

Search
our archives

Advanced Search

Front Page

News

Sports

Editorial

Columns

Letters

Lifestyle

Western News

Careers

Contact Us

Epaper Login

Email Address

Password

Register | Forgot Password ?

News

'Developing countries should promote use of diaphragm'

INGRID BROWN, Senior staff reporter browni@jamaicaobserver.com
Thursday, July 31, 2008

MEXICO CITY, Mexico - Dr Mabel Bianco, vice chair of International Women's Health Coalition, bemoans the fact that many developing countries are still not promoting the use of the diaphragm contraceptive, although it's shown to reduce the risk of HIV transmission by as much as 60 per cent.

"In some countries where they have free health services, they do not include it because they say it is very expensive," she told the Observer yesterday.

Dr Bianco was addressing reporters at yesterday's third day of the four-day Journalist to Journalist J2J Global Media Training programme on HIV/AIDS here in Mexico City ahead of Sunday's start of the AIDS 2008 XVII International AIDS Conference.

According to Dr Bianco, some public health care providers believe that poor women and adolescents in particular, do not know how to use the contraceptive properly.

"This is a great problem because they say they won't know how to use it and how to care it and this is completely an error," she remarked.

She said if women in these developing countries are given access to preventative methods that they have control over, this could prevent increased HIV infections. Such methods include the diaphragm, female condoms and microbicides - a gel-like substance which scientists say can protect against HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). She said in some countries, the female condom is not yet known and women are not being educated on the use of microbicides.

"The problem is how to make the female condom cheaper and accessible to women, and this is a point we need to stress," she said.

Jamaican women have long complained that the female condom, which costs approximately \$100, is too expensive and too big.

"In my experience, when you show women's groups the female

editorial cartoon



Lifestyle

[Caribana — music, revelry and wild abandon](#)

[Bounty Killer and patriotism](#)

[Despite glitches, Stars 'R' Us delivers](#)

poll

Should gays be allowed in any Jamaican Cabinet?

Yes

No

Undecided

[View Results](#)

condoms they say it is such a big thing and so it is difficult to ask the people to test it," Dr Bianco said.

As for microbicides, there is still no clear indication as to when it will become available on the market, with the failure of recent trials. But Dr Bianco said, "we still need to have more information on it because we need to prepare our society for it when it comes."

Last year, one local advocacy group promised to lobby the Jamaican Government to make microbicides available to women free of cost when it becomes available.

The group, which is chaired by Dr Nesha Haniff, had expressed concerns that public awareness campaigns promoting the new technology had not yet begun in Jamaica.

Talk Back

No comments have been posted

[Post your comments](#)

Related Articles

No related articles were found

[Back to Top](#)

[News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Editorial](#) | [Columns](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [Western News](#) | [All Woman](#) | [2004 Olympics](#)
| [TeenAge](#) | [Education](#) | [Food](#) | [Business](#) | [Health](#)

[Copyright](#) © 2000-2001 Jamaica Observer. All Rights Reserved. Terms under which this service is provided to you.

e-Business Solutions by **info•exchange**