

The Impact of Water Supply in HIV/AIDS Transmission in Poor People in Africa.

[The case of EAST AFRICA]

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INTRODUCTION:

Tanzania is currently facing high rate of transmission of HIV/AIDS epidemics mostly in urban areas. Since HIV/AIDS is not directly involved in water contamination process, people or communities, donors in developing countries don't immediately think of water supply programme as ways to help solving HIV/AIDS transmission problem in Africa mostly in urban areas.

The study will discuss how successful HIV/AIDS war and education through adequate safe water supply to the community in reducing the transmission/effects. The study will base in urban and peri- urban areas in developing countries mostly in Africa cities, e.g. Dar es Salaam, Nairobi etc.

The study will discuss how successful is HIV/AIDS and water education to reduce the HIV transmission through availability of adequate safe water supply services at the shortest distance in Tanzania.

In the study area (Tanzania) the water supply situation is too bad. Women and children [girls] walk a long distance and from one street to another to fetch water for their families. Water is very important in life and for day-to-day activities. Rapists who are raping women and young girls during the process of finding water while some women and girls submit themselves to commit sexual intercourse during acute water shortage in order to get or tap water for their families are transmitting HIV/ AIDS.

The study will based on the effects of the availability of water services at the shortest distance, effects of HIV/AIDS transmission to women and children [girls].

BACK GROUND :

It is estimated that 25.3 million people in developing countries mostly in Africa are HIV/AIDS victims up to 2000 year about 2.4 million people died of AIDS related causes every year.

Africa is only 70 percent of adult and 80 percent of children are living with HIV and estimated 20 million worldwide who have died of AIDS since the epidemics began. In all strategies of fighting against HIV/ AIDS epidemic e.g. controlled sex, use of condom, community education etc. Water is not included as a part, contributing factor or problem in fight against HIV/ AIDS transmission.

The problem looks smaller/ minor but the production of water supply services problem in HIV/AIDS transmission is too larger and most of poor community/ low-income have been affected due to the factor.

WATER SUPPLY SITUATION IN AFRICA:

Urban center's in the Africa, e.g. Tanzania are experiencing rapid expansion in terms of space, population growth and economic development, which in turn create high, demand for reliable and adequate water supply and sanitation services. Large part of urban population is living in unplanned areas with inadequate water supply and sanitation services. Existing water supply infrastructures and water sources are old and inadequate to meet the ever-increasing demand of water. Presently, only about 68% of the urban populations have access to reliable water supply services.

Water supply services especially water for drinking is a big problem in developing countries mostly in Africa, the most of communities e.g. in the city of Dar es Salaam only 35 percent of the resident are getting clean and safe water from the water Authority. Many people especially women and children are suffering and walking long distances to find water in the city of Dar es Salaam.

HOW WATER INVOLVES HIV/AIDS TRANSMISSION:

In the proposal study area water is a big problem since the demand is too high but the production is too small in comparison with the population demand. The water authorities are supplying water through water rationing system. In various streets water is available full time and other streets there is no water at all and some are provided with water once a week. This tandence of water problem cause high population of women and children (girls) to walk and spend most productive hours and some times the all day searching for water in streets where water service is available. Due to long queue waiting to fetch water, some of them come back home at late night, directly being subjective to "rape". Most women and young girls questioned at the city of Dar es Salaam revealed that in various streets boys "rapist" waits at the tap points for women/ girls going for water at late night or very early in the morning.

Also it was learnt that some women and girls admit themselves to sexual acts when asked by men owning such water sources as means of getting water from the source. It is said refusal to do the act results to be not allowed to fetch water which is crucial factor for life hence submitting to unsafe sexual acts as a result most young girls find themselves victims to HIV/AIDS.

When you mention the case of water in many Tanzanian communities you touch the hearts of almost all the community living in poor urban community. They know that 'no water no life' e.g. when WEPMO interviewed a street with a stand out water project called ZAMCARGO WATER & HEALTH Project in Dar es salaam funded by WaterAid. They revealed that during the period when water project was not launched in their area women and girls used to go out to the streets 2km from 3.00am and come back around 7.00am with only one bucket of water (20ltrs). They also confined that most of households were in a state of breaking up due to mistrust as some women found themselves pregnant in the process and others affected by HIV/AIDS/STD [Sexually Transmitted Diseases].

The shortage/ lack of water in most streets of the city has been the major contributing factor towards HIV/ AIDS transmission but for a long time being overlooked. Due to this process of women fetching water from very far places from their homes for their families many girls and women have been getting HIV/AIDS epidemics than their husbands and children.

THE RESULTS OF HIGH HIV/AIDS TRANSMISSION:

AIDS is set to wipe out half century of development gains as measured by life expectancy at birth. In countries such as Tanzania, South Africa, Zimbabwe where a fifth or a quarter of the adult population is infected HIV/AIDS is set to claim the lives of around half of all 15 years olds. UNAIDS estimates that at least 15 percent of adults live with the disease in developing countries. The disease has affected young women more than men.

In Tanzania, 60 percent of girls have been affect with HIV/AIDS means out of each ten [10] girls six [6] have HIV/AIDS disease.

Through the data of UNAIDS the estimated 12 million women living, 10 million men in Africa. In Botswana estimated 35.8% of adults living with AIDS disease. The life expectancy in Botswana has been cut to 44 years from 69 years.

ECONOMIC EFFECT HIV/AIDS DISEASE:

Many families are using much funds for treatment of their relatives affected by AIDS. Some of families spent much time to care for these people instead of doing their normal development activities. Many of the countries in Africa spent much money to care for HIV/AIDS effects e.g. HIV patients occupy nearly 40 percent of the beds in the Kenyata National Hospital in Nairobi and 70 percent of the beds in the Prince Result Hospital in Burundi, according to UNAIDS report.

INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY APPRAISAL:

Through the experience of the present of community appraisal in water and sanitation projects and conducting training /education show that will reduce water problems as far as HIV/AIDS transmission.

The objective of this study / appraisal of water effects in HIV/AIDS transformation is find out how water affecting and serving the HIV/AIDS in low income [poor] communities in urban areas in African cities.

- To get data/information about water and HIV/AIDS transformation.
- To introduce and conducting training / education of HIV/AIDS through water supply and sanitation services and projects to poor communities.

CONCLUSION:

In order to succeed in eliminating or to reduce the HIV/AIDS transmission in developing countries mostly in Africa, it needs availability of adequate safe water, health services and HIV and AIDS education to the community through water projects. We have so many roles and funds requirement but also we must put our effort on water for HIV/AIDS.

Now we are losing the agronomists, engineers and teachers who are needed to sustain economic development activities, who shall do this?

There are problems of proper archives because only source of information is the human memory. Due to HIV/AIDS, which has shortened the life span in developing countries mostly in Africa.

Today's generation will no longer be able to transfer their knowledge to the next generation and without data and information it will be difficult to sustain development, mostly water development.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the time now to increase our effort in water and educating the community the effect of HIV through availability of water supply services in mostly in the poor people to especially women and children because they are the major water finders in our community, so as to reduce the effects of HIV/AIDS transmission in our community.

Also water and sanitation programs have proved to be efficient to call the message to the community. Let's make sure we take care of this problem of water supply and every people know about AIDS through water to reduce HIV transmission now and the future generation.

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