

***THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PREVENTION OF MOTHER
TO CHILD TRANSMISSION (PMTCT) of HIV PROGRAMME IN
WESTMORELAND***

A Thesis

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by

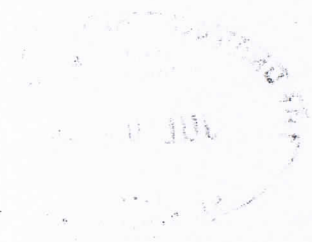
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ABSTRACT

This study was done to measure the effectiveness of the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) Programme in the parish of Westmoreland and serves as a guideline for the improvement and maintenance of the programme.

Aim/Goals: The aim of the study was to compare the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practices of antenatal clients exposed to the PMTCT component of the HIV Programme with women in childbearing age who were not exposed to the programme. It sought to determine whether clients were informed of appropriate behaviour change messages and identify its strengths, weaknesses opportunities and threats in the parish of Westmoreland.

Method: A cross-sectional study using the systematic method of sampling, the use of questionnaire, focus group discussions, and research of secondary data, direct observation and literature reviews were employed.

Results: Women (272) with the mean age of 27 years were interviewed and while general knowledge level among antenatal clients was high, women had poor condom usage with 29.8% reported usage for last time sex. There is also the belief that if the male introduces it, "it means that something must be wrong" and condom was disliked. However, 92.3% said that if tested positive condoms would be used as the method of choice.

The programme provided HIV blood investigations for 91% of women and they reported being exposed to coping skills, condom demonstration skills and other resources.

Conclusion: The programme has strong education component and reports high confidentiality and workers co-operation. The slow return of the Polymerase

Chain Reaction (PCR) test results and the sustainability of breast milk substitutes, the threat of non use of condoms are attending forces against the programme.