

Assessment of knowledge, attitude and practice with regard to Tuberculosis among drug users on Methadone treatment: A case of Temeke Regional Hospital

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to assess the knowledge, attitude, and practice on TB among injecting drug users on Methadone treatment at Temeke Hospital. The objectives were to assess knowledge of Tuberculosis, explore the attitude towards TB and to identify practices related to TB among people who inject drugs. The data was collected by a structured questionnaire, interview, and data review. The studies found that great majority (93%) of the respondents were males. The majority of the respondents fall in the age groups 25-34years and 35-44 years. Also, the study findings revealed that 40% of respondents had low knowledge on TB, 35% had misconceptions about TB. Negative attitude towards TB patients was observed among 11% of respondents. Out of 400 registered clients only 20 are on TB treatment. Those who had TB revealed to others that they were suffering from TB. Based on the study findings, we suggest that: Firstly, the TB program establish proper information, education, and communication channels specific to PWID in order to increase their knowledge and clear misconceptions on TB. Secondly, the established TB and Methadone clinic to work closely together with the clients of either clinic access services including counseling sessions regarding both treatments. Thirdly, social workers along with other health and community workers put more effort to address and tackle stigma and misconceptions associated with TB and HIV.