

2012

HIV/AIDS information and changing sexual behaviour among undergraduate students in Tanzania

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Emerald Group Publishing Limited

<https://doi.org/10.1108/00012531211263120>

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Abstract

Purpose – This paper aims to investigate the level of HIV/AIDS information among undergraduate students at two university colleges in Tanzania, and its role in changing risky sexual behaviour. **Design/methodology/approach** – In total, 151 undergraduate students from Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College and Moshi University College of Cooperative and Business Studies were surveyed by means of a questionnaire. **Findings** – Of respondents 86 per cent were aware of the pandemic and its modes of transmission. The main sources of information were books, journals, magazines, television, internet, DVD/CD, radio and research reports. A total of 32 per cent reported having tested for HIV/AIDS; 40 per cent use condoms during sexual intercourse. Among condom users 63 per cent used them consistently. Factors hindering the use of HIV/AIDS information include the time spent on studies, the unavailability of the information, and the religious, cultural and family background of respondents. **Research limitations/implications** – In a country with over 30 university and university colleges, generalization is not possible on the basis of research restricted to a small number. **Practical implications** – Universities should establish partnerships and networks with various stakeholders to ensure access to HIV/AIDS information and to share experiences. **Originality/value** – The level of HIV/AIDS information among Tanzanian undergraduates is under-investigated. This paper helps to fill some of the gaps in the research.