

**CHALLENGES FACING HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED CARE GIVERS ON
HIV/AIDS CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES IN RATLOU, NORTH WEST
PROVINCE**

By

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ABSTRACT

The study is about the experiences of Home Community Based care workers when rendering HIV care and support services in the process of PHC re-engineering in Ratlou sub-district in North West province. The purpose of the study was to explore and describe experiences and challenges facing care givers facing Home and Community Based Care workers when they are rendering HIV and AIDS care and support services in Ratlou-Sub district of North West province. The specific objectives of this study were to identify and describe major challenges facing home based care givers when rendering HIV care and support services within the sub-district; to assess sustainability of home community based care projects; to assess Home based care integration with health systems and community; to describe care and support services rendered by care givers; to recommend effective and efficient mechanisms, approaches and methods suitable to improve home community based care organisations.

The researcher utilised triangulation of both Qualitative and Quantitative research method and descriptive study design was used. The researcher used sample size of 70 respondents based on their knowledge and experience in HIV care and support. In this study Questionnaire was self administered together with 70 respondents purposively selected from population of 290 and a separate interview guide was used to interview 5 (five) home based care project managers purposefully selected based on the years of experiences and services they are rendering from 12 Home based care organization in Ratlou sub-district provided by the department of health.

The study findings show that there is a good relationship between home-based care givers and health care workers.

- Only few home based care projects have sufficient funding from other institutions to can sustain the project and of which less than 50% of the project have the chance of sustaining itself in the absence of funds.
- The results show that services home based care givers are rendering are benefiting the surrounding communities which the project situated.
- Majority of the home based care projects have stakeholders participate on the running of the project.

- The results show that monitoring and reporting systems such as reporting tools are linked with the department of Health and Social Development systems. Majority of the respondents' indicated that patients are provided with a detailed referral form when referred to clinic.
- The results further reveal that there is still delay on payment of stipend among care givers and payment of stipend among care givers.
- The results further reveal that there is lack of training on care givers in the field of their work. If home based care and health systems can be integrated this can smooth the process of Primary health care (PHC) Re-engineering in South Africa.

It is recommended that all home based care givers should form part of the Primary Health care team and consideration should be given to government employing them.

- Measure to be taken to ensure that home based care project must start poverty and income generating project to ensure sustainability in the absence of funding.
- The government must define the role of the Home based care givers within the context of the PHC re-engineering strategy; and also redefine their scope of practice including for those who are care givers who are not doing PHC re-engineering.
- The researcher further recommends that government must strengthen relations between health services and stakeholders and representatives in the communities.
- There is a need to strengthen referral systems between facilities, traditional health practitioners and other community structures, such as tribal authority and religious support groups.
- There is high demand to train family members about the importance of home based care givers and establish relationship in order to improve attitude towards care givers.
- There should be strong monitoring and evaluation systems in place to track the role and contribution of Home based care givers within the context of the Ward Based PHC Outreach Teams.
- There is a strong need to provide training for Community care givers on identifying patients who require home based care services.
- Payment of stipends should be prioritised, develop a new system to monitor payment of care givers stipends as home based care givers still travel long distances without any means of transport.