

# REPORT ON VOLUNTARY COUNSELLING AND TESTING (VCT) CLINIC IN VREL

## **INTRODUCTION**

As part of the on going occupational health and safety programme, the peer educators team in Volta River Estates Limited, sponsored by the Fair Trade Premium Management Committee (FTPMC) have raised the awareness of the HIV/AIDS pandemic education in the company, went a further step to consult trained HIV/AIDS resource persons at ATUA Government hospital and jointly organised VCT clinic for a large number of workers who wanted to know their HIV/AIDS status at all the five (5) plantations sites from 12<sup>th</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2006.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF VCT CONCEPT**

When the VCT concept was formally introduced by the peer educators during later part of the HIV/AIDS education programme, It was realised that a considerable large number of workers showed keen interest and readily accepted the concept, but when ever they were told to get ready to be taken to VCT centre at the hospital they resented their decision and offered various excuses to justify their resentment. This therefore necessitated to the adoption of alternative strategy by the peer educators to make VCT available at the plantation site to help sustain the interest of the workers.

## **VCT clinic held at the plantation sites**

	Sites	Dates of VCT	Time Frame	Total Staff	No participated	No. of Per. with HIV	%
1	site A	12th July 06	12: 00 pm - 6:40 pm	87	38	2	5%
2	Site B	13th October 06	12:00 pm - 4: 30 pm	100	23	1	4%
3	Site C	7th November 06	11:45 am - 5: 30 pm	91	48	1	2%
4	Site D	4th October 06	12:00 pm - 7: 00 pm	112	60	6	10%
5	V. Organic	30th August 2006	12:00 pm - 5:00 pm	93	28	2	7%
Administration joined the various plantations				522	197	12	6%

## **PERFORMANCE RESULTS**

The response of workers in terms of discipline co-operation, readiness and impatience towards the VCT clinic formed the basis of the assessment as follows

- Site C - 1<sup>st</sup>
- Site A - 2<sup>nd</sup>
- V. Organic - 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Site D - 4<sup>th</sup>
- Site B - 5<sup>th</sup>

## **CHALLENGES / PROBLEMS**

1. Basically the VCT and waiting for the results thereof took a bit time. The starting time for the VCT clinic at 12:00pm after close of work by the field workers was just not good enough; it was not convenient for the workers at all.
2. Most interested workers were tired and hungry after close of work and could not wait to participate in the VCT clinic as they wished to.
3. The new work schedules at the plantation made it difficult for the workers to participate in the VCT clinic fully.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**


Judging from the enthusiasm shown by the workers to have VCT organised for them preferably at the various plantation sites, there is no doubt in my mind that the attendance could have been greater than the 197, had it not been the constraints as highlighted above. The following are therefore recommended for the next VCT clinic:

1. Various plantation sites are to chose a particular day within the week suitable and convenient to them.
2. All scheduled farm activities for the that particular day should be minimised so that VCT clinic can start at 10:00 am.
3. Interested workers participating in the VCT clinic is to be refreshed with snacks at least a bottle of soft drink and a pie to mitigate tiredness and hunger.
4. No hindrance in any form should be put in the way of interested participants to disturb them.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is my belief that if the recommendations are fully implemented the next VCT clinic will be quite successful.

## **THANK YOU.**



Juliet Arku-Mensah