



# A KADUNA STORY

## **ABOUT KADUNA**

**Kaduna State is a state in northern Nigeria, the city of Kaduna was created in 1967 as North-Central State, which also encompassed the modern Katsina State. Kaduna State achieved its current borders in 1987. It is the fourth largest and third most populous state in the country, and is nicknamed the Centre of Learning, owing to the presence of numerous educational institutions of importance within the state**

**The name 'Kaduna' is believed to mean crocodile as the Kaduna River previously hosted a large crocodile population. Modern Kaduna State is home to the sites of some of Africa's oldest civilizations, including the Nok civilization. During the colonial era, the city of Kaduna was made the capital of Northern Nigeria Protectorate by British leadership.**

**The population of Kaduna was at 760,084 as of the 2006 Nigerian census. Rapid urbanization since 2005 has created an increasingly large population, now estimated to be around 8.9 million people as at 2021. The state's economy is largely dependent on agriculture, especially cotton and groundnut production.**

## **About SWAG Initiative**

Stand with A Girl (SWAG) Initiative is a registered youth-led organization dedicated to ensuring that every girl in Nigeria is empowered to fulfill her maximum potential no matter where she is born or found.

## **About the DMS Project**

### **GOAL:**

To ensure increased access to quality sexual and reproductive health information and services among young people in Nigeria.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

- Promote meaningful youth participation in data for decision making.
- Strengthen the capacity of State Actors on data use for informed decision making and programming.
- Interpret the AYSRH data in a simple, friendly, catchy, and responsive format for decision-making.
- Promote AYSRH storybooks to improve delivery of comprehensive contraception care and education.

## **DISCLAIMER**

**This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, business, events and incidents are the products of the author's imagination. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or actual events is purely coincidental.**

# STORY

It was a cold morning at the Government Secondary School (GSS) in Kaduna State, as Mrs. Laraba walked into Senior Secondary School 1B to take the students on Family Life and Health education. As she began to discuss the subject outline, she noticed that some of the students seemed uninterested and dismissive.

To capture their attention, she decided to use story telling to better explain the subject.

**Mrs. Laraba:** “As part of our class today, we would be looking at the story of two young girls, Esther and Asabe. I would be sharing Esther’s story while we would watch a short video about Asabe .” “Esther was a lot like some of you seated here today...”

