

EXAMINATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HIV/AIDS INTERVENTION STRATEGIES AMONG OLDER PEOPLE IN TANZANIA: A CASE STUDY OF KIBAHA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at examination of the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS intervention strategies among older people in Tanzania. The specific objectives were to examine knowledge of older people on HIV/AIDS intervention strategies, to assess the weaknesses of HIV/AIDS intervention strategies towards older people and to suggest measures to improve the existing HIV/AIDS intervention strategies to meet older people needs. A cross-sectional descriptive design was adopted to collect and analyze both primary and secondary data from respondents. Data was collected from 60 respondents using structured questionnaire, focus group discussion (FGD) and key informants in-depth Interview. The Microsoft Excel Software was used for quantitative data while thematic analysis was used for qualitative data analysis. The key study findings include First, the majority 39 (65%) of all respondents said that older people are not aware of the HIV/AIDS intervention strategies. Second, it was found that the majority, 25 (42%) of respondents had opinion that the weakness of the existing strategies is failure to consider illiteracy to most of older people. Third, the majority 31(52%) of respondents suggested that awareness raising campaigns should be conducted. Conclusively, it can be argued that the current HIV/AIDS intervention strategies are not older people friendly, that is why older people are not aware of them. Therefore, social workers in collaboration with CBOS, FBOs and NGOs should actively engage in advocacy and lobbying, public sensitization and further research to ensure that older people are protected fi-om HIV/AIDS.