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## **Influence of Educational Level on HIV/AIDS Related Knowledge, Attitude and Sexual Behaviour of Road Transport Workers in Ibadan**

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### **Abstract**

*This is a non-experimental, exploratory analytical study that investigated some factors that affect the HIV/AIDS related knowledge, attitude and sexual behaviour of road transport workers in Ibadan. A total of 223 commercial road transporters were randomly selected from six motor parks in Ibadan metropolis were used as samples for the study. A self designed and validated scale (Road Transporters HIV/AIDS Related Knowledge, Attitude and Sexual Behaviour Scale) was used to collect data for the study. The data collected were analyzed using one-way analysis of variance. The three hypotheses raised and tested at 0.05 alpha level were rejected ( $p < 0.05$ ) because educational qualifications had significant influence on the HIV/AIDS related knowledge, attitude and sexual behaviours of the commercial road transport workers in Ibadan. The study concluded that formal education plays an important role in the HIV/AIDS related knowledge, attitude and sexual behaviour of the commercial road transport workers and recommended that since education is a vital tool for behaviour modification, a means should be devised in collaboration with NURTW executives to make it mandatory for road transport workers to have at least a secondary school certificate before being allowed to join the union.*

### **Introduction**

Commercial transport workers have been the objects of a great deal of attention as far as HIV/AIDS is concerned mainly because transporters move between regions with different rates of HIV, and have multiple interactions with foreign and local populations as they travel and hence can easily serve as vectors carrying the virus from one region to another. Another reason is because they are just too many to be ignored. Some of the living and working conditions of commercial transport workers put them at risk of contracting and of transmitting the virus. The association between migration, mobility, and infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) has been documented almost since the beginning of the epidemic of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (UNAIDS, 1998.



Indeed, in one of the earliest studies to examine the link between HIV and mobility, Carswell and colleagues reported in 1989 that HIV prevalence amongst people who were mobile for professional reasons, was particularly high in a truck stop in Uganda, and that the same was true for the sex workers who serviced the drivers (Carswell, Lloyd, & Howells, 1989). Migrant and mobile workers in general often encounter individual and social factors that increase their vulnerability to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV. In addition, such workers often have inadequate access to health education and thus may lack basic information about HIV and AIDS. To this end, the following hypotheses were raised and tested in the study.

### **Hypotheses**

1. *Educational qualifications have no significant influence on HIV/AIDS related knowledge of road transport workers.*
2. *Educational qualifications have no significant influence on the HIV/AIDS related attitude of road transport workers.*
3. *Educational qualifications have no significant influence on the sexual behaviour of road transport workers*

### **Purpose of the study**

The purpose of this study is to find out the influence that the level of formal education has on the HIV/AIDS related knowledge attitude and sexual behaviour of commercial transport workers in Ibadan.

### **Methodology**

**Subjects:** A total of 223 road transport workers drawn from 6 motor parks in Ibadan were used for the study. The randomised cluster sampling technique was used in selecting the respondents who participated in the study.

### **Instrument**

A self-developed and validated scale – Road Transporters' HIV/AIDS Related Knowledge, Attitude and Sexual Behaviour Scale - was used for this study. The



scale was divided into Part A and Part B. Part A of the scale is designed to collect some personal data of the respondents such as; age, religion, marital status, educational qualification, route and years of working experience as road transporters. Part B is made up of three sections. Section I is made up of 20 items and seeks to assess the HIV/AIDS related knowledge of respondents. The higher the scores in the section, the higher the knowledge of the respondents and the respondents can score a maximum of 80. Section II is made up of 7 items and seeks to find out the attitude of the respondents to HIV/AIDS. A high score in this section indicates an attitude that can enhance the acquisition and spread of HIV/AIDS, the maximum score that can be obtained here is 28. Section III is made up of 8 items designed to assess the risk level of the sexual behaviour of the respondents. The higher the score in this section, the higher the sex risk behaviour of the respondents, the maximum score that can be obtained here is 32. The items in the three sections are graded on a 4-point likert format as follows for Sections I and II; 4 = Strongly Agree, 3 = Agree, 2 = Disagree, 1 = Strongly Disagree. and Section III was graded as follows; 4 = Very like me, 3 = Like me, 2 = Unlike me, 1 = Very unlike me. The analyses for the validation of the developed items in the scale were run through the computer using SPSS package. The Spearman-Brown and Guttman statistical tools were employed for measuring the co-efficient values of the items. Each of the three sections has Guttman Split-Half Reliability Coefficients Alpha values of .6291, .8312 and .8555 respectively.