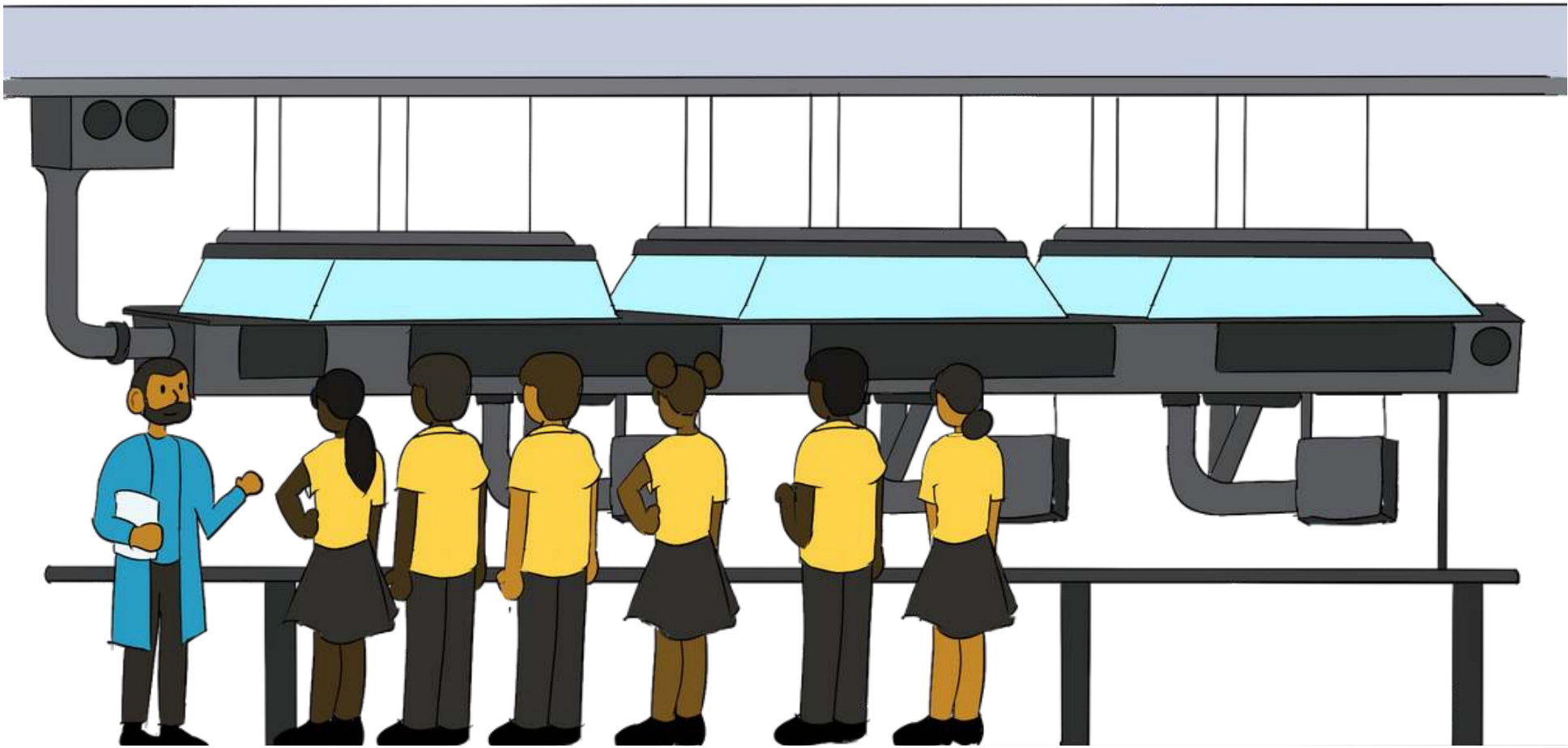
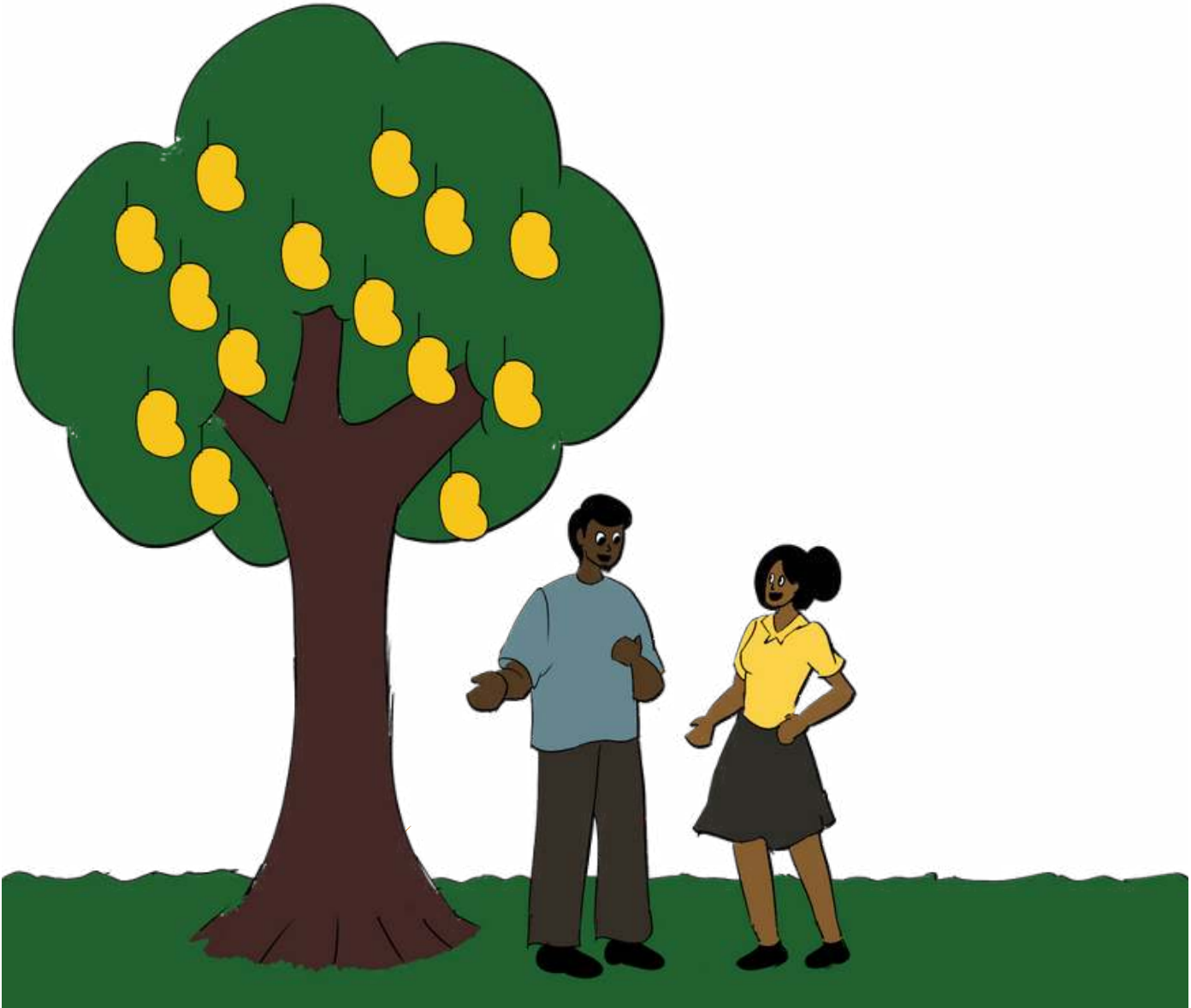


Fifteen-year-old Esther Bitrus was an SSI Student of GSS, Sabon Tasha, in Chikun local government area (LGA). She was a very intelligent and hardworking girl who aspired to become a teacher and have a family of her own someday. She lived in Sabon Tasha, Kaduna State, with her father, mother and two siblings.

Her community frowns on any discussions around Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) among adolescents because they believe that such discussions could expose them to 'sexual immorality'. As a result, most young girls and boys in the community did not know about this aspect of their health and lives.

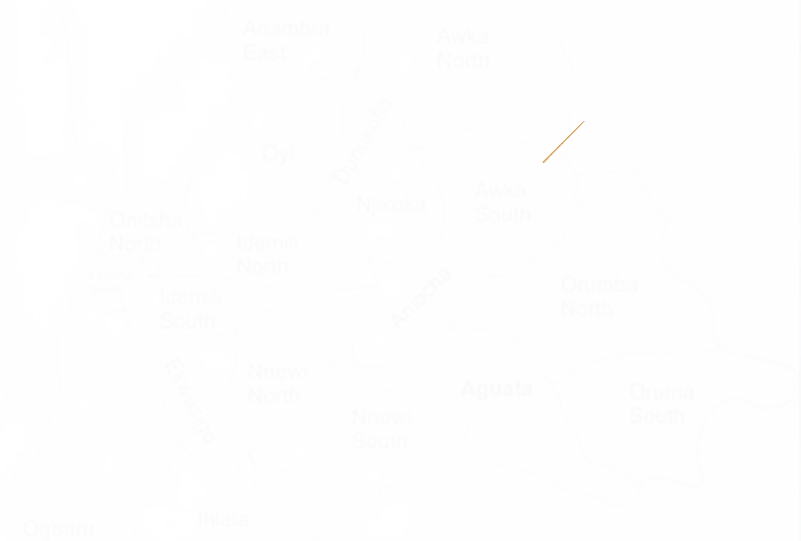


**Esther met and fell deeply in love with Joseph, a 22-year-old boy, when she went for an excursion with her school to the noodle factory where he works as a marketer. She had forgotten her school bag at the factory and when she realised this, she asked her friend, Jummai to go get it with her**

