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## AWARENESS AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS AMONG FARMING COMMUNITIES IN AKINYELE AND KAJOLA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF OYO STATE, NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

*This study was carried out to assess the awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS among members of farming communities in Akinyele and Kajola Local government Areas of Oyo State. The rationale for carrying out this research is to determine the level of knowledge and attitudes of the participants on HIV/AIDS, identify the level of awareness of prevention of HIV/AIDS among the participants, and to identify the channel through which the participants received their information on awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS. Twenty-five participants each were purposively selected from each of twelve randomly selected communities from the two Local Government Areas to give a total of 300 respondents. Data for the study was collected through structured interview schedule. Data was analysed using frequency counts and percentages. Hypothesis tested were analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). Finding showed that majority of members of farming communities in the two Local Government were with primary six leaving certificate (low level of formal education) Radio was the major channel through which they received HIV/AIDS information 64% of the respondents indicated. None of the respondents received information through the posters. 94% of the respondents received HIV/AIDS information on radio programme called "Abule Oloke Merin. All the respondents (100%) in the two Local government Area of study believe that anal sex should be avoided. They believed that sex should not be abstained (87.38%, and 79.3%) disagreed with abstinence. The tested hypotheses indicated significant relationship between gender, educational attainment and types of marriage of the respondents and their HIV/AIDS awareness.*

**Key Words:** Awareness, Prevention, HIV/AIDS, Farming Communities.

### INTRODUCTION

HIV/AIDS is among the top ten diseases killers world wide and it may soon move into the top five with the current rate at which the disease spread across the nations. Facts sheet on HIV/AIDS (2001) reported that over 30 million people were infected with HIV and that 12.7 million people around the world had already lost their lives to the disease. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, 2000) and the World Health Organization (WHO) however reported that unless a cure is found or life prolonging therapy can be made more widely available, majority of those now living with HIV will die within a decade (UNAIDS/WHO, 1999). Fact sheet (2001) however affirmed that AIDS is already the leading cause of death in certain areas and that adults defined as people aged 15 – 49 are mostly affected.

At the international forum hosted by OAU in 2001, the African heads of States deliberated on the way to combat HIV/AIDS and other related infections, and adopted a resolution declaring HIV/AIDS a "global emergency" and one of the most formidable challenges of life and dignity. It is however pertinent to note that this epidemic disease continues to spread to all ages – newborn children, youths, adolescents and adults alike. Most importantly therefore, there are no known single explanation, as to why some countries are more affected than others but one could think of poverty, illiteracy and engaging in identified risk behaviours as contributory factors for much of the epidemic.

In Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa are worst affected while Nigeria, Cote Divorie and Burkina Faso have their cases of HIV infection continually on the increase. Even though the magnitude of increase may differ, recent picture and figures on HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa still point to the fast growing rate of the epidemic (Ngugi, Plummer Cameron, 2003).

In terms of location a number of infected individuals dwell in the rural areas as shown by 2001 sentinel survey report (Folayan and Falobi, 2003). Estimated HIV prevalence in Nigeria by state and zone show a



## Awareness and Prevention of HIV/Aids among Farming Communities in Akinyele and Kajola Local Government Areas of Oyo State, Nigeria

variation in the trend between 1999 and 2001. According to UNAIDS estimates, around 3.1% of adults between ages 15 and 49 are living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (UNAIDS, 2008). By the end of 2007, there were an estimated 2,600,000 people infected with HIV and approximately 170,000 people died from AIDS in 2007 alone. With AIDS prevalence, the average life expectancy has dropped from 53.8 years for women; 52.6 years for men in 1991 to 46 years for women and 47 years for men in 2007 respectively (UNAIDS, 2008). The rapid spread of HIV in Nigeria is attributable to lack of information about sexual health and HIV, low level of Condom use and high level of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as Chlamydia and gonorrhoea which make it easier for the virus to be transmitted.

