

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A STUDY OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE AIDS PREVENTION SUPPORT CENTRE IN ITS PROVISION OF HIV AND AIDS INFORMATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC STAFF MEMBERS

BY

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ABSTRACT

In light of two disturbing trends – the spread of HIV/ AIDS and deprivation of information – which are dominant features of today’s Africa, this dissertation seeks to examine the often overlooked aspect of the pandemic: the nexus between lack of knowledge and AIDS. The purpose of this paper is to review the effectiveness of the University of Zimbabwe AIDS Prevention Support Centre in its dissemination of HIV and AIDS information to the University of Zimbabwe academic and non-academic staff members. This research may help the policy makers of the University of Zimbabwe in coming up with programmes which may help in the dissemination of HIV and AIDS information. This paper reviews related literature which includes recent for a and reports which have rightly pointed to poverty, the lack of education, and gender inequality as important factors in the AIDS pandemic, few have linked AIDS to lack of information in tertiary institutions. This study was a descriptive survey as it sought to examine the practices, policies and procedures associated with the effectiveness in disseminating of HIV and AIDS information. The population under study includes a stratified sample of academic and non-academic university staff. Methodological approach to the data gathering among the aimed groups will be based on triangulation and includes review of documents as well as use of multiple techniques which includes use of questionnaire surveys and interviews. Data will be presented in a discursive as well as presented in a numerical evidence to support and illustrate arguments. It also will involve compiling and evaluating all the relevant evidence from multiple data sources. The research identifies that staff are aware of the existence of the University of Zimbabwe HIV and AIDS Support Centre and that the information presented in the workshops is relevant and applicable to their own situations. The relationship of the AIDS pandemic to ineffective information provision is far too more complex to be expressed in simple cause – and – effect terms. Instead it must be addressed in terms of: how the explosion HIV and AIDS may contribute to further misunderstanding in the coming years, and how lack of information is an amplifier of the disease through encouraging conditions favourable to the spread of the HIV virus. In lieu of conclusion of this project, harmonisation of HIV and AIDS policies at international, national and institutional levels in the decision making process must be taken more seriously.