

## **Abstract**

Persons living with HIV/AIDS all over the world often experience discrimination while seeking health care. Research has shown that there are a variety of causes and/or predictors for stigma and discrimination in health care. Organizations have tried to tackle the problem of stigma and discrimination by focusing on these specific causes and /or predictors but unfortunately a solution is still forth coming, thus the cycle continues. This research paper postulated that stigma and discrimination is a complex phenomenon due to these varied causes and predictors but there is/are similar underlying factor/s that can be found with each cause and /or predictor. This underlying factor/s is what really contributes to the complexity of HIV/AIDS S&D. The objective of the paper was to identify those underlying factor/s. The researcher attempted to quantify stigma and discrimination using SPSS 17 to determine its existence and to what extent. A logic analysis was then done to identify the possible underlying factor/s. The study was conducted using a survey method. A 34 item questionnaire was distributed at random to 100 health care workers (HCWs), specifically Doctors (Dr), Registered Nurses (RN), Enrolled Nursing Assistants (ENA) and Patient Care Assistants (PCA). The survey sought HCWs responses pertaining to knowledge of HIV risk and transmission, and attitudes towards HIV-infected people. A response rate of 100% was obtained. Overall the extent of stigma and discrimination was small in the population under study. Logic analysis indicated that fear may be the similar underlying factor/s that can be found with each cause and /or predictor.