

**Socio-cultural construction of HIV/AIDS
stigma among African-migrant women in
Lower Saxony, Germany.**

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Outline

- Introduction
- Background & problem statement
- Objectives of the study
- Significance
- Research questions
- Theoretical framework & Methodology
- Findings
- Conclusion

Introduction

- HIV/AIDS now gaining scant attention & no longer considered a major health crisis.
- New infection cases worldwide as well as undiagnosed cases.
- High levels of stigma due to socio-cultural factors.
- From “death sentence to chronic disease”. Despite the several prevention intervention programs & treatment plans, stigma continues to blight the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Background & problem statement

- Migration not only linked to socio-cultural changes, integration problems, economic growth etc.
- Also associated with disease e.g migrants including tourists, expatriates etc who cross international borders also move along with diseases that are not easy to detect.
- Epidemiological studies from Western EU countries shows that migration has an impact on HIV epidemiology e.g 12 countries indicates 2/3 of infection from heterosexual transmission with migrants from high prevalence countries.
- Reports in 2012/13, 70% increase in heterosexual transmission cases in Germany from immigrants, with about 40-50% migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa. New diagnosis shows increase in women.

background & prob cont...

- Stigma continues to be manifested at different levels within the society e.g African/German social networks and at the institutional level.
- Stigma is also a gendered concept affecting men & women differently.
- HIV/AIDS and the blame factor (most African countries-women are often blamed for transmission)
- The underlying lay discourses surrounding stigma construction among gay communities.

Objectives of the study

- To examine the challenges faced by HIV+ African migrant women with regards to stigma.
- Investigate HIV-related stigma perceptions & attitudes.
- Find out barriers obscuring seeking of support services.
- To understand the socio-cultural construction of stigma affecting +women &their dilemmas.

Significance

- HIV-research in Germany mostly focus on the medical aspects targeting prevention, testing, treatment without addressing underlying issues creating & re-enforcing stigma.
- Socio-cultural factors constructing stigma will also highlight power differences, knowledge gaps, service & support provisions options.
- It would also serve as an eye opener for policy-makers, medics, NGOs & social workers.

Research questions.

- *What are the processes that construct stigma using intersectionality framework within the context of HIV/AIDS?*
- *What are the dilemmas faced by HIV+ migrant women?*
- *How do these women deal with challenges, especially in seeking social support & health care services?*

Theoretical framework & methodology.

- Intersectionality: Used for analysis bringing the realities of women's lives & subjective experiences.
- It arose from a critique gender & race based research failing to account for lived experiences at neglected point of intersection.
- Challenging us to look at the different positioning of women, bringing out the complexities b/w advantaged & disadvantaged i.e distorting the multidimension of black women's experiences.

Framework cont...

- Multiple factors often precipitate stigmatization experiences & their social identities at personal level such as being female, ethnic minority, low economic status...
- All the above interlocks with oppression forces at the macro level e.g classism or sexism which creates social injustice.
- Multiple factors precipitates stigma, not just HIV.
- Stigma as a socio-cultural phenomenon & not generated solely by +status.

Methodology

- Qualitative methods; Ethnographic study in order to provide in depth description in real life settings, explicating phenomenon in a cultural sensitive way.
- Convenience sample of 5 respondents interviewed & followed up for 6 months.
- Social workers in AIDS organizations who were instrumental as contact person's were also involved.
- Participant observations in AIDS Organizations', clinics & prevention center.

Findings

- All participants shared similar experiences especially in their Religious belief, comfort in children which both enhanced their self esteem...*Examples*
- Their diverse experiences dealing with stigma at personal & institutional levels e.g partners, social or health workers gives insights into the complexities of HIV/AIDS... *Examples*
- Economic & social status quite influential yielding diverse outcomes...*Examples*
- Disclosure remains a major obstacle.
- Medical challenge; sexual & reproductive health, regimen, awareness, hygiene...*Examples*

Conclusion.

Jonathan Mann;3 stages of HIV epidemic



Political Corruption

47 mins · 🌐

You guyz remeneber how we leak Patrick visa ? and Paul Biya end of year speech now its about kiki this black leg..She was ..Her X boyfriend in Buea died of AIDS in 2014 , she was diagnosed with HIV and she keep spreading it , Boyz be-careful ..her fb name is Bandy kiki