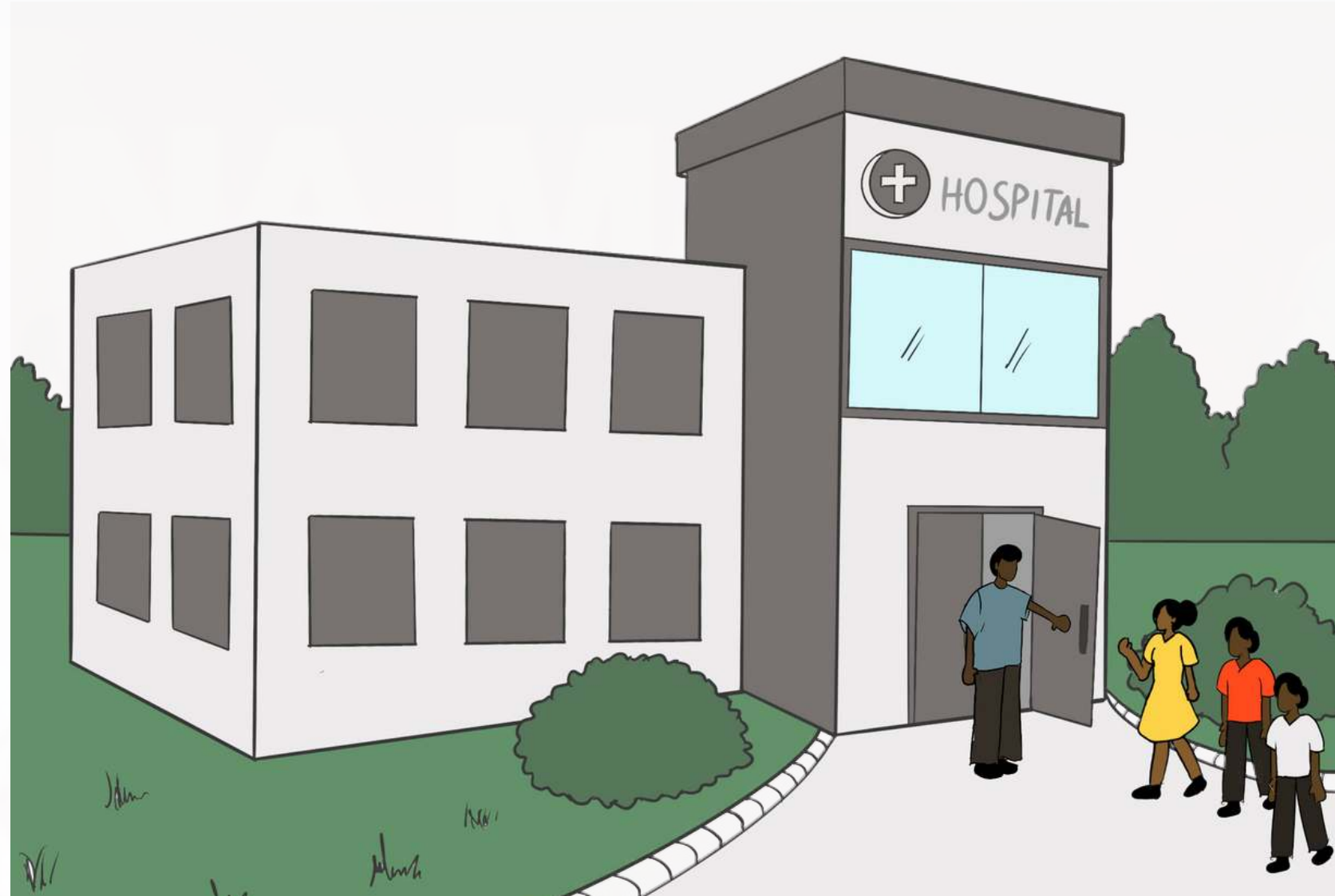


**At the factory, they met Joseph. He jokingly asked why they returned, and they told him. He informed them that the office where their belongings were kept was currently locked. As Esther and Jummai discussed what next to do, he learned that Esther lived close to him.**

**He offered to bring the bag home to her after work closed. She accepted his offer gladly. Joseph took the bag to Esther and met her parents. They thanked him and her parents immediately became comfortable with him when they discovered they knew his parents. They asked him to visit anytime he wanted. Joseph began to visit the family often and even helped Esther with her school assignments. Everyone in their family, as well as Esther's friends, were aware of their blossoming friendship.**







**One day, Joseph got ill and was hospitalised. He couldn't go to Esther's house for days, and she became very worried. She asked for her parents' permission to go see him and it was granted. She went along with her siblings. When they got to the hospital, they found out that Joseph had just been discharged, so they helped him to take his belongings home. It was the first time Esther visited Joseph's house, and his family were excited to meet her.**

