

Semi- Settled Pastoralists' Sources of Information and Utilisation of HIV/AIDS Prevention Techniques in South West Nigeria

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Abstract: This paper examined Semi- Settled Pastoralists' Sources of Information and Utilisation of HIV/AIDS Prevention Techniques in South West Nigeria. This was predicated on the fact that There is need to ascertain whether the semi-settled pastoralists -who because of the nature of their occupation live in the remote part of the rural – are adequately informed about HIV/AIDS prevention techniques and the extent to which they utilise the HIV/AIDS prevention techniques. The derived savannah areas of Oyo and Ogun states of Nigeria were selected for the study due to high concentration of semi-settled pastoralists who are distributed within 5 and 10 Local Governments Areas (LGAs) in Ogun and Oyo States respectively. Fifty percent of the LGAs were randomly selected from each state. Ninety-four semi-settled pastoralists' households were randomly selected from 1,174 in Ogun State, while 236 households were selected from 2,942 in Oyo State. An adult respondent was selected in each of the households to give a total of 330 respondents for the study. Structured interview schedule was used to collect data relating personal characteristics, sources of HIV information and utilisation of HIV/AIDS prevention techniques. The result shows that 94.7% and 74.2% of the respondents in Ogun State and Oyo State respectively made up the 80.0% of the respondents across the state that received information on HIV/AIDS prevention techniques through radio. Other sources of information used by the respondents to access information on HIV/AIDS prevention techniques are mosque (29.4%) and friends (27.0%). There is poor accessibility by respondents to information on HIV/AIDS prevention techniques from television (1.5%), billboard (1.2%) and public lecture (0.6%). It shows further that out of the 8 sources of information used by semi-settled pastoralists to obtain information on HIV/AIDS prevention techniques, 5 were significantly related to utilisation of HIV/AIDS prevention techniques. These were mosque ($\chi^2 = 4.87$, $p < 0.05$), friends ($\chi^2 = 4.47$, $p < 0.05$), customers ($\chi^2 = 7.07$, $p < 0.05$), television ($\chi^2 = 6.09$, $p < 0.05$) and market ($\chi^2 = 9.85$, $p < 0.05$).

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Introduction

In Nigeria, an estimated 3.6 percent of the population are living with HIV and AIDS. Although HIV prevalence is much lower in Nigeria than in other African countries such as South Africa and Zambia, the size of Nigeria's population (around 162.5 million) means that by the end of 2009, there were an estimated 3.3 million people living with HIV. (UNAIDS 2008) Approximately 220,000 people died from AIDS in Nigeria in 2009. With AIDS claiming so many lives, Nigeria's life expectancy has declined significantly. In 1991 the average life expectancy was 54 years for women and 53 years for men. In 2010 the overall life expectancy had fallen to around 52 years (UNDP (2011). The rapid spread of HIV across communities, counties and continents is a testimony of the linkage between population movement and the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Migration has been identified as one of the risk factors for the acquisition of HIV infection in

wide range of setting (IOM 2003). Previous studies have also identified that mobile group of population (e.g. truck drivers, traders, militaries. etc) were the first to be highly infected by HIV during the early epidemic. In many countries the variation in HIV infection with in regions is also due to high seasonal and long-term mobility. The semi-settled pastoralists who are the major provider of national animal protein source to man are also characterized by short and long migration and movement depending on the availability of the pasture and water for their herds; health status of the animals and presence of conflict in a particular place (Oladele, 2004). Higher rates of infection can also be found along transport routes in border regions. A study conducted in Senegal by Pison (1993) shows that seasonal rural population mobility is a major contributor to the HIV/AIDS epidemic as it increases the number of sexual partnerships as well as contact with high risk sexual groups such as sex workers. In this case loneliness and insecurity, freedom from social norms provide an

impetus to risky sexual behaviour. Migration is a two-way process, different studies indicated that migration and mobility increases susceptibility to HIV infection not only for those who are mobile but also has an implication on the propagation of HIV between communities as mobile population with increased HIV risks up on return from migration may transmit to lower risk groups in areas of origin as well as destination (Boerma et al., 2002 and Talile Asres Gebremariam 2008). Due to factors such as emotional or financial support a partners left behind may also engage in high -risk behavior (IOM, 1998). Rural sending communities can perceive rural –urban migrants to be disease carriers and such migrants are frequently identified as bridging populations for HIV transmission between rural and urban areas. In Ogun state the HIV prevalence rate is higher in rural areas than that of urban area (Odebode, 2007) and this is the area where the population of the semi-settled pastoralists is highest due to abundance of pasture compared with the urban areas.

