

ID#8024

Age: 28

Interviewer: Alexious Mwantani

Date: 7th July, 1999

District: Balaka

First visit I couldn't find him as he had gone to U. I went to visit him again and found he was washing some clothes at the borehole. I went there and got him while he was washing. I told him my name and asked him his third name. He said he is called J. I asked him if he could chat a while with me. He agreed and we went inside, since he refused to chat when his friend was there.

I wanted to know whether he was staying in the village of birth or at his wife's place. He told me he is living in his own village, and the woman he married comes from M. He then asked me if I'm connected to the Let's Chat people who visited him last year. I said that somehow we might be connected, but that I was only interested in chatting with him. He told me that he has three children with the same woman, and I asked him what people do if they have a young child. He says he stays for at least 9 months without sleeping with his wife, just to make sure the child is grown up. He does that for some months maybe and then starts having sex at least once per three weeks and then reduces the period between sex as the child grows. I ask him if he uses other women when he sees that his wife cannot do sex as he had already said. He denied and said he cannot go for other women because he thinks the wife is a mother to him. I asked him what he does in his free time. He said he sometimes drinks beer, mainly *kachasu* [traditional beer made of maize, more like gin] and he also sometimes sells *dimba* foods such as tomatoes. Then I asked him whether unmarried women, after seeing that he has money or tomatoes, might try to like him and might be doing things to attract him to have sex with them. He said, "right, that happens", but that he tries to chat with them, but he really doesn't have sex with him. But the other woman shows him signs of love. I went on asking if he had a woman before he married this wife. He said yes, but their love did not succeed for other reasons. I asked him if there were body problems, he said no, only misunderstanding. I asked him if he was still having sex with that woman, but he said no. He kept saying that he has no other partners. He also gave the reason, that his wife has a young child. He has never had sex with other partners because he might harm the child, the child might die. He also gave me as an example that he is satisfied with his wife that he is washing clothes. I told him it might be because there is gender equality nowadays. I asked him if unmarried women are not available. He said no: the women are just many but he doesn't like it, that's all. I tried to make him remember well by asking him to remember the time when there might be traditional dances. He said yes, women are found and some even wish to sleep with him but he always refuses. I wanted to know if anybody proposed or how somebody had shown signs of wishing. He told me that when he sells tomatoes or visits the market at U. I thanked him and said I'd been happy to chat with him. He gave thanks to me and wished me a good time.