**FGD MOTHERS ABOVE 30 YEARS FROM MULAGO HOSPITAL.**

**Moderator**: You are most welcome today. Like I have told you, my name is Health worker Lawrence Kakooza and we have come to discuss the ways. We are trying to know the reasons that cause the mothers or the children to delay or to quickly get medical help, especially at our main hospital here at Mulago.

(Background noise)

**Dr. Phiona**: ‘’at the other seat’’

**Moderator:** Mother you are welcome!

**Mother:** okay sir

**Moderator:** We welcome you and we had finished assigning ourselves different numbers and I had asked for your permission that the discussion we are going to have together will be audio recorded and not video recorded.

**Moderator:** In that way, in that way (hesitation) okay. For that reason, like I told you, my name is Lawrence Kakooza. I am with Dr. Phiona Ekyaruhanga. And we have come to have a conversation, these are not going to be questions but I request that we discuss about the various things. Now, first of all, we would like you to explain to us according to your own thinking in regards to seeking health care for the child, what signs or symptoms did you see (phone rings) that prompted you to bring the child to hospital? Which signs or symptoms did you see or you saw because they have told us that some of you are going to be discharged. You might have come a few days ago. What are those signs and symptoms that you noticed and immediately made a decision to go to hospital.

**Respondent 3**: Difficulty in breathing

**Moderator;** Difficulty in breathing, number 3 has told us difficulty in breathing. I think we can start.

‘’interruption from number 2’’; coughing

**Moderator;** coughing

**Respondent 2**: Persistent coughing

**Moderator;** Persistent coughing. Yes, thank you respondent number 2.

Moderator; respondent number 1

**Respondent 1**: The child has mild fevers. You see that the child has no difficulty in breathing yet, but with no appetite. I told the father that the child might be sick, but he then first put that aside. For him he waits until the child, like when they told us that it is pneumonia, in just one day the child would spend the whole night coughing. When he coughs and coughs, you give him a tablet and he coughs no more and then until another time when they start breathing badly while gasping for air and that is when you get time to run to hospital doing the last thing as the first one. You tell him that I have noticed that the child is not fine, but then he diverts you into childish stuff.

**Moderator;** yes**,** okay, thank you very much respondent number 1. Respondent Number 4, what do you have to say about this? What signs and symptoms did you notice and saw the need to take the child to hospital?

**Dr. Phiona;** May be just to add something, When you noticed the signs and symptoms, what interventions were done until the child reached here? Like the lady told us that when she saw that the child had a mild fever, she informed the father and gave the child a tablet. That is a summary of the story that we want to hear.

**Respondent 4;** No. For me when I saw the child, I even did not understand it at first. The child first had a high body temperature then I noticed that he was coughing persistently! Persistently! From the coughing he started vomiting. When he started vomiting, I saw him becoming restless as he gasped for air and that is when I rushed him to hospital.

Moderator; you rushed him to hospital.

Moderator; Okay, we are very grateful respondent number 4. Respondent Number 5, what do you have to say about this issue?

**Respondent 5:** Mine started with diarrhoea, (phone rings). Because of the diarrhea, people started saying that it could be because of teeth eruption. Then I stayed for like three days when I was giving the child ORS solution. For those three days, the child was passing out loose watery stools and had started deteriorating (as per the developmental milestones). Child had started crawling and sitting but this time was no longer interested in any. Her general behavior had changed and that was when I took the child to the hospital, a clinic. They treated her several times at the clinic but reaching home from the clinic, she started vomiting. We then went back to the hospital clinic and on reaching home, the child’s abdomen started becoming distended with cramping as well, yet the child had not eaten anything. I took the child to the clinic. At the clinic, they gave the child medicine. They gave her syrups and I took her back home. Now, to bring the child to Mulago, her condition worsened at night with cough, high body temperature and sweating. Then I decided to come to Mulago because I could not manage. I came to Mulago yesterday in the morning and the doctor admitted me.

Respondent 5; When we reached the child’s doctor at Mwanamugimu, he said that the child’s condition was fair and that he was going to prescribe for me drugs that I would buy and manage the child from home. Okay! Since I stay nearby, I said it is okay! There is no problem. Reaching home, I gave the child the medicine and her condition worsened! She became worse than even when I brought her to hospital the first time. That is why I came at 12:00hours midnight and the child was totally badly off! The many reasons for not coming to hospital early enough is because, in our minds people confuse us! You say let me go here the child will be okay. Let me go there the child will get well. Until you reach a time when the child is really weak and then you decide to go to a specific hospital.

