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Exploring myths associated with HIV/AIDS with examples from a few countries of the world

Simon Kang'ethe

University of Fort Hare, South Africa

There are various myths and misconceptions surrounding HIV/AIDS within South African communities that lead to the stigmatization and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS. The aim of this paper is to explore and spell out the under pinnings on myths surrounding HIV/AIDS in South Africa. This paper has used a review of literature methodology. Findings indicate that South Africa embraces immense mythical beliefs about HIV/AIDS. Also myths flourish due to misinformation, misinterpretation, misperceptions of information associated with HIV/AIDS; are reinforced by cultures and patriarchy; and are also associated with the traditional healers. As a way of dispelling the myths, the paper recommends clients to look or seek scientific evidence in the therapies at their disposal, adapt the use of condoms, demystify the use of the ARV treatment modalities, and enhance community education, and government to regulate the work of traditional healers.

Biography

Simon Kang'ethe is Professor at University of Fort Hare, South Africa.

skangethe@ufh.ac.za

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