Rural Nigeria always suffered from neglect and a sense of abandonment. The recent call for the scrapping of the third tier government- the Local Government – stems from their failure to impact on the lives of their constituents. This neglect has always been observed even in HIV programmes. People continue to get infected and continue to die of ignorance in the rural areas.

For example Busari and Falaye (2003) reported that majority of the women in the rural areas are at risk of contracting HIV infections. Women are at risk because of their involvement in sexual relationships with regular partners who have extra sexual/marital relationship, and consume excess alcohol.

Studies have shown that education influence risky behaviours. When campaigns that involve diagnosis intervention has resulted in changes in human behaviour. Example of such studies. In Nairobi Kenya a health education intervention targetted a group of women resulted, in striking increase in condom use (CDC, 2001). In the same vein the World Bank (2002) summarized the effects of AIDS on Agricultural Production of all nations, stating that it affects the most productive age bracket that is important to replenish labour and also remitting income. AIDS intervention programmes therefore must provide training in interpersonal skills such as talking about sexual practices, discussing the avoidance risk with a partner, asserting personal preference in sexual relationship and abstinence from illicit sex and using of condom when sexual activity is to occur.

HIV/AIDS prevention programme according to the World Health Organisation (2000) is basically health education intervention programmes that make use of awareness campaigns on Television through drama series, jingles on radio, drama on radio, stage drama, posters, handbills, pamphlets, music, seminars, conferences, symposia, lectures organised on regular basis mostly by Government and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for the purposes of creating awareness and educating the general public about how HIV transmitted and how to avoid contracting the AIDS disease.

However, records are not available on how much of the acquired information through HIV/AIDS prevention programmes is practiced. Donor agencies and donors should concentrate their effort henceforth in rural Nigeria. 70% of people in Nigeria live in rural Nigeria but it is only about 15% of HIV intervention that gets to the grassroots. Without empowerment HIV will continue to run like wild fire in the villages of Nigeria and we will continue to report successes when people keep dying of ignorance in the rural area. The future of Nigeria depends on the rural communities. Donors and Funders, international and local NGOs, government and other CSOs should not neglect rural Nigeria. They should empower the people with information about STIs, HIV/AIDS, stigma and discrimination, Reproductive Health and Rights, Human Rights, etc. Services like Voluntary Counseling and Testing, Career counseling, youth centers, STI and Contraceptive clinics etc should be established. This will help preserve the next generation of farmers, engineers, scientists, doctors, teachers, etc from extinction. This study is therefore necessary in order to investigate how the farmers in rural areas are sensitized against HIV/AIDS spread and to investigate, their awareness level so as to improve their knowledge and encourage them to practice safer sex. It is against this backdrop that, this study intends to provide answers to the following research questions.

- (1) What are personal characteristics such as gender, age, marital status, type of marriage and religion of the farming communities?
- (2) What is the perception of members of farming communities on HIV/AIDS?
- (3) What is the knowledge of members of farming communities on HIV/AIDS?
- (4) What are the HIV/AIDS prevention awareness level among the members of farming communities?
- (5) What are the channels of communication through which the members of farming communities receive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes?



## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The general objective of the study was to investigate the level of awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS of members of farming communities in two Local Government Area of Oyo State. The following are the specific objectives;

- (i) To identify the personal characteristics of members of farming communities such as gender, age, marital status, sex and religion.
- (ii) To determine the perception of the participants on HIV/AIDS.
- (iii) To determine the level of knowledge and attitudes of the participants on HIV/AIDS.
- (iv) To identify the level of awareness of prevention of HIV/AIDS among the participants.
- (v) To identify the channel through which the participants received their information on awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

## METHODOLOGY

### PARTICIPANTS

The study was carried out in Akinyele and Kajola Local Government Areas of Oyo State. The two Local Government Areas were purposively chosen because they are inhabited by Yoruba, Ibo, Hausa, Fulani, Nupe, Tivs, Efiks who are migrant farmers. The headquarters of Kajola Local Government is Okeho and lies at the Northern part of Oyo State and about 104km from Ibadan, the state capital. Kajola Local Government has a land space of 1278.76km with fifteen major settlements.

