

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CULTURAL PRACTICES AND HIV/AIDS TRANSMISSION IN RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

Orij, Christian Chigozi

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Port Harcourt
P.M.B. 5323, Port Harcourt
Rivers State, **NIGERIA**

&

Dr Mrs Rosmary Ekechukwu

Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling
Faculty of Education
University of Port Harcourt
P.M.B. 5323, Port Harcourt
Rivers State, **NIGERIA**
Mamatriplets01@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The focus of the study is to investigate the relationship between cultural practices and HIV/AIDS transmission in Rivers State, Nigeria. Three hypotheses are generated to guide the study. Survey design is adopted for the study. The population covers all indigenes of Rivers State. A sample of 600 respondents is randomly selected for the study. The selection is done through the use of simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques. Questionnaire is the instrument used for data collection. The instrument is face-validated by professionals in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt. Furthermore, the reliability value of 0.72 Correlation Co-efficient is established for the study. Biographic data of the respondents are analysed using percentage and frequency tables while the hypotheses for the study are tested at .05 level of significance using Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The results of the analysis reveal that female genital mutilation and tattoo practices did not relate to HIV/AIDS transmission significantly while extramarital sexual practice relates to it. Based on the findings, the study recommends, among others that the State and Local Governments should make laws that will help discourage harmful cultural practices that lead to HIV/AIDS contraction and transmission; and as well they should use the media to provide adequate information about the dangers of cultural practices (female genital mutilation, tattooing and extramarital sex) on HIV/AIDS contraction and transmission among cultural specific people in Rivers State.

Keywords: Cultural Practices, HIV/AIDS, Transmission, Rivers State, Nigeria.