

NGOS ON HIV/AIDS MITIGATION IN MOROGORO MUNICIPALITY – TANZANIA¹

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ABSTRACT

HIV/AIDS pandemic has and continue to cause widespread impacts on Social and Economic spheres of most communities in Tanzania. The epidemic is restraining development efforts of many households and the nation at large. As the rate of HIV infections is growing in Tanzania the demand for forming coalition and build collective efforts in fighting the scourge is overriding all other development endeavors.

In Tanzania thousands of NGOs were established in order to combat the AIDS related problems. For example, in 2006 Morogoro Municipal alone has more than 70 NGOs dealing with HIV/AIDS mitigation. However, the prevalence of HIV infections in Morogoro Municipal is 11.5%, which is higher compared to the national prevalence of 7.0%. This indicates that the problem of HIV/AIDS is still high in Morogoro Municipal despite the mushrooming number of NGOs dealing with HIV/AIDS mitigation.

The study objective was to assess the effectiveness of NGOs on HIV/AIDS mitigation within Morogoro Municipal, specifically to explore roles of NGOs, financial sustainability, collaboration among NGOs, competence of staff on addressing HIV/AIDS issues and community awareness on NGOs activities.

The findings from the study revealed that, the effectiveness of NGOs is open for discussion. This is due to the number of challenges facing many NGOs which includes;

Operating under meagre funds and donor dependent as a result many NGOs activities are either done on piece meal or not executed at all. This lead to un-sustainability of the most NGOs programmes. On manning level most NGOs had many more temporary staff than permanent staff. Temporary staff does not necessarily have competencies in critical areas and are not always stable and reliable. Furthermore the majority of NGOs within Morogoro Municipal has large number of staff with Certificates and Diploma holders. Very few NGOs have either first Degree or Masters Degree holders among their staff. This level of education might not be sufficient in addressing pertinent issues like HIV/AIDS mitigation.

Other challenges include use of inappropriate approach on HIV/AIDS message delivery. The study found that seminars and workshops are the major means of delivering HIV/AIDS messages. However majority of the people were found to be aware of HIV/AIDS through radio and news papers thus contradict the NGOs major approach on message delivery The finding prompt a discussion on the effectiveness of this approach as it seems to be limited on the number of the people reached by these NGOs through seminars/workshops and the frequency of these seminars.. Basing on this finding it can be safely deduced that the Seminar/workshop approach is not an appropriate and encompassing means on HIV/AIDS mitigation to the community NGOs serve.

Despite of many interventions done by NGOs, the study revealed that there has not been significant sexual behavioural change among the community even if there is higher awareness and thorough knowledge on HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission.

Basing on the above findings there is a need for further investigation on what constrains community from changing sexual behavior despite the enormous knowledge they have on HIV/AIDS prevention and the realization of dangers the epidemic has. The study recommends that NGOs should align their roles in order to succeed in their efforts towards HIV/AIDS mitigation.

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