

The stigma and the misappropriation of foreign aid, toward the affected and infected victims of HIV/AIDS in Cameroon

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HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) infection and AIDS remain a major public health crisis in Cameroon. With a prevalence rate of stigma which is the discrediting attribute that an individual possesses that reduces his or her status in the society. Stigma is one of the major cause of the high rate of HIV/AIDS transmission in Cameroon.

Studies show that as the awareness of the the virus increases with increase in the stigma there is a subsequent increase in the rate of transmission of the virus. As can be seen in January 2006, the rate was 1.2 percent and raises to 1.7 percent in 2010.

This research was carried out in all ten regions in Cameroon with a sample size of 100 males and 100 females. And so the research spans across a wide cultural background as Cameroon is multicultural nation. And was done along side to see some medicinal plants that locals use to take care of HIV AIDS patients. Interesting developments were noticed.

The review has a few relevant observations. First, there is still great fear of HIV/AIDS due to poor understanding of the disease process in the Cameroon population, even among the healthcare providers. Second, there is no identifiable research study on the cultural epidemiology of HIV/AIDS stigma in the various ethnic populations. Third, much anecdotal evidence of the impact of stigma on care is documented but, very little rigorous research has been conducted. Fourth, very limited intervention studies on stigma reduction have been done and the few were of short duration to warrant any significant long term impact. Fifth, more epidemiological studies are needed to understand the relationship of stigma on prevention initiatives in Cameroon.

To crown this, Cameroon officials incharge of health care statistics inflates the figures to call for foreign aid that they use the money to swell up their bank accounts instead of investing it in research for medicinal plants or subsidising or even trying to put in place social strategies that will reduce the level of stigmatisation among Cameroonians. Cameroon lies in the tropics and is having a very rich biological diversity. Vanivax, a vaccine by late Proff Anoma Ngu was developed in Cameroon. But it was never promoted since officials make lots of money from the epidemic will causing deaths of high rate of transmission that goes a long way to increase stigmatisation. I think more research should be done on medicinal plants in Cameroon. To make my quote here. I believe the biggest problem in the world will be solved by the smallest guy, the mosquitos. More research should be done on why mosquitos dont transmit HIV/AIDS.

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