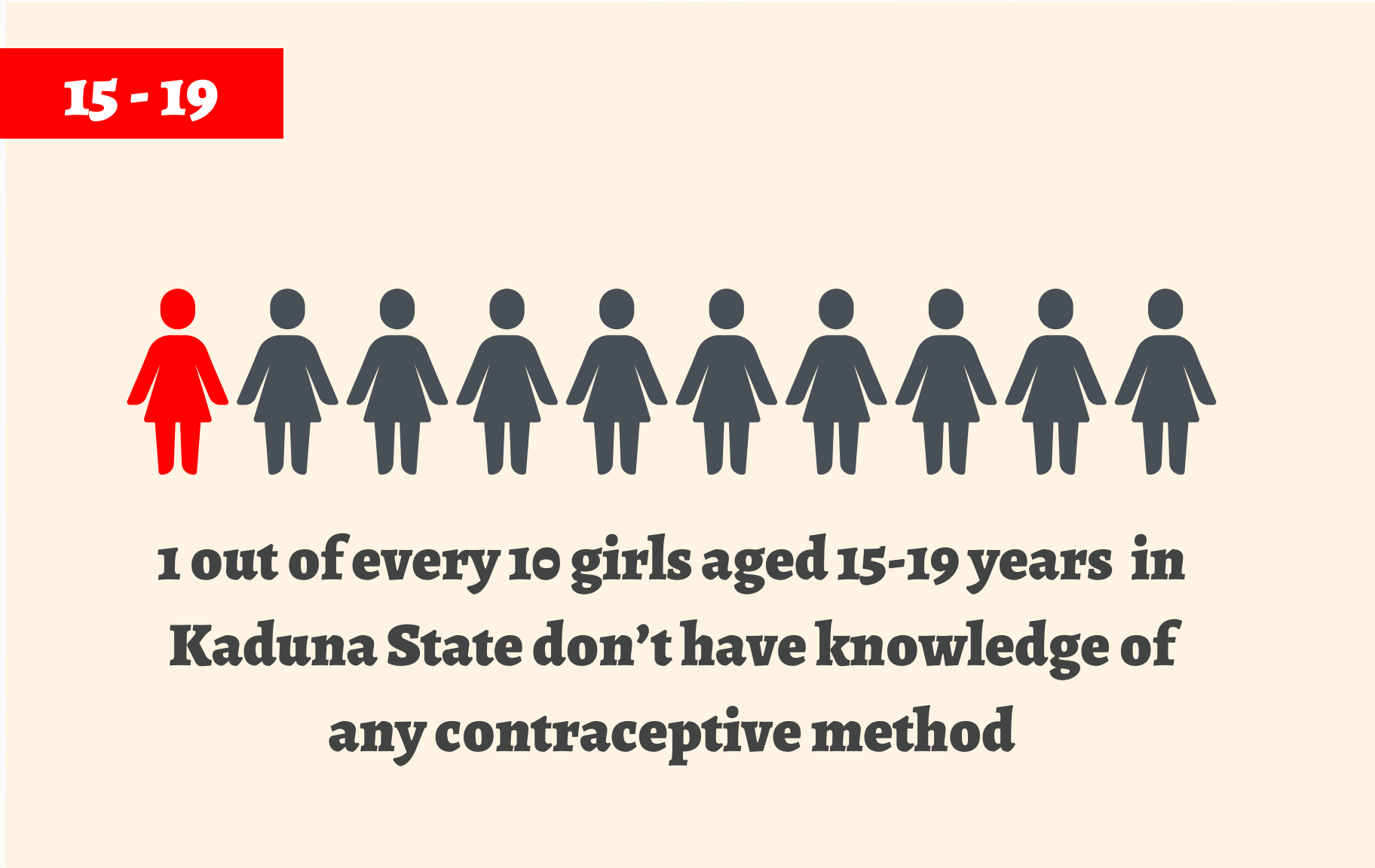
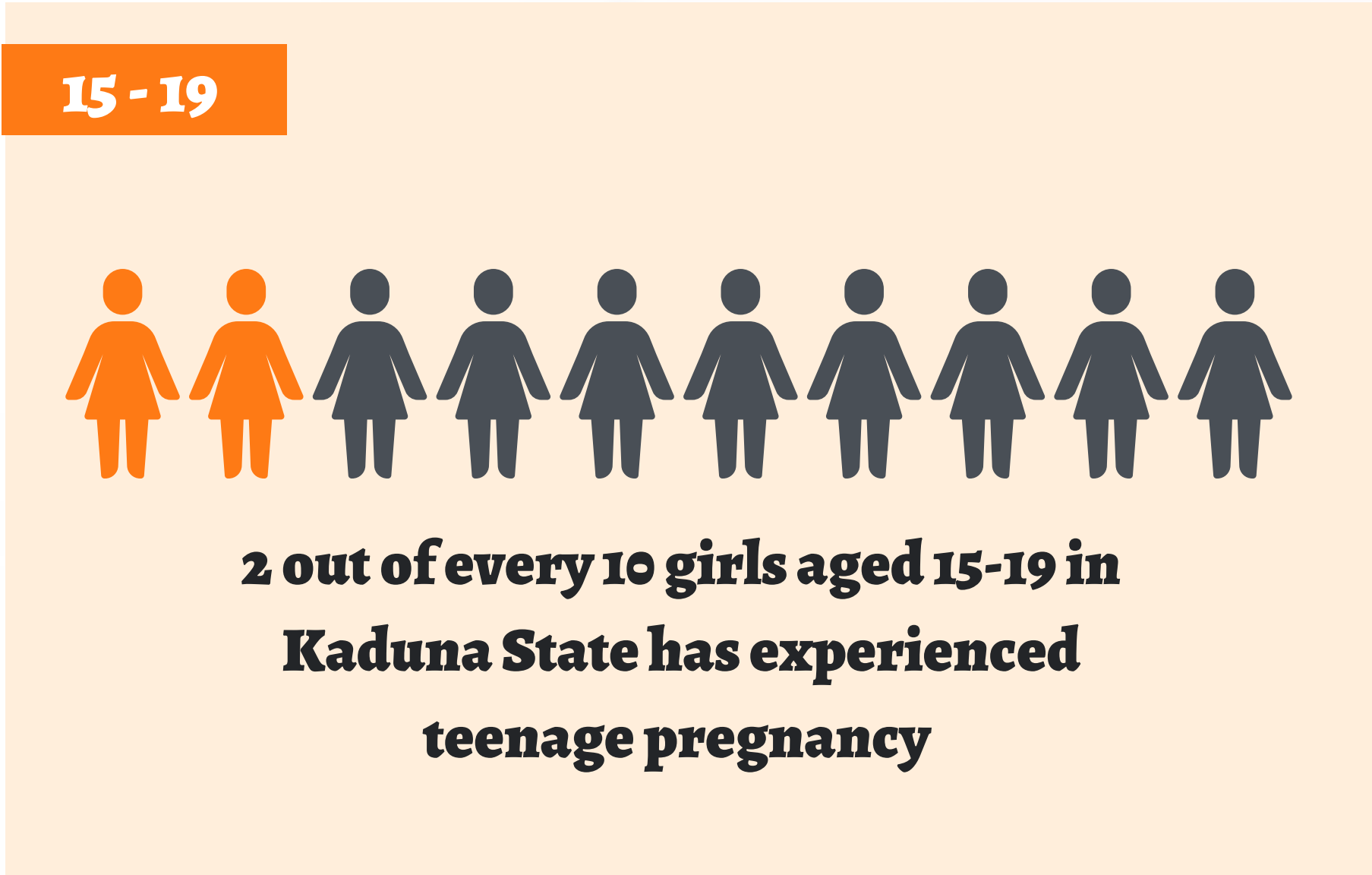
After that day, Esther made sure to visit Joseph every day after school with her friends to check up on him. His parents became comfortable with her visiting him at home, and she started visiting him alone. As time went by, Esther and Joseph became very intimate and began to have unprotected sex. (Esther is 4 out of every 10 girls that ever-had unprotected sex). She never told her parents about it, but her Friend Jummai was aware and encouraged it, saying it was the normal thing between boys and girls.



