

CHALLENGES FACED BY HIV POSITIVE PREGNANT MOTHERS IN ACCESSING ARVS: A CASE
STUDY OF TSHIRENZHENI VILLAGES AT THULAMELA MUNICIPALITY OF VHEMBE DISTRICT

by

TSHIDZUMBA MUKONDELELI ELISABETH

STUDENT NUMBER: 9423753

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Supervisor: Prof. M.P Khwashaba

Co-Supervisor: Mr. E Mahole

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ABSTRACT

The study focuses on the investigation of the challenges faced by HIV positive pregnant mothers in accessing ARVS. Guided by the Department of health policy which provided guidelines in how to deal and assist positive mothers the study was undertaken to check if positive mothers in the area are complying with the strategies and women know their status in advanced.

In the area under investigation the researcher realized that there are challenges that women facing, among them; challenges to reaching the women in need of PMTCT, a risk of the transmission of HIV, assessment of antiviral therapy for expectant mothers and her new baby.

To arrive at the hospital at the advance stage of labour, these challenges included some socio demographic factors, that some women who tested positive drop out of PMTCT programmes for fear of discrimination and rejection by male partners as well as difficulties of some women in the rural areas faces in reaching clinics following onset of labour particularly during the night which leads to their delivery at home or arrive at the hospital at an advance stage.

In some cases it is found that women lacking symptoms did not feel the need to taking ARVs while some develop a stigma and fear of disclosure to partners and family members which act as major barriers to uptake of PMTCT ARV interventions. The national HIV counselling and campaign shows greater impact as more HIV positive know their status at booking however two thirds still do not know their status when booking.

The researcher used both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. For research design the researcher used field study. A non-probability sampling and its subtype purposive sampling method was used to select the respondents. Two data collected instruments were used to collect data, namely, questionnaire and interview. For data analysis, two data analysis methods were used, which are statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 22.0 and the thematic analysis. Various ethical considerations were applied in the study.

Major findings of the study are:

Majority of the respondent in the study revealed that HIV positive pregnant mothers receive PMTCT. The study focused out that HIV positive pregnant mothers take AR'S to protect their unborn babies. The researcher found that Majority of the respondents revealed that information is given on ARVs to HIV positive pregnant mothers.

The finding shows us that HIV positive pregnant mothers receive support from the families wherein responded that they agree that the families support the HIV positive pregnant mothers. This percentage is high and indicates the family involvement in assisting HIV positive pregnant mothers.

The health facilities are user friendly to HIV positive pregnant mothers indicated by high percentage. Though such facility functions only during the day and they close during the night. The findings show that the community is involved in supporting of HIV positive pregnant mothers with high percentage.

The recommendations of the study are:

The study was conducted in a small village. The study must be conducted which can cover the entire ward 28 of Thulamela Municipality. Further study must be done which can includes more respondents from other municipality. The mobile teams must be trained on PMTC T and NIMART to be able to test initiate client at the community level. The Department of health needs to ensure that all clinics operate for 24 hours with enough staff which can cover day and night shift.