Sites
Methods
Enrollment

Progress
dodecagon
12 sides
Serial IDI 2
Serial IDI 3
(80 + 72 + 9) + 34

\{ 195 \}
80 + 34 = 114
Transcripts
Coding
Data
Liz’s STAR quotes
I don’t remove it. Be it when I am running, jumping or dancing
I: Are the women using the ring?

R: Ah from what the aunties [study staff] say they are using and we are at ‘number one’.
At the first group meeting, a complaint was raised that about ten participants in each group were not using the ring. So I feel that as we continue having these meetings improvements are being made. We had the meeting today again and we were informed that we have moved from number fifteen to number five, it means that those who were not using the ring previously have started using it. I feel that these meetings are of great benefit.
I even told the doctors to label my vaginal ring, so that at the end in case they check and the machines show that I have ever removed it, then I would know the machines are wrong.
I: Why have you not disclosed to the neighbours?

R: People need to be already aware that there is a study going on. But I feel that in my area, people are not aware of this, so I felt that even if I tell them, it will just humiliate me, that is why I just kept it confidential, so long as I told my parents.

I: How would you be humiliated?

R: There would be some who would ask questions, they would want to see how the ring looks, how it is inserted; such things or when one talks of health checks; people like talking about their ideas with the aim of discouraging you.
if you have not disclosed, and your partner has never seen the ring, he would be very terrified and think that it is black medicine, or he would think that his wife is satanic.
What could have been my explanation .... I mean us girls we do practice witchcraft, you see. Maybe he was going to be worried about something that would happen to his penis, maybe he would got swollen or something because of what I had put inside my vagina. You know Xhosa guys, they have issues (laughing) so I decided to tell him while it’s still early.
There was nothing he could do about the ring so he chose to like it ‘because’ I had told him that there is no way I would be in love with him more than the ring.
I: How about its appearance, what do you think about it?

R: It wouldn’t have been bad but... (Laughs), when you look at it, you can’t see whether it has medicine in it. How do you people see it? When you tilt it like this... Isn’t it round like this.......you can’t see anything if you look at it....It’s white in color ...and circular.... But when you do it [meaning hold it] like this, you can’t see anything.... yet the doctors tell us that they contain medicine ...So how would you know that it has medicine?

I: Are you asking how you would know if it has medicine?

R: Yes, like how you would see a bottle containing medicine that prevents women from getting pregnant....yes, when you can see that there is medicine they are going to use to inject you... And they take out the medicine ... But this one is white and round.... But however much you look or even shake it, you can’t see anything.
R: Ah, I would say it registered that the knowledge that I got here...

I: Mhm.

R: Empowered me that as a human being I have to value myself, just value myself as an individual.
The End

{ Thank you