TRANSCRIPT FOR "SEEKING MEDICAL CARE (MOTHERS)"

<https://vimeo.com/96888124>

**Welcome to the Great Mothers conversation. My name is Rita. I know how you feel when your children are sick and how difficult it is to get them to the health facility. Let us listen to other parents tell us about their reasons why some parents may or may not take their sick children to the health facility.**

**Some of the reasons why some parents do not take their sick children are that they do not have money. Others believe that the illness is not a medical issue.**

**Some mothers who don’t participate in routine health programs like immunization fear that if they take children to the health facility, they will be penalized for having missed out on the child’s immunizations. Some believe in prayers and they hope that God will heal the child.**

**Some of the mothers lack awareness and they first try out herbs to treat the child and only take the child to the health facility when the child is at the point of death and the herbs are not working.**

**For many of the mothers it is about lack of awareness. They prefer using herbs and consulting witch doctors and other traditional healers.**

**Some do not have money, others believe the herbs will cure their children.**

**Some say they do not have the money or the right clothes, and others are simply intimidated by the health facility.**

**Some parents are staunch, extremist Christians and believe that only prayer will heal their children.**

**Parents take their children to the health facility to have them examined and know the exact cause of the child’s illness. Even if they do not have clean clothes they struggle and look for the money to make it to the health facility.**

**The closeness and bond that mothers have with their children places them at the center of all the care for their children. So they are usually the ones to take the sick child to the health facility.**

**They do take their children to the health facility because they value their children’s future.**

**Mothers who take their children like me are curious to know what is ailing their children. I know that the health worker is knowledgeable and credible.**

**A mother takes the sick child to the health facility because of her love for the baby and the trust she has in the health worker.**

**When a child is sick, the mother is confused and anxious. However, when she takes the child to the hospital she gains a sense of tranquility. Let us listen to how mothers feel when they have taken their children to the health facility.**

**When I take my child to the health facility, I am relieved even before the child gets well because I have confience that my child will become fine.**

**Watching the health worker examine my child and telling me that the child will be fine brings joy to my heart because I know that my child will be all right.**

**As a parent, I regain confience that my child will be fine if I take her to the health faciltity.**

**You go to the health facility with a lot of faith and confidence in the facility’s capactiy and ability to cure your child. It makes me hopeful.**

**When I take my child to the health facility, I know that the health worker’s hands will be healing for my child.**

**When I take my child to the health facility and I watch the health workers doing whatever it takes, I am filled with hope and trust that my child will be cured.**

**We all agree that great mothers are anxious and sad when they are making a decision on taking their children for medical attention. Let us listen to what the health worker has to say on when to take our children to the health facility.**

**If a mothers tried to breastfeed and the child refuses to suckle or the inner part of the mouth is hot, it is a sign that the child is not well. No not wait for the child to get to a point of convulsions; take the child to a health facility when you see these early signs. When a child has difficulty breathing, has diarrhea or vomiting for three or more times in a day, don’t wait for the child to be dehydrated to take him to the health facility. I am a mother and a grandmother too, but none of my children have had what people call traditional, non-medical diseases, because they do not exist. If a mother notices any danger signs, she should take her child to a health facility. I encourage mothers to be the ones to take their children to the health facility so that they can provide the proper details to the health worker.**

**As a Great Mother, watching my child get back to health and happy again is such an exhilarating feeling. Your child has not yet grown up enough to thank you, but I am thanking you now for the great struggles and fight that you put up to see your hopes and dreams for your children turn into a reality.**