Akinyele Local government is one of the Local Government within Ibadan land and was selected because of its semi-urban nature. Akinyele Local Government has a land space of 1292.92km with twenty five major settlements. National population census in 1991 reported that it has human population of 140,118 people.

Twenty-five participants each were purposively selected from each of twelve randomly selected communities from the two Local Government Areas to give a total of three hundred (300) respondents. Data for the study was collected through structured interview schedule because respondents were mainly without formal education. Data was collected with the help of the assistant researchers earlier trained.

### DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected for this study was analysed using frequency counts and percentages. Hypotheses tested were analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC).

## RESULTS

**Research question 1:** What are the personal characteristics such as gender, age, marital status, type of marriage and religion of members of farming communities?

<Table 1 about to be Here>

The overall percentage of the respondent according to gender was 83.3 male and 16.7 female. Based on the Local Government 81.3% of the members of farming communities in Akinyele are males, while 18.7% of them are females, whereas 85.3% of the respondents in Kajola Local Government are males and 14.7% of them are females.

Concerning age, 44% were below 50 years while 56% were above 50 years in Akinyele Local Government Areas while 36% of the respondents in Kajola Local Government Area were less than 50 years 64% were above 50 years. 78.7% and 82.7% of the respondents in Akinyele and Kajola respectively were married, 5.3% and 2.7% respectively were separated and 5.3% and 4% were widowed and 4% and 5.3% were divorced with 6.7% and 5.3% being single in Akinyele and Kajola Local Government Areas respectively. Majority of the respondents in Akinyele practice Christianity 62% while 49.3% of the respondents in Kajola were Christians 36% of them in Akinyele and 46.7% in Kajola were Muslims. 74.7% in Akinyele have primary education while 30% of them in Kajola have no formal education. Majority of the respondents practice crop farming with 76% in Akinyele and 80% in Kajola. On types of marriage 63.3% of the respondents in Akinyele have more than one wives while 58.1% in Kajola also practice polygamy.

**Research Question 2:** What is the perception of members of farming communities on HIV/AIDS.

<Table 2 About to be Here>



## Awareness and Prevention of HIV/Aids among Farming Communities in Akinyele and Kajola Local Government Areas of Oyo State, Nigeria

The results obtained from Table 2 above indicated that 85.3% of the members of farming communities in Akinyele Local Government Area and 74.7% of the respondents in Kajola Local Government Areas indicated strong perception of HIV/AIDS. Also 11.3% of them and 17.3% indicated low perception of HIV/AIDS in Akinyele and Kajola Local Government Areas respectively.

**Research Question 3:** What is the Level of Awareness and Knowledge of Members of Farming Communities on HIV/AIDS.

### <Table 3 About to be Here>

The results in Table 3 above showed that 88% of members of farming communities in Akinyele Local Government Area and 80% of members of farming communities in Kajola Local Government Area indicated high level of awareness of HIV/AIDS. Again, 8% of the respondents and 14.7% of them indicated low level of awareness of HIV/AIDS in Akinyele and Kajola Local government Areas respectively. 4% and 5.3% of the respondents in Akinyele and Kajola respectively were not sure of their level of awareness of HIV/AIDS.

**Research Question 4:** What are the HIV/AIDS prevention awareness level among the members of farming communities.

### <Table 4 About to be Here>

The results obtained in Table 4 indicated that 87.38% and 79.3% of the respondents in Akinyele and Kajola Local Government Areas respectively were of the view that abstinence from sexual intercourse does not prevent individual from contracting HIV/AIDS. For the use of condom as prevention of HIV/AIDS 58.7% and 44.7% of the members of farming communities in Akinyele and Kajola respectively are aware of the fact that it helps to prevent transmission of HIV/AIDS.

