

# AI4D

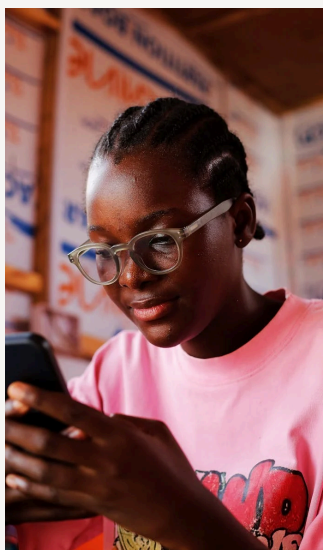
## Helping adolescents with disabilities access SRH information

### The Hidden Health Threat

- Opportunities for young people to learn about SRH in a safe and confidential setting are hard to come by in Ghana, as in many countries.
- Adolescents with hearing/speech and visual impairments struggle to find independent learning opportunities that can be accessed without help from carers.

*"We realised that they are left out in a lot of interventions... our goal was to come up with something that will be accessible for them."*

Dr. Abigail Mills



### An Innovative Solution

A culturally sensitive chatbot that provides appropriate, access-enabled information about SRH.

### The Story

Dr Abigail Mills and Dr. Sylvia Gyan, are social scientists based at the University of Ghana. They recognized a major gap in access to SRH education for adolescents with disabilities, particularly in inclusive or special education settings.

They partnered up with Dr. Michael Kolugu from the computer science department to co-produce an AI generated chatbot that could communicate via text and audio.

### The Result

- A MetaPult chatbot that provides disabled adolescents with voice-activated, offline-accessible sexual health education.

*"To be able to contribute in any small way to this kind of intervention really is fulfilling."*

Dr. Michael Kolugu

- The chatbot was piloted with 10 young people, 5 with visual and 5 with hearing/speech impairments, plus parents and educators.

## Learning

Not enough questions and answers could be gathered from the field to feed the chatbot:

*"We had to turn back and rely on the Large Language Models,"*

says Dr. Sylvia Gyan

### Community Engagement

To ensure the project was ethically sound and locally relevant, the team:

- extensively vetted 6,900 Q&A pairs procured from Google Gemini and OpenAI;
- included adolescents, educators, and parents throughout the testing process
- collaborated with the Ghana Health Service to verify cultural appropriateness;
- explored alternatives for low technology access (USSD).

## Moving Forward

The team is further seeking support that will help them to:

- Add sign language animations for users with hearing impairments
- Roll out a version for users without smartphones
- Scale implementation to more Ghanaian schools
- Scale it further, to other African countries

*"It's been an eye opener...it has not only been about contributing to knowledge but also improving it."*

Dr. Michael Kolugu

## Capacity Built

The social sciences and computer sciences teams of Ghana University exchanged knowledge and skills, as well as presenting their work at national and international conferences.

### User Story

"Kofi," who is visually impaired, says,

*"For the first time I have somebody I can ask about condoms."*

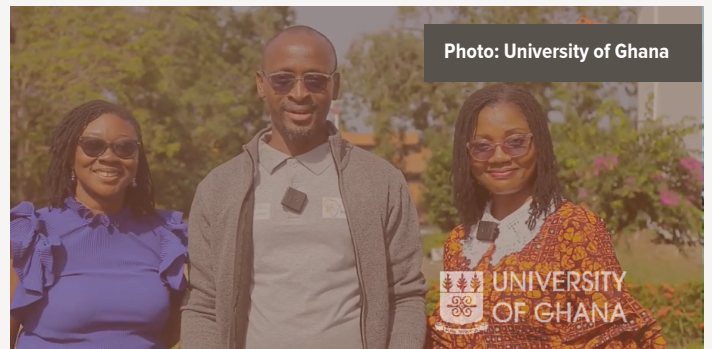
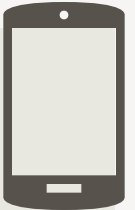


Photo: University of Ghana

### LEARN MORE

- AI4D: <https://www.ai4d.ai>
- HASH: <https://hash.theacademy.co.ug>
- University of Ghana:
- The Global Health Network: <https://ai-globalhealthresearch.tghn.org/>

**Join The Global Health Network community**

Register [here](https://ai-globalhealthresearch.tghn.org/)