***Moderator*;** Okay, thank you very much respondent number five for those thoughts and that conversation. Respondent Number 6 (child cries).

(Child continues to cough and cry)

**Respondent 6**: For my child it started as refusal to eat or drink and would drop his head like this. I decided to buy some Panadol to give him and see. When it came to night, the child developed a high body temperature and started passing loose watery stool (child cries), (**sorry, sorry ,sorry….)** I administered a quarter of Panadol at night and the child stabilized a bit during day. (Child continues to cry) The child was still passing loose motion stools so I bought and administered ORS but still there was no change. On the third day, the child continued to present with loose stools before I went to hospital. (Phone rings louder) I told the father that since the child is unwell, maybe we should go to the hospital and see! Then he told me to wait and give the child ORS solution. I gave the child ORS solution and zinc, plus some Panadol but things failed completely until the day when he had gotten flu and cough. The high body temperatures would not reduce to the extent that even when I gave the child Panadol, it would only last like 30 minutes and the body temperature would raise again! Until when I decided to go to hospital. We went to Kasangati health center. The medical personnel suggested that we first take the child for blood testing and do a general body check-up. A blood sample was taken off and found out that the child did not have enough blood, it is until then that I was given a referral letter to Mulago hospital.

(This response was always interrupted by a loud child’s cry)

**Moderator;** now, we are you very thankful respondent number 6 (child continues to cry and some murmuring in the background).

(Murmurs from one of the mothers; ‘’Child has a high body temperature. Am not going to cover him. He has a high body temperature. He feels hot) .Now, back to that issue of having noticed the signs and symptoms and then you decide to go to hospital. When you reached Mulago hospital, what was done when you reached Mulago Hospital when you consider the time you arrived, what was done?

***Interjection*** by one of the respondents: sighs

**Moderator**: yes, there is a way you have responded with a sigh how I wish you could put that into words and we hear them.

(One of the mothers laughs out loud)

**Respondent;** Do you know health worker what mainly causes us issues is that we take children to clinics.The clinician checks the child and they already know that they cannot manage the illness but they go ahead to administer Intravenous fluids (‘’they just give to comfort you’’, an interjection from another respondent). They administer a drip of water. I took my child to a hospital, a big hospital, it was a clinic with difficulty in breathing, difficulty in breathing! They administered to him oxygen and intravenous fluids.

**Dr. Phiona:** Oxygen or nebulizer?

**Respondent 1:** Oxygen because the child could not breath. They also administered intravenous fluids but within a week after they discharge us, it was not even four days passed yet and the child presented with similar signs. He could get the cough at night and flu-like symptoms and then the child gets the episode again, then I would ask the medical personnel what the problem could be but he could not give me the answer!

**Moderator;** How did you decide to come to Mulago and when you reached, what was done?

**Respondent 1;** There was a woman, an elderly woman in our village who told me that most probably my child had pneumonia. That I should take the child to Kasangati health center since there are doctors and that even if you do not find there medicine, they write for you the one that can cure the child. And when the signs reappeared, we did not sleep that night! I took the child to Kasangati health center. They treated the child and he got well but they told me its pneumonia and it again re-occurred. Even yesterday I took the child to a clinic but the other place seemed to be still new, the medical personnel was a youth just like you (mother laughs) He told me to take the child away to a big hospital. The lungs could no longer inflate, and that I was not going to get any help from there! He added that I had to take the child away. We drove and first got a letter from Busiika police station because we are not allowed to move two people on a motorcycle.

(Moderator interjects; yes, true).

Respondent 1; But the doctor wrote for me a referral letter that when we took it Kasangati health center, the health worker told us to just continue to Acute Care Unit at Mulago hospital. (child coughs) and when I reached here , the child was worked on but what I am wondering about is what exactly could be bothering my child because they have taken his blood sample here (unclear statement and child coughs) and they have not asked for any of the documents I came with yet.

**Moderator;** There is something you have left out. Upon arriving at acute, you said they took off blood, when you arrived, what exactly happened?

**Respondent 1;** they did not take off blood that very time, we arrived when the child was breathing badly, they put the child on oxygen and he got some relief then they put the child on another one where they add medication. Yes. That one. That is the one that gave him complete relief, I think because the medicine enters into him when he is breathing. After calming down, he was injected as well.

