

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

BY

NKWINIKA HLEKANI ELIZABETH

UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO

POLOKWANE

A dissertation submitted to the Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership and Management Sciences, University of Limpopo, Polokwane, in partial fulfillment of the requirement for Masters Degree in Development.

**Supervisor: Prof. LB Khoza
Polokwane
2006**

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1

OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY

	PAGE
1.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY	1
1.2 MOTIVATION OF THE STUDY	4
1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM	4
1.4 AIM OF THE STUDY	
1.5 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY	4
1.6 RESEARCH QUESTION	5
1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY	6
1.8 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS	7

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION	7
2.2 THE MEANING OF HIV AND AIDS	7
2.3 PEOPLE'S KNOWLEDGE WITH REGARD TO HIV AND AIDS	9
2.4 ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS ON HIV AND AIDS BY AFRICAN RURAL PEOPLE	9
2.5 AFRICAN TRADITIONS CONTRIBUTE TO WOMEN'S VULNERABILITY TO HIV AND AIDS	10
2.6 THE INFLUENCE OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS TO HIV AND AIDS	12
2.7 THE INFLUENCE OF CULTURAL BELIEFS ON HIV AND AIDS	12
2.8 HIV AND AIDS COMBINED WITH TRADITIONAL BELIEFS/HEALERS, RELIGIOUS AND NON-RELIGIOUS SYSTEM	16
2.9 AFRICAN PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF CONDOMS	18

2.10 GENDER DIFFERENCE WITH REGARD TO HIV AND AIDS	20
2.10.1 Gender expectations and Buddhism	23
2.11 AFRICAN WOMEN’S CULTURAL NORMS AND HIV AND AIDS	24
CHAPTER 3	
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	
3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN	27
3.2 AREA OF STUDY	27
3.2.1 Population	28
3.3 SAMPLING METHOD	28
3.4 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE	29
3.4.1 Research instrument	29
3.5 VALIDATION	30
3.5.1 External validity	30
3.5.2 Internal validity	30
3.6 Reliability of the instrument	31
3.7 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	31
3.8 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS	31
3.8.1 Permission to conduct the study	32
3.8.2 Right of participants	32
3.8.3 Principle of research ethics	32
3.8.3.1 <i>Principle of beneficence</i>	32
3.8.3.2 <i>Principle of respect for dignity</i>	33
3.9 LIMITATIONS	33
3.10 CONCLUSION	34
CHAPTER 4	
ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS	
4.1 INTRODUCTION	35
4.2 FINDINGS	35

4.2.1 Biographic date	35
4.3 SECTION A: REFUGEES' KNOWLEDGE OF HIV AND AIDS	37
4.3.1 Mother-to-child transmission of HIV and AIDS	39
4.3.2 Mode of transmission of HIV and AIDS	41
4.3.3 Condom use	44
4.3.4 Homosexuality and HIV and AIDS	45
4.3.5 Other modes of spread/transmission of HIV and AIDS	46
4.3.6 HIV and AIDS Association	47
4.4 SECTION B: REFUGEES' MYTHS REGARDING HIV AND AIDS	49
4.5 SECTION C: REFUGEES' ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS REGARDING HIV AND AIDS	56
4.6 CONCLUSION	59

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION	60
5.2 CONCLUSION	60
5.2.1 Conclusion in relation to the objectives guiding the study	60
5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS	65
5.5 SUMMARY	66
LIST OF REFERENCES	67

TABLES

TABLE 4.1: Age of the respondents	36
TABLE 4.2: Gender of the respondents	36
TABLE 4.3: Refugees' knowledge of HIV and AIDS	37
TABLE 4.4: Refugees' Myths of HIV and AIDS	47

ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE A: Letter requesting permission to conduct the study

**ANNEXURE B: Letter of permission to conduct the study from the
Department of Health, Limpopo**

ANNEXURE C: Instruments used to conduct the study

ANNEXURE D: Letter for ethical clearance

ANNEXURE E: Letter from the editor

ACRONYMS

AIDS – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus

WHO – World Health Organization