**Just before their third term examination, Esther became sick. She was vomiting, experiencing high fever and general body weakness. Her mother took her to a hospital where she saw a doctor who prescribed a series of tests and gave her some pain relievers to help before the results were out. The fever however didn't subside, leading her to miss some of her examinations.**



When Esther returned to the hospital for her test results, it was discovered that Esther was pregnant and Hepatitis B positive. (Esther is 2 out of every 10 girls that experienced teenage pregnancy and also, 1 out of 10 girls that do not have knowledge of any contraceptive method).



Esther and her mother were devastated. Her mother was angry and stopped speaking to her

Esther discussed her pregnancy with Joseph and he suggested that they abort the pregnancy using some “medication” his friend’s girlfriend had used previously. Joseph reached out to his friend to obtain the ‘medication’. The friend gave him the name of a drug store to go get the ‘medicine’, which he did. Esther also spoke to Jummai, who informed her about some concoction that helps women abort pregnancies. It was supposedly sold by a woman who lived in their neighborhood popularly called ‘mama’. Esther took both ‘medication’ given to her by Jummai and Joseph without her mother’s knowledge.

At first, Esther started feeling uncomfortable. She went to her room to relax. She thought to herself that the mild pains could be side effects from the concoction. At night, Esther started bleeding and having severe abdominal pains. She couldn’t take it anymore after what felt like hour, so she started crying out for help. Her mother, discussing the issue with the father, rushed out to her room and found Esther lying on the floor.



Her parents took her to a nearby hospital, where she was immediately admitted in the Emergency Ward. Unfortunately, there was no doctor on ground to attend to her. So, it took some hours before the hospital got a hold of a doctor. By this time, Esther has lost consciousness. When the doctor arrived, he immediately examined her and suspected an attempt at abortion.

He immediately rushed her to the theatre to try to save her. They were in the theatre for seven hours and the doctor was able to save her life. Esther lost the pregnancy, and her uterus was damaged. When told what had happened, Esther's parents were frightened. They questioned Esther and demanded to know where she got the abortion pills from.



**When they learned it was from Joseph, her father, in anger, stormed into Joseph's parents' house, raining insults on the family before reporting the case to the police who apprehended Joseph for rape, given that Esther was still a minor and she was therefore unable to give valid consent. The matter is still in court.**



**Esther was traumatised by the entire experience. She became withdrawn, hardly ate and often spoke to herself. She decided not to continue with school because she had missed a lot of examinations and that meant she had to repeat a class. Esther not only lost her confidence, she also lost her dream of becoming a teacher who could help her community and raise a family of her own.**

