

Effects of Community-Based Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS on Their Well-Being in Benue State, Nigeria

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Abstract:

The study examined the effects of care and support provided by community and family members of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) on the well being of the PLWHA in Benue state, Nigeria. Data were collected from a purposively selected sample of 312 respondents (96 family members of PLWHA, 96 PLWHA and 120 community members) through interview guide and focus group discussions. The data collected were subjected to descriptive and inferential (t-test, Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and regression analysis) statistics. Study revealed that the family (100.0%) and community (98.3%) were actively involved in care and support of PLWHA. The t-test analysis showed significant difference between the care offered by family and community members ($t = 20.53, p = 0.0000$). PPMC showed significant relationship between the total psychological care offered by family members and the total opinion of the PLWHA about psychological care received ($r = 0.208, p < 0.05$) indicating the need for improvement in other forms of care. However, the ordinal regression showed that a unit increase in the community based care will lead to improvement in the well being of the PLWHA by 56.9% ($\beta = 0.569, R^2 = 0.026, p = 0.321$). This suggests the potency of community based intervention in care for PLWHA. The study recommends that intervention programme that is aimed at improving the knowledge of the family and community members about care and support for PLWHA should be designed. Relevant stakeholders should intensify their efforts towards care and support.