Dissertation Report

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ACCEPTABILITY OF MEDICAL MALE CIRCUMCISION AS AN HIV PREVENTION INTERVENTION AMONG BINDURA UNIVERSITY MALE STUDENTS.

Shingirai Shakespeare Gwatidzo

B1024849

Supervisor`s: Ms. Chigondo & Mr. Mabvurira

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

A dissertation report submitted to the Department of Social Work, Bindura University of Science Education in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Social Work Honours degree

June 2013
Abstract

The study sought to establish the acceptability of medical male circumcision as an HIV prevention method among Bindura University male students. A cross-sectional survey was conducted at Bindura University of Science Education with 30 respondents that were systematically selected into the study. Data were collected using questionnaires for the target population and interviews for key informant. Data obtained was analysed manually and presented by means of graphical presentation such as tables and descriptive statistics such as bar graphs and pie charts. The findings showed that there is high level of acceptability of MC among male University students as 58% of the respondents accepted to be circumcised, 40% of the respondents accepted to circumcise a son and 60% of the respondents said the nation should continue with the nationwide campaign to circumcise all males. The students showed high levels of knowledge on the benefits of male circumcision, 66% of the respondents knew that MC reduces the rate of HIV infection by 60%, 63% of the respondents stated that it protects against STIs and 90% of the respondents stated that MC was hygienic. Most of the respondents had positive perceptions and attitudes towards medical male circumcision. 67% of the respondents were of the opinion that MC should be practiced while only 33% said it must be stopped. Medically conducted male circumcision was preferred by all the respondents. However, those who were against it said that MC triggers promiscuity. Based on the above findings, the study concluded that, making MC available accessible and accepted by youths through awareness campaigns, posters and pamphlets will increase the acceptability of MC. It is recommended that head of institutions together with NGOs need to promote MC through awareness campaigns at tertiary institutions. Further studies are recommended to assess the role of female students in influencing the acceptability of MC, as women are noted to have considerable influence over a man’s decision to circumcise or not.