

SC2115

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**HIV AND AIDS: MAPPING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE USE AND
COMMUNICATION AMONG WOMEN IN SIKHOBOKHOBO WARD OF NKAYI
DISTRICT**

BY

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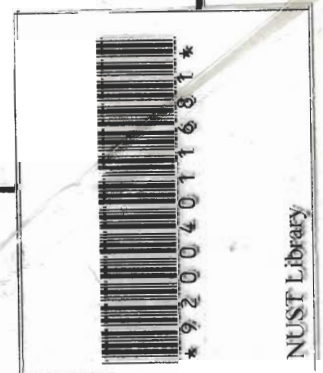
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ABSTRACT

Indigenous knowledge contributes to the prevention, care and management of HIV and AIDS in Sikhobokhobo ward of Nkayi district. The knowledge also stands as a pillar to of resource support for orphans and women in the ward's response to HIV and AIDS.

Data was collected through participant observation, life- histories, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions. The responses given yielded data on people's perceptions and the specific indigenous knowledge used by women in the prevention, care support and management of the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

The study first of its kind in the ward shows how indigenous knowledge has been used by women in the response to HIV and AIDS. It highlights the role indigenous knowledge plays in the prevention of infection through the use of herbs to reduce and prevent promiscuity among people in a relationship. It also highlights how mothers during breast-feeding they can help control the future sexual desire of their children.

Focus is made on the role of language in the communication of prevention of infection and messages to reduce stigma and discrimination of HIV and AIDS. Language is an important component of indigenous knowledge that plays an important role in storing and communicating messages on the epidemic and the response that are encouraged.

The study shows how indigenous knowledge and medicine is used to treat opportunistic infections among people living with HIV and AIDS. It also observes the different remedies used to treat the infections. Highlight is made in the study on the different food therapies for the sick are adopted from the body of indigenous knowledge.

Communication and documentation of indigenous knowledge is also addressed in the study. The study notes the current oral forms of sharing and exchanging indigenous knowledge alongside other modern methods that are slowly taking root in the ward. Such methods are the recording of indigenous knowledge in the written word done by the different organizations working with the community particularly women in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

The research concludes by highlighting the important aspect of indigenous knowledge in Sikhobokhobo that needed to be documented and communicated to the wide community.