prevent HIV



- Microbicides empower women to control reproductive health but are *experienced* as ‘cleansing’.

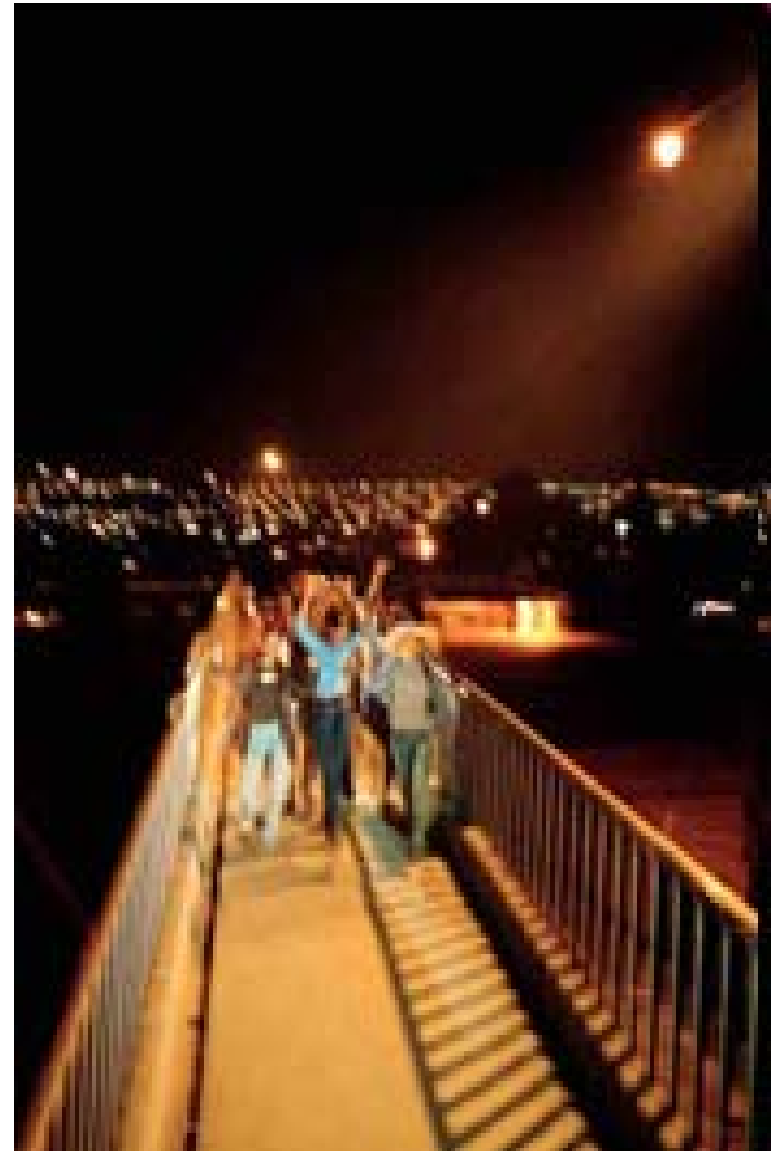


- These *experiences* were critical in shaping their perceptions and potentially their use



- Experiences of product use and how this is interpreted

- ‘how does it make you feel?’
- ‘what did you see?’
...
- ‘what did you use it for?’ ...
- ‘what do you think it does?’ ...



Acknowledgements

- **Microbicide Development Program**
- **British Medical Research Council**
- **Dept for International Development, UK**
- **MDP301 Participants and Staff**
- **Social Science Team RHRU:**
 - Florence Mathebula, Mdu Mntambo, Sbu Mveli, Sello Seoka, Elisa Shikwane
 - Eirik Saethre (University of Hawai'i)