**Moderator;** but that was done immediately when you had just arrived

**Respondent 1;** Yes, it was done urgently unlike with the clinicians who when the child was not breathing well they instead gave intravenous fluids.

**Moderator;** okay, okay! We are very grateful respondent number one.

(Child coughs with some unclear sounds and murmuring)

**Responder 5**: But health worker, the other reason why our children become critically ill before we reach hospital and why we delay is because of ignorance. It is ignorance. Sometimes when you did not even go to school, then you say that let me go and buy Panadol, let me go buy this or give herbal medicine (child cries and coughs with some murmuring from one of the respondents) and these cause us to delay to reach hospital.

**Moderator;** Eh! Eh! respondent number 5

Respondent 5; I was saying that in most cases it is ignorance. Ignorance can also make someone delay to bring the child to hospital.

**Moderator;** So, ignorance. Now, apart from that ignorance, you have come to Mulago Hospital what do you recall as the first things to be done? What urgency was portrayed in taking care of the child?

(Phone rings)

**Respondent 5:** When I reached Mulago hospital, my child had a high body temperature. He was given some medicine via the anus and immediately we were referred to acute care unit. When I reached Acute, they sent me to the tent for COVID 19 testing. Coming back, I entered the room and the child was being examined, they took off a blood sample for malaria and urine (child cries loudly interfering with the last statement.)

**Moderator;** Did this happen immediately when you had arrived? Inserting the tablet via the anus?

**Respondent 5; Yes**

**Moderator;** Okay

**Respondent 5**: I am leaving.

**Moderator**: Eh! We are still discussing. Still discussing slowly.

(Murmurs from other respondents)

Moderator; respondent number 2

**Respondent 2**: yes, number 2. I have been treating my child from the clinic and we were admitted twice but I could see no improvement. You take him to the clinic and spend there two weeks but after the child starts coughing again. Then I asked myself, what the problem could be. I wondered whether the cough we are treating is the usual one or this is an unusual type of cough but the clinician would not tell you anything but would just keep admitting the child. Now, on 8th June 2021, is when I told the child’s father that actually this is not the usual cough that we normally treat. We are going to lose our child! On that day the child had a high body temperature, was coughing and the condition worsened. I wondered whether I should again take and keep the child at a clinic. Then I went to a clinic, (Child crying) it was a big one (the clinic) and like always the health worker checks the child, the breathing was not good (unclear word) (child cries) not doing what? I had gone with an elderly woman and she told me not to allow the clinic to again take my money (child cries). He will not manage the child. Let him just write for you a referral letter and you proceed to the main hospital.

**Moderator; so,** among the main hospital you came to Mulago?

Respondent 2; for the main hospital when I reached Mulago, it was unexpectedly easy for me.

**Moderator;** You have said Mulago?

Respondent 2; Mulago was easy for me. I found doctors and the moment I brought the child in, I saw the doctors, because I brought the child when was not breathing .We came by an ambulance (children crying) and did not even know whether they would manage. When we reached the reception, the doctors were easy to me and they started working on the child. They got these things that pump air (bulb syringes) and started removing air from the child as they checked him and you could see the child coming back to life.

**Moderator;** When didthis happen?

**Respondent 2**; Just when I had arrived. We arrived here at around 12:00hrs midnight but the moment I reached, I just threw the child on the bed and told the doctor that I have brought the child. Whether he is alive or dead, I don’t know! I found there like about four doctors. I threw the child on the bed. Then I said that I don’t have anything more to do for the child! I don’t know! They started checking and told me that I delayed to come to the hospital and that the child had pneumonia. Then they started sucking air out of the child, meanwhile they brought the device that measures body temperature but the child was cold. He was so cold and over sweating!

**Moderator;** so, respondentNumber 2 has told us that when she arrived, this was done. So Respondent Number 3 what happened when you had just reached Mulago?

**Respondent 3**; Health worker, I first visited the clinic at our place. I stay in Wakiso. I first went to the clinic where we normally treat the children from and the others as well.