One of the most important elements of the fight against AIDS is the prevention of new HIV infections. HIV prevention campaigns that have been successful within African countries need to be highlighted and repeated (AVERT, 2007). Ilo and Adeyemi (2010) in their own opinion submit that information is the most potent weapon available for the prevention and cure of HIV & AIDS. As Nigeria is such a large and diverse country, media campaigns to raise awareness of HIV are a practical way of reaching many people in different regions. Radio campaigns like the one created by the Society for Family Health are thought to have been successful in increasing knowledge and changing behaviour. "Future Dreams", was a radio serial broadcast in 2001 in nine languages on 42 radio channels. It focused on encouraging consistent condom use, increasing knowledge and increasing skills for condom negotiation in single men and women aged between 18 and 34. In 2005, a campaign was launched in Nigeria in a bid to raise more public awareness of HIV/AIDS. This campaign took advantage of the recent increase in owners of mobile phones and sent text messages with information about HIV/AIDS to 9 million people.

Nwafor-Orizu (2003) while describing sources of information dissemination in the rural areas in Nigeria, avers that, oral sources like face-to-face interaction, radio, television, traditional institutions, associations, and written sources like newspapers and magazines aims to facilitate rural information transfer as a way of eliminating ignorance and superstition. The present information and education campaign to forestall the spread of the disease should be pursued with vigor but some energy has to be dissipated to the

care of people already afflicted. (Akanmu and Akinsete 2006.) Mooko and Aina (2007) opine that every individual, whether literate or illiterate, needs information for a variety of issues essential for his or her survival. It is therefore, not surprising that information is needed for awareness, increase productivity, health and so on. There is need to ascertain whether the semi-settled pastoralists -who because of the nature of their occupation live in the remote part of the rural – are adequately informed about HIV/AIDS prevention techniques and the extent to which they utilise the HIV/AIDS prevention techniques. The general objective of this study is to ascertain the semi-settled pastoralists' sources of information and utilisation of HIV/AIDS prevention techniques in south west Nigeria.

Materials and Methods

The study area is south west Nigeria The western zone lies between latitude 5⁰ N and 9⁰ N with an area of 114, 271 square kilometres with a population of about sixty million (Nigeria Population Census Reports 2006). . There are six states in the southwest, they are; Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo. These states share homogenous culture and tradition. The inhabitants of this region are direct descendants of Oduduwa-the progenitor of Yoruba race. It has heterogeneous population of Yoruba, Tiv, Agatu, Ibo, Hausa and Fulani (Igbinosa, 1994). The main occupation of majority of the indigenes in the area are farming and trading. The abundance of savanna region especially in Oyo and Ogun states of southwest favours the rearing of ruminant animals in the area. Pastoralism is practiced majorly by the Fulanis and Hausas. The semi-settled pastoralists in the south west Nigeria are the population of the study. The derived savannah areas of Oyo and Ogun states of Nigeria were selected for the study due to high concentration of semi-settled pastoralists who are distributed within 5 and 10 Local Governments Areas (LGAs) in Ogun and Oyo States respectively. Fifty percent of the LGAs were randomly selected from each state. Ninety-four semi-settled pastoralists' households were randomly selected from 1,174 in Ogun State, while 236 households were selected from 2,942 in Oyo State. An adult respondent was selected in each of the households to give a total of 330 respondents for the study. Structured interview schedule was used to collect data relating personal characteristics, sources of HIV information and utilisation of HIV/AIDS prevention techniques. On source of information on HIV/AIDS prevention techniques respondents were asked to indicate the source(s) of information available to them on HIV/AIDS prevention techniques. Respondents were asked to indicate which of the HIV/AIDS prevention techniques they make use. Scoring: Utilised = 1; Not

Utilised = 0. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and Chi-square at $p=0.05$.

Results

Table 1 presents respondents' sources of information on HIV/AIDS prevention techniques;

Table 2 shows respondents categories based on Utilisation of HIV/AIDS prevention techniques while Table 3 shows the Chi-Square analysis showing relationships between sources of information and utilisation of HIV/AIDS prevention technique.

Table 1 Respondents' sources of information on HIV/AIDS prevention techniques

Sources of information	Ogun State	Oyo State	Across the States
Radio	89 (94.7)*	175 (74.2)	264 (80.0)
Mosque	34 (36.2)	63 (26.7)	97 (29.4)
Friends	49 (52.1)	40 (16.9)	89 (27.0)
Customers	00 (00)	25 (10.6)	25 (7.6)
Cattle market	15 (16.0)	26 (11.0)	41 (12.4)
Television	00 (00)	5 (2.1)	5 (1.5)
Bill board	00 (00)	4 (1.7)	4 (1.2)
Lecture	00 (00)	2 (0.8)	2 (0.6)

*Figures in parentheses are percentage

Table 2 Respondents categories based on Utilisation of HIV/AIDS prevention techniques

Categories	Ogun State	Oyo State	Across the states
Low utilisation (2.0 - 7.5)	12 (12.8)	138 (58.5)	150 (44.5)
High utilisation (7.6 – 11.0)	82(87.2)	98(41.5)	180(55.5)
Mean score	9.2	7.0	7.6