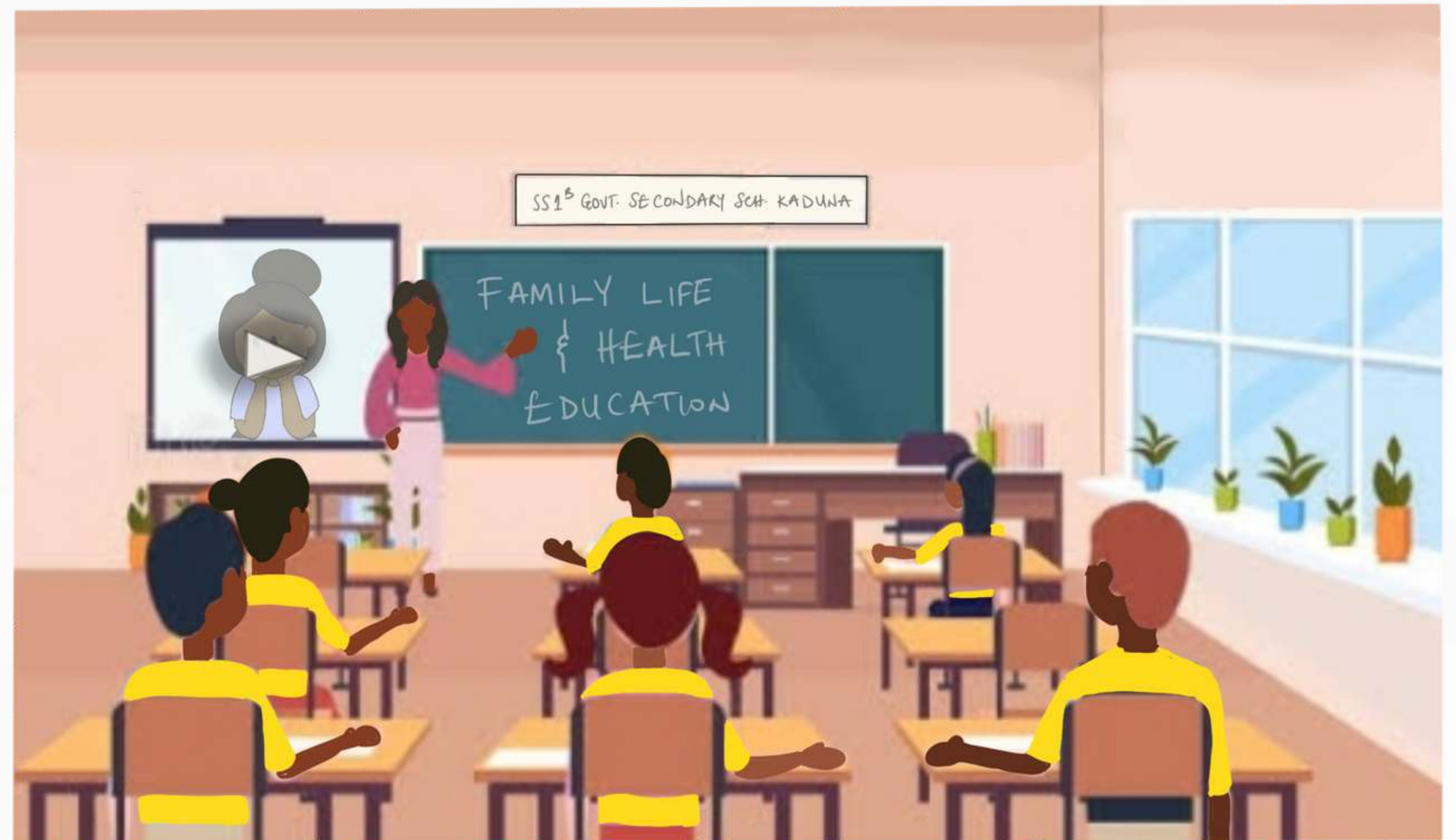




The students sighed sadly upon hearing Esther's story.

**Mrs Laraba:** “I’ve shared this story with you but there’s another story I want you to watch. After we’re done watching it, I’d like you to tell me what are the differences that exist between both stories.”

*She turns on the projector, connects her laptop to it and proceeds to play the video*



**Narrator:** Asabe is a young girl of 15-years who hopes to become the first medical doctor in her community. She is from a poor family in a small village called Gamagira in Soba Local Government Area (LGA). She lives with her mother as she lost her father years ago. This left her mother with the responsibility of raising the children and taking care of all their needs.

True to her goals and ambition, Asabe made sure to keep friends who shared similar values with her. Although she was consistently mocked for wearing a shabby school uniform, it didn't deter her determination to do well in school.



**Asabe would often inform her mother about a rich older man, Mr. Tanimu in the village who pestered her on her way to school. He claimed he wanted a relationship with her: something she sensed was sexual in nature . Her mother advised her to completely ignore him and focus on her studies. One day, Mr. Tanimu stopped Asabe on her way home from school. As usual, he pleaded to go visit her mother but Asabe declined. He kept on insisting and she was left with no other option than to let him: she was confident that her mother could handle the situation. When they got to the house, Asabe left him at the door and ran to inform her mother. Her mother was livid and angrily came out to address him.**



**Mother:** “What are you doing here?”

**Mr. Tanimu:** “Sannu Ma, I just thought to pay my respects and express my intention to marry Asabe.”

**Mother:** “Thank you! We are not interested. You may leave now!”

**Mr. Tanimu:** “I really like her and want to marry her. I’m very rich and can help take care of all your needs.”

**Mother:** “Asabe is still schooling and not ready for marriage. And just so you know, even if she is ready, she is not going to marry an old man. Please leave my compound right now.”

*Asabe’s mother walks out on him, leaving him with no choice but to take his leave.*



**Narrator:** A week later, the Mr. Tanimu stopped Asabe who was hurriedly going home from school, and asked why she was in such a hurry to go home. Asabe dismissively informed him that her younger brother was ill and had been rushed to the hospital early that morning. She added that the rush was to get home quickly, prepare food and take to the hospital. Mr. Tanimu waited for her at the usual junction where he stopped her. As Asabe was heading out to the hospital with the food she prepared, she met him still standing there and he begged her to let him go with her to the hospital. She nonchalantly agreed.



