

ASSESSMENT OF RISKS OF CONTRACTING HIV/AIDS AMONG COUPLES LIVING SEPARATELY IN TANZANIA: THE CASE OF ILALA MUNICIPALITY-DAR-ES-SALAAM TANZANIA

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ABSTRACT

The study examined couples living separately and the risks of contracting HIV. Living apart sometimes can cause one of unfaithful partner to engage him/herself in sexual relationship with another man/woman so as to fulfill his/her sexual desire, and by doing so that couple can contract different sexual transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. The study used survey qualitative and quantitative research approaches, total sample size of 150 respondents was selected through purposive and simple random sampling techniques. The respondents included 120 couples living separately, 8 group's Represent actives and 10 religious' leaders (churches and mosque). The study used questionnaires, in-depth face to face interviews and focus group discussion as data collection methods. Study findings revealed that 41.0 percent reported that job responsibility was the main factor that made the married couples to live separately. Then 62.3 percent reported that the main benefit that married couples got for living separately was an increase in family income. The main challenge reported involved temptations, responded by 36.0 percent. Finally, the study recommended that the government should keep a strong policy, which require married couples to stay together so as to avoid separation which can bring negative impact in the family. Religious leaders needs to insist on word of God to their believers which remind them to remain faithful to their marriage all the time even during the time of separation due to various reasons, because the word of God avoid sexual relationship before marriage and also it doesn't allow extra marital sexual relationship. Therefore, for those couples who due to unavoidable circumstances cannot live together all the time, they need to pay frequency visits to their partners, so that they can fulfill they are sexual desire to prevent them from acquiring HIV infection from other partners outside marriage.