Moderator; yes

**Respondent 3;** (child playing) The child first presented with loose motion stools and whoever I would tell about it would tell me it was teeth eruption,. I also got comfortable that it could be loose stools are due to the new teeth development and I expected this will resolve. Nevertheless, the loose stools continued to be persistent. I took the child to a health worker who gave the child some tablets and advised me to give some zinc the child will be well. I gave the child but did not get well, like two days when the child is still sick, when I too the child to the clinic the health worker was like.!!! (Child playing in the background with some murmuring) The child first spent the night irritable and crying weak and could not maintain a good posture. Then I said probably the child is not feeling well, then I took the child to a clinic and told the health worker that this child did not sleep well despite the treatment you gave us, he first gave him treatment and the child improved a little bit during day, and you could clearly see improvement because he could play with other children. And in the evening he relapsed with chest in drawing and high body temperature at night and I said okay. I informed the father that the child is just worsening and it may not be the usual diarrhea that we had related to new teeth development, it seems the illness is more severe. In the morning, I went back to our usual nearby clinic and explained to the same health worker what had transpired the previous night. Health worker said that lets give some medication to see if she improves. My child was given medication. I asked health worker if the medication was going to cure my child or it was just giving temporary relief. Health worker replied by saying that the medication was just acting as first aid to the child so as she does not worsen further. Health worker also told me first forward that the child had pneumonia and should be taken to a referral hospital for better management. But the father had a place where we usually take the children for treatment because even these other ones, when they fail at that clinic we take them to the other in Nakulabye and they get well. So this is where we went I went back and he asked whether the child was treated for clinics usually say they have given treatment and yet they injected the child with water then I told him no, they have given the child medicine and he asked if it was broken in my presence, then I told him yes, (inaudible message) they nebulized, they gave him some time to see if the child would get any better but the condition was just worsening and the health worker said no because we had come early in the morning up to around 2 pm but the condition was worsening, nebulizing just relieves for like 20 minutes (child playing) and the child gets a Difficulty in breathing again. We were then referred to Mulago hospital, we reached and they directed us, we found a health worker at the get and told us to go to Acute it is where you should start. When we reached we found that, you know long ago, ( phone rings and other respondent calling Vince) we were told that Mulago hospital is very bad and when you there, you have to pray for yourself, but God helped us, and Mulago really changed (mother laughs).

**Moderator:** When you reached there, what happened? please tell us.

**Respondent 3**; When I reached there I was attended to on time. The child was admitted on a bed and nebulized then the child started breathing well. And given medication because for us we came with a cannula from the clinic. The clinician had established a cannula. The child was given medicine that helped to reduce the loose motion stools, lower the body temperature and help with the breathing because the condition had worsened.

**Moderator:** okay! Did this happen when you had just arrived?

**Respondent 3**; Yes down there in acute, they admitted us and removed us from the nebulizer to oxygen with a nasal prongs.

**Moderator:** yes, so didn’t you make any line when you arrived?

**Respondent 3**; I did not make lines and was attended to very fast though the health worker at the first front desk is very tough, that one that checks files, she is very rude, she does not laugh at all.

**All**; All respondents laugh and make inaudible comments

**Moderator:** Okay! Okay, we have heard from respondent number 3, respondent number 4 when you reached Mulago, what was the situation when you arrived at Mulago?

**Respondent 4:** When I reached here in Mulago I didn’t come because of this illness (pneumonia). I came in for another illness. I found this illness here.

**Moderator**: What do you mean when you say that you came in for another illness?

**Respondent 4**: What I mean is that I gave birth in another hospital in my home area. I delivered a baby with an abnormality at the back, then they sent me to a hospital that can be helpful to the child.

**One of the respondents**: A swelling!

**Respondent 4**: It is yesterday that the child got infected with cough and flu. So the flu and cough came in at a time when there were are other problems.

(Child cries, unclear response from respondent number 4)

**Moderator:** Hhhhhmmmmm

(Phone rings)

Moderator; okay. Respondent number 6, respondent number 5 already told us.

**Respondent 6**: I came to acute care unit. I reached on Sunday at around 11 am(noise from the back ground, children crying). I left home at about 10am and reached at 11 am. I went and first sat for like about 2hours in the waiting area where sick children start from. The child’s body temperature was high and the child was all weak. I then decided to stand up, go and inform the health worker about the child’s current state unbothered about whether she would bounce me back. I then entered the doctor’s room and asked then the doctor called me on and I explained to the about the child’s condition (child cries). I also explained to him about the results I was given. The medical personnel then touched the child and measured his body temperature and it was high. The medical personnel administered medication via the anus to lower the child’s body temperature.(child cries)The health worker informed me that we had to re-do the blood tests and re-screen the child. I also paid money. The health worker also collected sputum from the child and took it to the laboratory for testing. I paid 15,000/= Ugandan shillings and they went. (child cries)

(Background noise)

Moderator; Now, you have said that you carried your child and entered the doctor’s room at once. That means you had been seated waiting from somewhere.