Maintaining one sexual partner as prevention of HIV/AIDS had 72% and 64% score from the members of farming communities in Akinyele and Kajola respectively. This percentages agreed to the fact that faithfulness to ones partner is the best form of HIV/AIDS prevention.

93.3% of respondents from Akinyele Local Government Areas agreed that ensuring that blood for transfusion is free of HIV while 94.7% of them from Kajola Local Government Areas were of the same view.

Not to share needles or clippers was agreed upon by 69.3% and 73.3% of respondents from Akinyele and Kajola respectively as part of measure to prevent contracting HIV/AIDS. 94.7% and 96% of the members of the farming communities in Akinyele and Kajola respectively were of the view that to prevent HIV/AIDS one should see a doctor if one suspects STI.

All the respondents in the study sample in the two Local Government Area agreed that anal sex should be avoided. Majority of the members of farming communities in two Local Government Area study sample also believe that avoiding sex through the mouth prevents transfusion of HIV/AIDS 98.7% and 96.7% in Akinyele and Kajola respectively agreed on the item. 90% of the respondents in Akinyele believe that it is necessary to go for testing and counselling on HIV/AIDS while 84.7% of them in Kajola held the same believe.

**Research Question 5:** What are the channels of communication through which the members of farming communities in the study sample receive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes.

### <Table 5(a) About to be Here>

The respondents were asked to indicate the channel of communication through which they hear, view, read or receive information about causes, symptoms and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

59.3% of the respondents from Akinyele Local government received information through the radio while 69.7% of the respondents from Kajola Local Government Areas received their information through the radio. 12% and 17.3% of members of farming communities in Akinyele and Kajola respectively got their information through the television. Through Newspaper/magazines 9.3% of the respondents from Akinyele Local Government Area received information and 4.7% of them from Kajola. 37.3% of the respondents from Akinyele Local Government Area received information through Handbills while 19.3% of respondents from Kajola received the information through handbills. 7.3% of respondents from Akinyele Local Government Area had NGOs as their source of information and only 2% of them from Kajola had NGOs as their source of information. In Akinyele Local Government Area 6% of members of farming communities



claimed to receive their information through the peer group while only 1.3% of respondents in Kajola received their information from peer group. None of the respondents both in Akinyele and Kajola Local Government Areas got information on prevention of HIV/AIDS through posters.

<Table 5(b) About to be Here>

This study indicated that 56% of the members of farming communities in the two Local Government Areas access information on Eda soro yi. 94% and 73.3% access information through Abule Olokemerin and jingles on the radio respectively. 54.6% of the respondents claimed to access information through lecture. 35.3% and 40% of the respondents access information from bill board and kaa roo jiire respectively.

**Hypotheses**

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant relationship in the gender of the respondents sample from the two Local Governments selected for the study and their HIV/AIDS Awareness level.
2. There is no significant relationship in the educational attainment of the respondents sampled from the two local governments selected for the study and their HIV/AIDS Awareness level.
3. There is no significant relationship in the types of marriage (polygamy/monogamy) of the respondents sampled from the two local governments selected for the study and their HIV/AIDS Awareness level.

These hypotheses were analysed using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). The result of the analysis is presented in Tables 6 – 8.

<Table 6 About to be Here>

The results presented in Table 6 above shows that the calculated pearson's correlation coefficient 0.936 was greater than 0.195 table value at 0.05 alpha level at two tail. This indicates that gender was significant correlates of HIV/AIDS awareness among members of farming communities in Akinyele and Kajola Local Government Areas.

<Table 7 About to be Here>

The results presented in Table 7 above shows the mean (12.1, 11.3) and standard deviation ( $\pm 8.5, \pm 9.5$ ) and r-calculated value 0.325 was greater than 0.195 r-tabulated at two tail at 0.05 level of significance. This implies that educational attainment was a significant correlate of awareness of HIV/AIDS among the respondents.