**Asabe and Mr. Tanimu walked in while the doctor was explaining her brother's condition and how the cost for his treatment was around N40, 000. Mr. Tanimu said it would not be a problem, as he would cover the cost. He asked the Doctor to carry on with the treatment.**

**Asabe's mother declined his desire to help and told him to leave.**

**Later on, Asabe's brother's condition worsened, and all efforts made by her mother to raise the bill were abortive. She was left with no option than to send Asabe to Mr. Tanimu. She thought to herself, "After all, he promised to marry her". Out of the frustration and pressure to save her child's life, Asabe's mother sat her down to talk to her.**



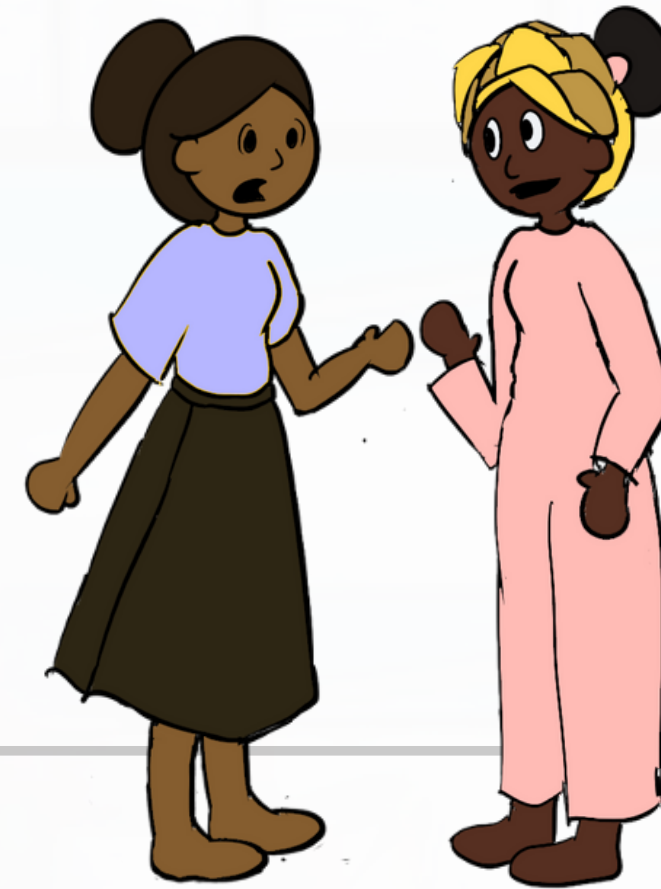
**Mother:** “Asabe, please you need to consider the Mr. Tanimu’s offer. I have sold my best wrappers and other valuables but couldn’t meet even half of what is needed in the hospital. I have heard of a lot of girls he has helped in this village. In fact, the other day maman Binta told me how he helped clear Binta’s school fees and their house rent.”

**Asabe:** “Nana! What are you talking about? You know he is not a good man and my friends warned me that he sleeps with multiple girls in return for money.”

**Mother:** “What are you saying? Even if he sleeps with you now, it is not a problem. After all, he has promised to marry you. Do you want your brother to die, when we can save him with this money? Think of your poor brother please! Just go to him Asabe.”



**Narrator:** Out of confusion, Asabe decided to meet a few of her friends for advice. Saratu totally disagreed with the mother's opinion, while Godiya encouraged her to go ahead as directed by her mother in order to save her brother. She added that Asabe's mother will never forgive her if the boy dies.





**Asabe decided to meet Mr. Tanimu out of love for her brother. Before heading out to him, she went back to some of her notes from a time when a non-governmental organization conducted an outreach in her school on Adolescent and Youth Sexual & Reproductive Health (AYSRH). They had been taught about their sexual and reproductive health, and male condoms were shared, which she hid under her box. Asabe took the condom and headed to the rich old man's house.**



Once there, they had a little talk then he began touching her. He removed his clothes and asked her to do the same. When he came close to her, she removed the condom from her bag and gave it to him to use.

**Mr. Tanimu:** “Mai wanan? I have never used this with any girl I have slept with before. In fact, I enjoy it better this way.”

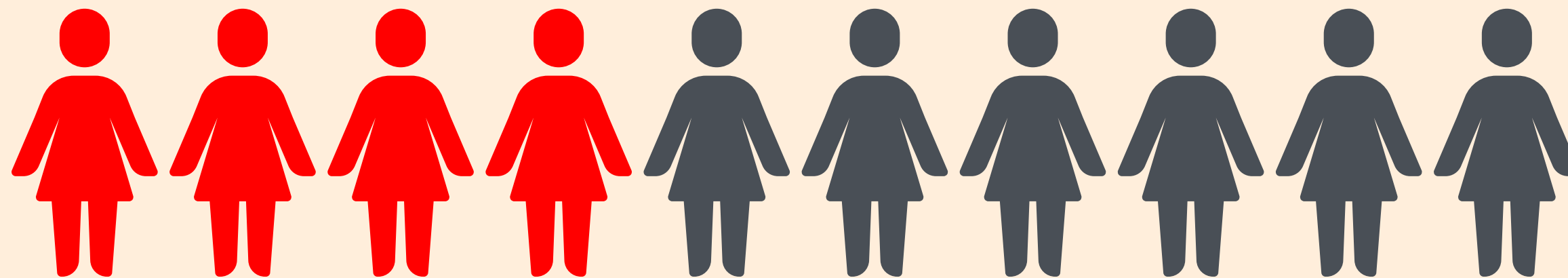
**Asabe:** “Don’t you know that unprotected sex exposes me to unplanned pregnancy and even sexually transmitted infections?”

**Mr. Tanimu:** “What are you saying? I’m perfectly alright. All the stories you hear are all lies. Nothing will happen.”

**Narrator:** Asabe tried to leave but Mr. Tanimu forced himself on her without the condom. When he was done, he flung the money at her and sent her on her way. (Asabe is 4 out of 10 girls that ever-had sex).

She went back to her mother crying, but her mother assured her everything would be fine and collected the money to settle the hospital bills.

**15-29**



**4 out of 10 girls age 15-19 years in Kaduna state  
have ever had sex**

Still broken hearted by all that had happened, Asabe decided to visit the Primary Health Care Facility, where a Health Care Worker who had been trained on Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services encouraged and counselled her, reiterating that it was not her fault. Asabe was tested for STIs and was also given a ‘morning after’ pill also called emergency contraceptive to prevent her from getting pregnant.