Respondent 6; yes I had seated somewhere but had waited for so long without being called out of the line(noise from crying children) I just entered.

Moderator; thank you so much madam.

(Children crying)

**Respond 5**; but who bears these children!!

(Children crying)

**Moderator**: have you ever heard of? Try to make them stop crying again.

(Children crying)

‘’we are in maternity’’, says one of the respondents.

**Respondent 6**; yesterday at about 9am the doctor came and said that he needed a sample, so I gave him a seat, when he said he wanted to cough , they gave me a tin which I gave him, and when he put in the sputum sample, I took it to the laboratory.

**Moderator;** now, we are very grateful. In Uganda, you find that most of the care takers do not seek medical help within the first 24 hours of onset of the cough or difficulty in breathing. Have you ever heard about the fact that when children have these signs, they need to be taken a hospital within the first 24hours of noticing any of the signs and symptoms? Have you ever heard of it?

‘’I have never heard of it,’’ one of the respondents.

**Moderator**; respondent number 1 has never heard of it number 6 has ever heard of it

Respondent 5; I have ever heard of it

**Moderator;** respondent number 5 has ever heard of it

**Respondent 4;** I have never heard of it

Moderator; also respondent number 4 has never heard of it and number 3

**Moderator;** okay , respondent number 6 said she has ever heard of it.

**Respondents 6**: I have taken my child to kasangati health center for immunization. They first health educate us early in the morning upon arrival. They told us that once you notice a child with such and such symptoms, hurry and bring them to hospital and advised us to seek medical help from a hospital but not a clinic. But as you know the transportation these days, one needs to first seek permission from L.C1 chairman, it is really challenging to us parents. The chairman will need money so one ends up seeking medical treatment from the clinic or resort to self-medication for first aid treatment.

Moderator: According to your opinion, do you know anything about the importance of seekingmedical treatment early enough? Anyone can say their opinion, am not going to ask person **per** person but I request that whoever knows anything about the benefits. What benefits do we get? Which benefits can we point out?

**Respondent 3**: you quickly save life.

**Moderator;** number 3 has told us that you quickly save life. Yes, another one?

**Respondent 6**; if you quickly seek medical help, there would be no need of being referred to a main hospital. The first aid treatment you do while at home, in case you hurry and go to a nearby hospital and not a clinic, the medical personnel work on you faster without referring you but when you delay, this is now the outcome.

‘’mothers laugh’’

One of the mothers interjects; doesn’t it kill?

**Moderator;** as your question comes, yes, what were you asking?

***Interject:*** Does a child get cured from this illness or it never gets cured and the child has to be on medication all the time?

**Dr Phionah;** it gets cured. I will explain to you.

**Respondent 1**; I have been told that my child has pneumonia and from another place they told us that it is asthma because he over sweat.

**Moderator;** the doctor is going to explain to you afterwards and she has noted your question. Someone else had a question which I wouldn’t want us to leave out. Respondent number 1, you wanted to give a benefit

**Respondent 1:** once you notice the signs and buy medicine, the child may not even be put on oxygen. They save the breathing early enough

***Interject***: excuse me! you hurry and take the child where exactly, to the hospital or a clinic?

‘**’Respondent asks;** Do you have to take the child to Mulago alone or to any clinic?’’

Interject; a big hospital and not a clinic you know why?

**Respondent 5;** you can have some first aid and the rush to the big hospital. For me with my child, the day he fell sick, we were shifting but as we carried the things, I noticed that he had some cough but had not started having any difficulty in breathing. By the time we finished carrying the things, we rushed the child to a nearby clinic and the medical personnel told us that we delayed to bring the child to hospital. He then injected the child and said that that treatment would help the child have a calm night but it did not work! The child got seizures and we spent the whole night awake. We were the referred to the main hospital by 5am in the morning.

**Interject;** the problem with those clinics is that they will keep you around, making you to buy different syrups for the child at 15000 shillings and some at 8000 shillings, so that they get money from you without telling you that they can’t manage your child’s, situation and not telling you what exactly is going on.

**Interject;** now that is it.

**Moderator;** okay! Now in our region, most care takers hurry or take long to come to hospital when a child develops a cough or difficulty in breathing. What reasons do you think lead to this? I want us to categorize these reasons and see that, what reason cause a hurry or delay that you say that when I see these, I decide to take the child to hospital? I want us to categorize them.

