REFUGEES’ PERCEPTION OF HIV AND AIDS IN BA-PHALABORWA
MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

BY

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Supervisor: Prof. LB Khoza
Polokwane
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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation is my own work, the result of my own dependent investigation and that all source used have been acknowledged by means of complete reference.

I also certify that this dissertation has not been accepted in substance for any other degree, and it has not been submitted concurrently for any other degree.

…………………………
Candidate’s Signature

…………………………
Date
DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to the refugees in the Ba-Phalaborwa Sub-District. I hope this work will be used to improve the lives of those in need of knowledge about HIV and AIDS to prevent further loss of life to this disease.
AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost I thank the Lord for granting me the strength I needed to do my work, and for guiding me all the way.

I also extend my thanks to my family for their support and understanding throughout: my husband, my first-born, Nsovo, for her assistance with this dissertation and also my second child, Shihungasi, and my two younger daughters, Tlangelani and Tinyiko for understanding when told to keep quiet because I needed to concentrate.

I also wish to thank my supervisor, professor LB Khoza of the University of Venda for her patience and clear guidelines regarding what was expected of me.

My thanks also go to the editor of this dissertation, Dr LC O’Connell.
ABSTRACT

The research aimed at exploring and describing the perceptions of the refugees at Humulani village in the Ba-Phalaborwa municipality about HIV and AIDS. The objectives including determining the gender perceptions about HIV and AIDS and also providing recommendations for ways to increase the refugees’ understanding of HIV and AIDS.

The approach used for the research was a quantitative approach. The target population of the study was all the refugees at Humulani village. The sample was comprised of both males (78) and females (122) who participated by completing questionnaires. The sample of the refugees consisted of different ethnic groups from Mozambique, Nigeria, Ghana and Zimbabwe. The questionnaires consisted of three sections, section A, B and C. The findings of the study revealed that the participants had low levels of knowledge regarding HIV and AIDS which could be attributed to their possession of false myths about HIV and AIDS.

The outline of the dissertation was as follows:
Chapter 1 introduced the study and discussed the research problems, aim of the study, objectives of the study, research question, significance of the study, motivation of the study and definition of concepts.
Chapter 2 discussed the literature review conducted on the refugees' perceptions of HIV and AIDS.
Chapters 3 discussed the research methodology of the study and describe the research design population, sample, data collection instrument, limitation of the study and ethical considerations adhered to during and after collecting data.
Chapter 4 discussed the data analysis and interpretation with reference to literature review.
In chapter 5 the evaluation of the study, objectives, conclusions, recommendations and suggestions for further research were presented.

Based on the findings it was recommended that the health Profession’s awareness campaigns should be strengthened and designed to reach refugees by taking into account the cultural contexts of the refugees.
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ACRONYMS

AIDS – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus
WHO – World Health Organization