<Table 8 About to be Here>

The results presented in Table 8 above shows the mean (15.2, 11.3), standard deviation ( $\pm 8.2, \pm 9.5$ ) and r-calculated value 0.325 was greater than 0.195 r-tabulated at two tail at 0.05 level of significance. This indicates that types of marriage were significant correlate of HIV/AIDS awareness among the members of farming communities in the two Local Government Areas of study.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

High level of awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS is the purpose of this study. Based on the major findings; the following conclusions were arrived at. Majority of the members of farming communities in the Local Government Areas were males mostly married and with low level of formal education. Radio was the major channel through which they receive information on HIV/AIDS about 64% of all the respondent indicated. None of the respondents receive information through the posters 94% of all the respondents received information on HIV/AIDS through a radio programme called "Abule Olokemerin". On prevention of HIV/AIDS all the respondent 100% in the two Local Government Areas of study believe that anal sex should be avoided. However majority of them (87.38%, 79.3%) disagree with abstinence from sexual intercourse as a measure of prevention of HIV/AIDS. There were significant relationship between gender and HIV/AIDS awareness, so also between educational attainment of respondents. Significant relationship was also noted between the types of marriage (polygamous/monogamous) of the respondents and HIV/AIDS awareness.



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Table 1: Demographic Characteristics Of The Participants In The Two Local Government Areas

Characteristics	Akinyele LGA	Kajola LGA
<b>Gender:</b>		
Male	83.3%	128 (85.3)
Female	122 (81.3) 28 (18.7)	22 (14.7)
<b>Age:</b>		
Less < 50 years	66 (44.0)	54 (36.0)
Greater > 50 years	84 (56.0)	96 (64.0)
<b>Marital Status:</b>		
Single	10 (6.7)	8 (5.3)
Married	118 (78.7)	124 (82.7)
Separated	8 (5.3)	4 (2.7)
Widowed	8 (5.3)	6 (4.0)
Divorced	6 (4.0)	8 (5.3)
<b>Religion</b>		
Islam	54 (36.0)	70 (46.7)
Christianity	93 (62.0)	74 (49.3)
Traditional/Religion	3 (2.0)	6 (4.0)
<b>Educational Level/Attainment</b>		
No Formal Education	30 (20.0)	45 (30.0)
Primary School/ L.C.	112 (74.7)	90 (60.0)
Secondary	5 (3.3)	10 (6.7)
Tertiary	3 (2.0)	5 (3.3)
<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Akinyele LGA</b>	<b>Kajola LGA</b>
<b>Types of Farming</b>		
Crop Farming	113 (76.0)	120 (80.0)



**Awareness and Prevention of HIV/Aids among Farming Communities in Akinyele and Kajola Local Government Areas of Oyo State, Nigeria**

Poultry	26 (27.3)	11 (7.3)
Cattle Rearing	8 (5.3)	14 (9.3)
Subsistence Farming	2 (1.3)	5 (3.3)
Cash Crop	-	-
<b>Types of Marriage</b>		
Monogamy	43 (36.4)	52 (41.9)
Polygamy	75 (63.6)	72 (58.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>118 (100.0)</b>	<b>124 (100.0)</b>

**Table 2: Frequency Distribution of Members of Farming Communities According to Their Perception of HIV/AIDS.**

Perception of HIV/AIDS	Akinyele	Kajola	Total
Strong perception	128 (85.3)	112 (74.7)	240 (80.0)
Low perception	17 (11.3)	26 (17.3)	43 (14.3)
Undecided	5 (3.3)	12 (8)	17 (5.7)
Total	150 (100)	150 (100)	300 (100)

**Table 3: Frequency Distribution of Members of Farming Communities According to Their Level of Awareness and Knowledge of HIV/AIDS**

Level of Awareness of HIV/AIDS	Akinyele	Kajola	Total
High Level	132 (88)	120 (80)	252 (84)
Low Level	12 (8)	22 (14.7)	34 (11.3)
Undecided	6 (4)	8 (5.3)	14 (4.7)
Total	150 (100)	150 (100)	300 (100)