**Respondent:** You may have money to take the child at the time the signs and symptoms present, but decide to take the child laterto hospital because the signs and symptoms have now resolved and the child is now playing. You decide to do your other things like digging. Later on, when the signs and symptoms re-appear in the night, that is when you now decide to go to hospital.

In addition, you may first seek advice from your friends who are mothers and ask for guidance from them about the current presenting signs and symptoms. For example, they can tell you that if your child is having loose stools, its related to new teeth development and therefore you wait to visit the hospital because you will pay hospital bills for nothing.

Moderator: That is an important statement. We will talk more about it in our conversation regarding herbal medication***. After talking about issues that make care takers to delay to decide*** *to take the sick children to hospital, what issues will cause caretakers to delay to visit health**care?*

**Respondent 6:** in most cases,

**Moderator;** yes number 6

**Respondent 6;** Lack of money for transport fares especially during this covid lockdown period when your spouse has only left 3000/= for upkeep and you have to plan on that. In the end, you give up.

**Moderator;** In summary you are saying that transport is the problem

**Respondent 1;** Transport is the main thing.

**Moderator:** Even number 1 agrees with the issue of transport

**Respondent 5:** In addition, you cannot visit a government facility when you do not have money. Reason being, you will be required to pay for laboratory tests at 20,000/=, and even the prescribed medication may cost 30,000/= Ugandan shillings.

**Interject:** Spending money first in the private clinics yet the medication did work the child. And even when you come to government money is also needed.

**Moderator;** when you consider number 5’s issue it’s also about money but differs from that of respondent 6 because it’s not about transport fares.

Respondent: now like us women, at times we have medication that we use for a long time. Can the drugs we use as adults be of any harm to our children? We use many drugs and at times we have incurable diseases.

**Dr Phiona**: I will answer you.

**Moderator:** now we have discovered the issues that cause the delay to move to the health facility .What issues make you delay to immediate medical care while you have arrived at the hospital?

**Respondent 6:** now, some health workers are quick and others are lazy. Some health workers careless about emergencies for example you may reach the hospital, the health worker may pass by your child thinking it is the usual sickness and not bothered. Another health worker may come to you and try to ask, gives a little time to find out what is wrong with the child and finds away to help the child immediately. Then the one who finds time to help you is very different from the one that bypassed you.

**Moderator**: number 6 has told us about the issue of health workers elaboratively.***When we look at the current situation, do you think your delay to seek medical care was due to the decision you made to first use the herbal medication? Is there anyone who first used?***

Respondent continuation: If you do not have money, your child will die. This is because just informing the health worker that your child’s general condition is becoming worse, she will instead want to discharge you because you are over complaining and yet that is not the reason why you talked to her .However, if you give the health worker some money and say it is your airtime, she will run to give the child the necessary care.

**Moderator**; In that manner of giving airtime, are all health workers like that that before you give them airtime they cannot work on you?

**All respondents**;‘’no, not all of them’’

**Respondent 5;** I gave birth from kawempe, but have also ever given birth from mulago some of my children but these days mulago changed. It changed because these days they handle people well. The reason we never used to want to come and treat our children from mulago is because you would come to mulago, but the rich people who come late would bypass you the poor who came early in the morning to make lines. People started hating to come to the main hospital because of the delay to receive treatment. They would rather go to a clinic and go back home early enough.

**Moderator;** the reason you have put a cross is key. But I request (mobile phone falls) sorry !sorry! . I want to ask you a quick question in just a minute. In that way of having made a line, you may find that they come, and screen out the critically ill leaving those that are not so badly off. So that happens at times.

**Interjection;** yes, it happens when you also see it’s worth it.

**Moderator;** when you look you may think that those they are picking out from the queue are in the same condition as you are.

**Interject**; women do not want to be bypassed. I saw women in kasangati fighting when someone had collapsed from the queue but no one wanted them to be worked on before them.

**Respondent5;** these days mulago changed unlike the old days.

(Murmurs from the respondents)

**Moderator;** okay, let’s agree and see

**Moderator;** now, in this research we want to find out the actions or the situation. Its number 1 who mention something about the traditional medicine. We want to know what is done in the traditional healing or the decisions that result in the delay to seek for medical help in regards to pneumonia like we have discussed. How do you think they affect or lead to the quickening?

