

## ABSTRACT

### **A Study of HIV and AIDS-Related Stigma Discrimination [sic] in Schools in St. Lucia: An Assessment of Principals' Preparedness to Deal With Students Infected or Affected by HIV and AIDS in Elementary Schools in St. Lucia**

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This quantitative study sought to determine the extent to which primary school principals in St. Lucia are prepared to deal with students infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Specifically, it explored whether there is a relationship between principals' knowledge levels and their attitudes toward the issue of HIV/AIDS. Data were collected through a questionnaire administered to 40 primary school principals, five from each of the eight educational districts. Findings revealed that: 1) there is a positive relationship between the principals' knowledge levels and their attitudes, in that as their knowledge increased, their attitudes improved; and 2) the principals faced challenges in their application of the principles of Universal Safety Precautions.

**Keywords:** Principal attitudes; HIV/AIDS; Primary school principals; Student welfare; PLHA; Stigma; Discrimination; St. Lucia