**Table 4: Frequency Distribution of Members of Farming Communities According to Their HIV/AIDS Prevention Awareness Level.**

Items	Akinyele			Kajola		
	Agree	Disagree	Not sure	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
I believe the following measures should be taken in order not to contract HIV/AIDS						
Abstinence from sexual intercourse	11 (7.3)	131 (87.38)	24 (5.3)	24 (16)	119 (79.3)	7 (4.7)
Use of condom	88 (58.7)	57 (38)	5 (3.3)	67 (44.7)	73 (48.7)	10 (6.6)
Have one sexual partner	108 (72)	39 (26)	3 (2)	96 (64)	45 (30)	9 (6)
Ensure that blood for transfusion is HIV free	146 (97.3)	-	4 (2.7)	142 (94.7)	2 (1.3)	6 (4)
Not to share needles or clippers	104 (69.3)	28 (18.7)	8 (1.21)	110 (73.3)	25 (16.7)	15 (10)
See a doctor if you suspect STI	142 (94.7)	-	8 (5.3)	144 (96)	-	6 (4)
Avoid anal sex	150 (100)	-	-	150 (100)	-	-
Avoid sex through the mouth	148 (98.7)	-	2 (1.3)	145 (96.7)	3 (2)	2 (1.3)
Go for testing and counselling on HIV/AIDS	135 (90)	13 (8.7)	2 (1.3)	127 (84.7)	18 (12)	5 (3.3)



**Table 5: Frequency Distribution of Respondents According to Their Channel of Communication in HIV/AIDS Prevention programmes.**

Channel of Communication	Akinyele	Kajola	Total
Radio	89 (59.3)	103 (68.7)	192 (64)
Television	18 (12)	26 (17.3)	44 (14.7)
Newspaper/Magazine	14 (9.3)	7 (4.7)	21 (7)
Handbills	56 (37.3)	29 (19.3)	85 (28.3)
NGOs	11 (7.3)	3 (2)	14 (4.7)
Posters	-	-	-
Peer Group	9 (6)	2 (1.3)	11 (3.7)

**Table 5(b): Frequency Distribution of Respondents According to Their Access to Media Use Pattern.**

Media use pattern	Akinyele	Kajola	Total
E da soro yi	80 (53.3)	88 (58.7)	168 (56)
Abule Olokemerin	142 (94.7)	140 (93.3)	282 (94)
Jingles on Radio	139 (92.7)	81 (54)	220 (73.3)
Lecture	50 (33.3)	32 (21.3)	82 (54.6)
Bill Board	47 (31.3)	6 (4)	53 (35.3)
Kaaro 'o' jiiire	12 (8)	48 (32)	60 (40)

**Table 6: Pearson's Correlation Coefficient on Gender As A Correlate of HIV/AIDS Awareness.**

Variables	Mean	SD	R tab.	r-calculated	$\mu$	Remarks
Gender	10.09	19.2	0.195	0.936	0.05	Signi
Awareness of HIV/AIDS	11.3	$\pm 9.5$				

Source: Author's Computation

**Table 7: Pearson's Correlation Coefficient on Educational Attainment As a Correlates of HIV/AIDS Awareness.**

Variables	Mean	SD	R tab.	r-calculate	$\mu$	Remarks
Educational Attainment	12.1	$\pm 8.5$	0.195	0.325	0.05	Signi
Awareness of HIV/AIDS	11.3	$\pm 9.5$				

Source: Author's Computation

**Table 8: Pearson's Correlation Coefficient on Types of Marriage As a Correlates of HIV/AIDS Awareness of the Respondents.**

Variables	Mean	SD	R tab.	r-calculate	$\mu$	Remarks
Types of Marriage	15.2	$\pm 8.2$	0.195	0.325	0.05	Signi
Awareness of HIV/AIDS	11.3	$\pm 9.5$				

Source: Author's Computation