Title of Abstract: Psycho-Cultural Variables as Predictors of Attitude of Young People Towards HIV Voluntary Counselling and Testing in South Western Nigeria.

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Abstract:

HIV/AIDS is a global problem and its emergence has introduced new dimensions to health care delivery worldwide. One of these dimensions is voluntary counselling and testing (VCT). Young people between ages 15 and 24 are at risk on an unparalleled scale, and they account for more than fifty (50) percent of all HIV infections throughout the world. Preventing HIV among young people is particularly urgent in sub-Saharan Africa, where in many countries young people comprise more than 30 percent of the population. HIV voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) allows individuals to determine their HIV status and serves as a gateway for HIV prevention and early access to treatment, care and support. The study therefore predicts the attitude of young people towards HIV voluntary counselling and testing (HIV VCT) in south-western Nigeria using some psycho-cultural variables such as attribution patterns, cultural practices and sexual behavioural dispositions. The study employed the survey (descriptive) research method. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select the sample for this study. The study population comprised of all young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in south-western, Nigeria, and a total of 1171 respondents from Lagos, Ogun and Oyo States participated in the study. A survey research questionnaire made up of six trajectories including attributions about HIV/AIDS scale, youths’ sexual behaviour scale, cultural practices and beliefs scale, voluntary counselling and testing scale, attitude towards HIV/AIDS scale and knowledge of HIV/AIDS scale was used in this study.