

Surname: NIYIBIZI
Other Names: LEA LILIANE
Reg.No: 09/F/KAB/MAPPM/056/PG
Gender: FEMALE
Programme: MAPP
Academic Unit: ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS STUDIES
Title of Dissertation: THE EFFECTS OF GENDER INTEGRATION IN HIV/AIDS CONTROL PROJECT: CASE STUDY OF HCSP IN GICUMBI DISTRICT
Supervisor: MARIA GORETTI ADUBO
Date of submission: OCTOBER 2012

ABSTRACT

The research was conducted with the objective “to assess the effects of Gender integration in HIV/AIDS control project in Gicumbi health facilities which integrate Gender in all HIV and AIDS program with the support from Intral Health / HCSP project”. It relies on quantitative and qualitative data collected through four questionnaires; one addressed to a sample of women clients of PMTCT program, another for male partners, another for healthcare providers involved in PMTCT and GBV services and the last one addressed to the key informants (Head managers for health centers and HCSP managers). The study was done in 5 health centers (Byumba, Munyinya, Rutare, Kigogo and Mukono) located in Gicumbi district, North province of Rwanda. It was found that through PMTCT program: (a) pregnant women are tested for HIV and they are recommended to be accompanied by their partners, but some partners wait to be invited by health providers refused to come ; (b) while the achievements for the integration of gender in the PMTCT program, the study shows that follow up must still be made for couples in the context of prevention and management of conflicts of HIV testing, providers should even put greater emphasis on counseling on prevention of gender and GBVs; (c) disputes and conflicts occur in couples after HIV testing, the study shows that the resolution of these disputes is not always obvious , and care providers play an important role in solving them- The majority of the providers involved in the PMTCT program have no university education but they are trained on gender and GBVs management ; (d) HCSP project providers support to health facilities in Gicumbi to integrate gender into PMTCT program availing protocol, equipment, education materials and training of health providers. In conclusion, recommendations were made to increase awareness of the community for the involvement of partners in the HIV services and DBV prevention using community Health workers and empowering women by encouraging couples to formalize their marital status. Also it is recommended to the projects to strengthen trained providers on follow up of couples to support them on prevention and resolving conflict which can occur after HIV testing.