# NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

## DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

HEALTH INFORMATION DESSEMINATION CHANNELS TO THE INSTITUTIONALISED

ELDERLY: A CASE OF OLD PEOPLES' HOMES IN HARARE

BY

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# ABSTRACT

The research was necessitated by the need to have effective access of health information to improve health conditions and reduce loss of lives in the old people's homes. This was also pointed out by the HealpAge (2014) that deaths from curable diseases amongst the elderly can be reduced with effective access of information. The purpose of this study was to examine the health information dissemination channels used to the elderly people living in old people's homes in Harare and to investigate their health information needs. The research explored whether information channels satisfied elderly people's health information needs considering their challenges which are due to old age. The study was guided by the Berlo's (1960) communication model. The research revealed that elderly people experienced a variety of information needs and often used one or more information channels to satisfy their health information needs, personal contacts overwhelmingly was their preferred methods of accessing health information. The research was qualitative in nature and used in-depth interviews, key informant interviews and focus group discussions as the research instruments. The research revealed that elderly people experienced challenges in accessing health information. There should be a collaboration in different stakeholders including the government, policy makers, information professionals and health practitioners to improve the access to health information to the elderly in the old people's homes.