Source: Field survey, 2010

Table 3 Chi-Square analysis showing relationships between sources of information and utilisation of HIV/AIDS prevention techniques

Variables	Ogun state		Oyo state		Across states		Remarks	Contingency Coefficient
	χ^2	P	χ^2	p	χ^2	P		
Sources of information								
Mosque	6.12	0.002	5.52	0.001	4.87	0.030	S	0.12
Friends	7.22	0.001	6.720	0.050	4.47	0.020	S	0.12
Customers	9.55	0.010	8.520	0.010	7.07	0.040	S	0.15
Radio	2.03	0.740	1.98	0.590	2.71	0.450	NS	0.02
Television	8.62	0.020	7.44	0.010	6.09	0.030	S	0.14
Market	8.76	0.030	8.95	0.020	9.85	0.020	S	0.17
Bill Board	1.99	0.550	2.32	0.470	3.22	0.520	NS	0.10
Lecture	1.56	0.690	1.19	0.990	1.79	0.660	NS	0.09

Discussion

Table 1 shows that 94.7% and 74.2% of the respondents in Ogun State and Oyo State respectively made up the 80.0% of the respondents across the state that received information on HIV/AIDS prevention techniques through radio. This agrees with Adelere, Olujide and Popoola (2006) that radio is the major source of information to rural dwellers on HIV/AIDS while Ndakotsu (2001) observes that radio, is a powerful facilitator of educating rural dwellers This corroborates George (1990) that, worldwide, radio reaches larger audience of individuals of less education and lower socio-economic status. Olowu and Igodan (1989); Mohammed and Wanaso (1992) specifically gave credence to radio as a major source

of information to farmers among various types of mass media in Nigeria. Other sources of information used by the respondents to access information on HIV/AIDS prevention techniques are mosque (29.4%) and friends (27.0%). The poor accessibility of respondents to information on HIV/AIDS prevention techniques from television (1.5%), billboard (1.2%) and public lecture (0.6%) justify the assertion of Francis (2000) that Nigeria's mass media do not serve rural areas. Table 2 presents the categorisation of respondents based on level of utilisation of HIV/AIDS prevention techniques. The table shows that majority respondents in Ogun state (87.2%) had higher utilisation HIV/AIDS prevention techniques than those in Oyo state (41.5%). However,

across the states 55.5% of the respondents had high utilisation of HIV/AIDS prevention techniques, while 44.5% of the respondents had low utilisation. The mean utilisation score was 9.2, 7.0 and 7.6 in Ogun State, Oyo state and across the states respectively.

Table 3 shows that out of the 8 sources of information used by semi-settled pastoralists to obtain information on HIV/AIDS prevention techniques, 5 were significantly related to utilisation of HIV/AIDS prevention techniques. These were mosque ($\chi^2 = 4.87$, $p < 0.05$), friends ($\chi^2 = 4.47$, $p < 0.05$), customers ($\chi^2 = 7.07$, $p < 0.05$), television ($\chi^2 = 6.09$, $p < 0.05$) and market ($\chi^2 = 9.85$, $p < 0.05$). The significance of the sources of information stresses the fact that person to person information sources seem to be more credible among semi-settled pastoralists than the mass media. The mosque seems to be the most trusted means of information among semi-settled pastoralists. The experience and evidential messages that accompany mosque, friends, and customers might be responsible for the trend observed in this result. The ability to back up audio with visual could be associated with the significance of the television as a source of information. The majority of semi-settled pastoralists being illiterate will be able to observe and learn the demonstration on the use of any of the HIV/AIDS prevention techniques through visuals. This will help to overcome the constraints of technicality that had earlier being reported as a major constraint to the use of HIV/AIDS prevention techniques in this study. The display and drama in market places on HIV/AIDS prevention techniques could be associated with the significance of this information source. This affords the semi-settled pastoralists the opportunity to see and learn the practical implementation of some of the HIV/AIDS prevention techniques. Although radio was the most popular source of information among semi-settled pastoralists, it has no significant relationship with the utilisation of HIV/AIDS prevention techniques. This may be connected with the fact that in the study area, the prominent languages of presentation on radio are Yoruba and English languages of which semi-settled pastoralists' level of understanding and comprehension are limited. The popular radio programmes on HIV/AIDS prevention such as; *abule olokemerin*, *omonla*, *etiemelo*, jingles on radio and newspapers,

that are on-going then, were not presented in Fulfulde which is the best language understood by semi-settled pastoralists (Adelore, Olujide and Popoola (2006). The contingency coefficient of mosque (0.12); friends (0.12); customers (0.15); radio (0.02); television (0.14); market (0.17); bill board (0.10); and lectures (0.09) revealed a weak relationship between them and the utilisation of HIV/AIDS prevention techniques.

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