Murmurs; of cos they lead to delay.

**Respondent.** They tell us that the lungs can no longer function and they need extra support. Herbal medicine works but doesnot cure instantly.

**Respondent 2:** There is someone who told me to first use grinded garlic, ginger and honey and mix it with a little water

Moderator: How many days did you give the child the herbal medication?

**Respondent 2**: I gave the medication for 3 days

**Moderator**: Did you mean you spent 3 days giving the child until you realized that the child’s condition as not improving

**Respondent**: For my case I was told to bathe the child with ‘’ekyogero’’ again since he was passing loose watery stools which could have been caused by the new teeth development. Put him back to kyogero! I quickly went, got it without delay and gave the child then he became well.

(Some murmurs)

**Moderator;** when it had failed?

**Respondent;** yes

**Moderator;** like for about three days?

**Respondent;** yes

**Moderator:** so should we say that your decision to put the child back to the kyogero herbal concoction led to your delay to seek medical help?

**Respondent interjects;** yes it made me delay because I thought the child was going to be cured.

**Respondent 5:** I don’t believe in the use of herbal medication reason being, I have 5 children and I have never used the kyogero herbal concoction on any of them. One time, I was listening to radio, and the presenter said that Kyogero can at times be useful or harmful to use. This is because you bath it with the child and she may develop skin rash. So, for me, I refused those things of bathing the child with the kyogero herbal concoction and ginger because they have also ever told me such. They told me that instead of taking the child frequently to the hospital, I should just give the child ginger, garlic, the local onion, and bee honey every morning, afternoon and evening. However, because I don’t believe in herbal medication, I took the child to the hospital.

**Moderator**: okay! We are really grateful for those thoughts please and having decided to have such a good conversation and being that we have heard from each other very well. Now as we conclude, what are your thoughts towards health care workers towards enabling care takers to quickly seek medical help in case the child develops signs and symptoms of pneumonia like coughing and difficulty in breathing? Because now you find that we interact with very many people but your thoughts and opinions are really important. You may tell us your opinions for example regarding your experience with children that may be if they do this, it can be of help especially children with difficulty in breathing or pneumonia. What thoughts can you give us?

Respondent number 5 interjects; Health worker, me what I can say.

**Respondent 5**: health educating people. Health workers coming down to our community zones, and teach people about pneumonia. Some of us in the community are ignorant about the disease.

(Phone rings)

(Mother interjects; I did not know anything about pneumonia).

**Respondent 5;** Where I grew up from, I used to hear people talk about pneumonia abut I did not know how one gets infected with it (child coughs) For example, I didn’t know that I was supposed to report to the health facility within 24 hours when my child had signs and symptoms like Difficulty in breathing I have just heard that today. What I want to tell you health worker is that health care workers should come to the communities and health educate us about pneumonia because most of us are illiterate. (Child giggles loudly) lieing is bad. For me each time my child would fall sick I would just go and buy some medication from the pharmacy hoping that the child would get better.

**Moderator;** respondent Number 5 has given her opinion. Does anyone have any different opinion from that of respondent number 5?

**Respondent** : yes , me. Mine is the people we call first and tell them about how the child has difficulty in breathing and they tell us to get the various medication. As parents, when you see that the child is unwell, just bathe well, and take the child to hospital.

**Moderator**: We are going to give them that feedback. It is as well important. It means that we can tell them that please don’t inquire for so long from the different people. Decide quickly and report immediately at the health facility. Anybody else? Does anyone else have any different opinion from that?

(Phone rings)

**Respondent 2**:health worker, is it that When you report to the health facility early enough, can the child with that illness (pneumonia) get cured?

**Moderator:** Okay , thank you so much respondent number 2. As we wind up does anyone have anything **that** we have left out? Any other addition or any point left out?

Respondent: my question is when the child gets pneumonia, can they get other complications resulting from pneumonia?

**Moderator**: Health worker is going to explain everything to you. Okay, thank you very much for the time you have given us. It has been good hoping our discussion has been good. Though we had those that dominated the discussion, our children, it is really great that we have been with them. Thank you very much for this time. It has not been little time but thank you for giving us your opinions

(**Respondent interjects**; we are grateful for teaching us)

**Moderator;** I also remain Lawrence Kakooza.

**Interject**: Thank you for health educating us.

**Dr.Phiona**: also those that gave us the place are saying its time up, Lets please get out and leave the place for other people to use.