**Mrs Laraba:** “Looking at both stories, can anyone tell me what they think made the difference in Esther and Asabe’s life?”

*The hands of several boys and girls went up and Mrs Laraba picked the first girl*



**Amina:** “ Asabe had knowledge about her Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. She was able to quickly protect herself from getting pregnant even after she was raped.”

**Mrs Laraba:** “Yes! Let’s take two more.”

**Josephine:** “Asabe wouldn’t have accessed the morning after pill if there wasn’t an Adolescent Youth friendly centre in her community.”

**Mustapha:** “I just think that parents need to know that information on sexual and reproductive health of adolescents must be a priority.”

**Mrs Labara :** “Exactly! We’ve covered a lot today, think about all you’ve heard and seen and we’d discuss more during my next class.”

# **GLOSSARY**

1) **Family Life and HIV Education:** is a planned process of education that fosters the acquisition of factual information, formation of positive attitudes, beliefs and values as well as development of skills to cope with the biological, psychological, socio- cultural aspects of human living.

2) **Adolescent sexual and reproductive health:** a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system of people between the ages of 10 and 19.

3) **Statutory rape:** Statutory rape is based on the premise that an individual is legally incapable of consenting (agreeing) to sexual intercourse until that person reaches a certain age. The law mandates that even if he or she willingly engages in sexual intercourse, the sex is not consensual so it amounts to Rape. This usually applies to Minors.

# **GLOSSARY**

4) **Contraception:** Ways to Prevent pregnancy

5) **Unprotected Sex:** Sex without a condom, or when a condom breaks

6) **Sexually Transmitted Infections:** are infections generally acquired by sexual contact. The bacteria, viruses or parasites that cause sexually transmitted diseases may pass from person to person in blood, semen, or vaginal and other bodily fluids.

7) **Mai wanan:** What is this?

8) **Maman:** Mother

9) **Nana:** Name of endearment for a mother

10) **Sannu Ma:** Well done Ma.



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## **REFERENCE**

**All data used in the creation of this storybook was gotten from NDHS and Kaduna State General Household Survey**

## **CALL TO ACTION**

### **MDAS**

- 1. Train additional 255 health service providers – one per 255 ward – on Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Healthy friendly services by December 2023.**
- 2. Scale up Family Life and HIV Education training of teachers in 7 other LGAs. Ten teachers per LGA by December, 2023.**
- 3. Integrate Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and services into ongoing programs.**

### **FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

- 1. Ensure that young people are in decision-making spaces relating to their sexual health and well-being in their communities.**

## **KEY MESSAGES**

**Every adolescent girl should have the right to live a healthy and happy life.**

**Every girl should be secured from sexual harassment.**

**Every girl should have easy access to sexual and reproductive health information and services.**

**Protect girls from unsafe abortions.**

**Dear parents, her reproductive health is of priority.**

**It is never too early to teach her about AYSRH.**

**When it comes to the issue of AYSRH, ALL hands MUST be on deck to protect lives.**

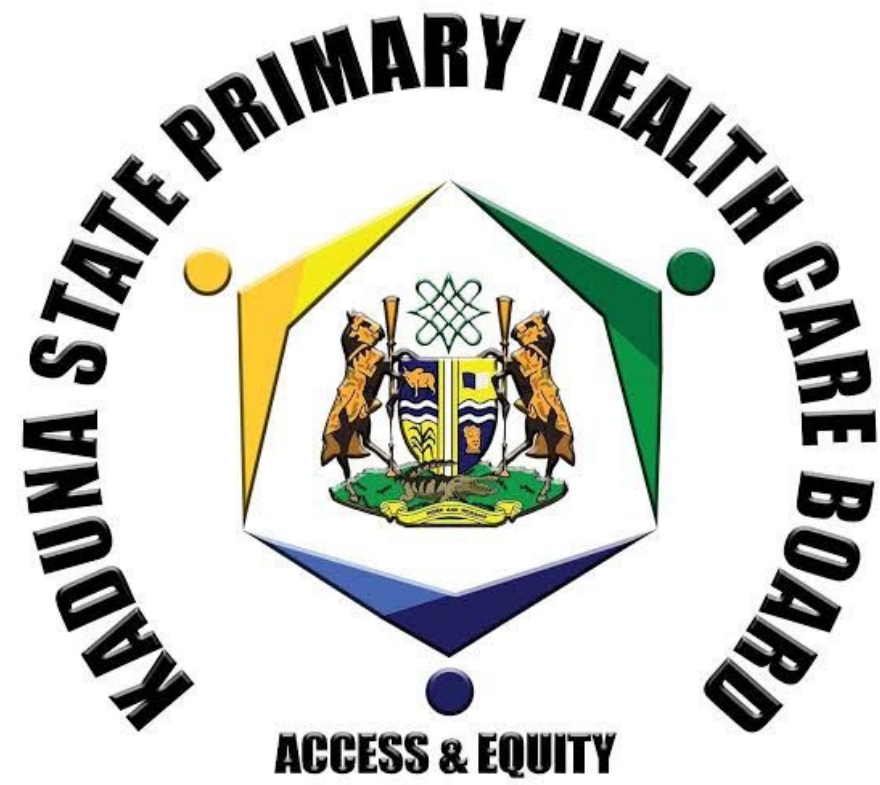
**Every girl has the right to her body. Let her take charge.**

**I am a girl, I have a right to my choice**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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**The information provided in this storybook is the sole responsibility of Stand with a Girl Initiative (SWAG) and does not necessarily reflect the views of Grand Challenges Canada or the Government of Canada.**



**Ministry of Health**

Kaduna State Government



STAND WITH A GIRL  
**SWAG**  
INITIATIVE

*Motto: When the society invest in girls, everyone wins*