### Procedure

A total of 250 of questionnaire were distributed to the respondents NURTW officials in six of the parks visited were cooperative and asked that certain numbers of the questionnaires written in both Yoruba and English languages be left for distribution to drivers within their units to be collected after a week or two. A total of about 8 weeks was used in the distribution and collection of the questionnaires. A total of 250 questionnaires were produced and randomly distributed to six motor parks in Ibadan metropolis. Out of this number, 234 copies of the questionnaires were successfully retrieved out of which 223 copies were good enough for analyses. This accounted for 89% of the total number of questionnaires distributed.



**Data Analysis**

The responses on the questionnaires were scored and analyzed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA).

**Results**

*Ho I: Educational qualifications have no significant influence on the HIV/AIDS related knowledge of road transport workers.*

**Table I: One-way Analysis of Variance of road transport workers HIV/AIDS related knowledge based on their educational qualifications (none, primary, school certificate, OND and above.)**

Source	SS	DF	MS	F	Sig	P	Remark
Between	420.64	3	140.213	4.40	.005	<	S*
Within	7005.50	220	31.843			.05	
Total	7426.14	223					

\*Significant

The result obtained in table I above indicates that educational qualifications do have significant influence on the HIV/AIDS related knowledge of the road transport workers  $F(3, 220)=4.40; <0.05$ . Hence, the hypothesis is rejected.

*Ho II: Educational qualifications have no significant influence on the HIV/AIDS related attitude of road transport workers.*

**Table II: One-way Analysis of Variance of road transport workers' HIV/AIDS related attitude based on their educational qualifications (none, primary, school certificate, OND and above.)**

Source	SS	DF	MS	F	Sig	P	Remark
Between	186.01	3	62.00	4.15	.007	P< .05	S*
Within	3288.45	220	14.95				
Total	3474.46	223					

\*Significant



Table II above shows that educational qualifications have significant influence on the HIV/AIDS related attitude of the commercial road transporters  $F(3, 220) = 4.15; <0.05$ . Hence, the hypothesis is not supported.

*Ho III: Educational qualifications have no significant influence on the sexual behaviour of road transport workers.*

**Table III: One-way Analysis of Variance of road transport workers sexual behaviour based on their educational qualifications (none, primary, school certificate and OND and above)**

Source	SS	DF	MS	F	Sig	P	Remark
Between	106.76	3	35.59	3.05	.030	P < .05	S*
Within	2557.45	220	11.68				
Total	2664.21	223					

\*Significant

Table III above indicates a statistically significant result,  $F(3, 220) = 3.05; <0.05$ . Hence, the hypothesis is also rejected. This indicates that educational qualifications of the road transport workers have influence on their sexual behaviour.

### Discussion and Conclusion.

The result on table I shows that educational qualifications had significant influence on the HIV/AIDS related knowledge of the road transport workers. The graphical presentation of educational qualifications against the average knowledge for each group of educational qualification however showed that going to school alone does not account for the knowledge of the respondents about HIV/AIDS in other words, the two are not directly related. This is unlike the finding from the study done in Enugu where knowledge of the cause of HIV infection was found to be directly related to the drivers' educational level (Onwasigwe, Aniebue, & Ndu; 2001). This thus underscores the need to take information on HIV/AIDS to the road transport workers in their various motor parks. The result shown on table II indicates that educational qualifications had significant influence on the HIV/AIDS related attitude of road transport workers. Education affects the way we perceive things and issues. Perceptions are reflected in our thinking, attitude and in the



way we act. It makes sense to opine that the more educated one is the more objective one will be in perceiving issues, which enables one to think and act appropriately.

The obtained result shown on table III reveals that educational qualifications had a significant influence on the sexual behaviour of the road transport workers. It was discovered that the road transport workers that were highly educated did not practice risky sexual behaviour like their less educated counterparts. This further underscores the need for the provision of good, affordable and accessible education for the road transport workers.

### **Recommendations**

Since education is a vital tool for behaviour modification, a means should be devised in collaboration with the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) by which commercial road transporters could be made to compulsorily attend school to a minimum of school certificate level. This minimum level of education will somewhat equip them to be able to read materials on HIV/AIDS and other matters and pass objective judgements that could affect their behaviour in general and sexual behaviour in particular. Efforts to develop appropriate audio-visual and print materials for commercial road transporters should be made. Representatives of the commercial road transporters should be involved in the design of such materials and should be included in the implementation. In order to further drive the reality of HIV/AIDS home, such materials should increase the visibility of people living with HIV/AIDS. To be effective, such mass media campaigns should be reinforced and supported by interpersonal counselling made available during such campaigns. The commercial road transporters should also be encouraged to go for voluntary counselling and testing.

### **Implication of the study**

The road transport workers in the parks visited indicated that they would not respond to questionnaires given to them except such questionnaires were sent through their respective NURTW (National Union of Road Transport Workers) officials. So, in each park visited, the chairman or secretary of the NURTW unit was intimated with the purpose of the questionnaires. In some parks, some of the official asked that they be paid to distribute the questionnaires to drivers within their units.



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