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HIV/AIDS Related Stigma and Discrimination

This policy brief documents HIV/AIDS related stigma and discrimination in kersa district

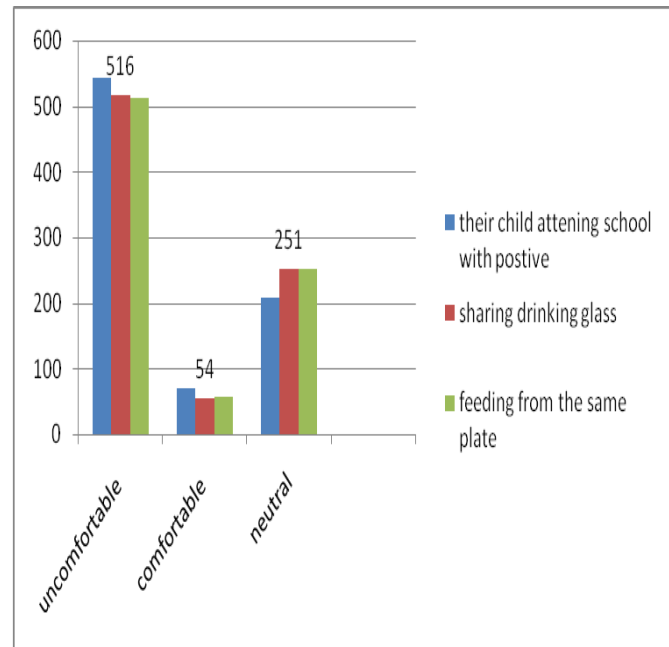
Introduction

Peoples living with HIV/AIDS face physical and social isolation from community, friends and family, gossip, name calling and voyeurism. They experience the loss of basic rights ,decision making power and access to resources. As the result Peoples with HIV/AIDS who have those experiences feels guilty, ashamed and inferiors.

In this study we examine the level of social stigma and discrimination in Kersa District.

Family discrimination

The study showed that about 66% of the respondents were uncomfortable with their children attending school with HIV positive students. Only 17.9% were comfortable with an HIV Positive attending schools with their child. Almost 63% families were uncomfortable (discriminate) to eat from the same plate or sharing a drinking glass while only seven percent were not uncomfortable. 49% and 9%of peoples were uncomfortable by being around HIV positive person and sharing the same toilet respectively.



eastern Oromiya zone

Family and close friends' reaction to HIV/AIDS peoples

Most of the families (55%) ,were responded that they will avoid/restrict their relation if one of their family were becoming HIV/AIDS positive. This figure reaches 62% for close friends. About 37.8% and 44.9% of friends and families were comfortable in their reactions.

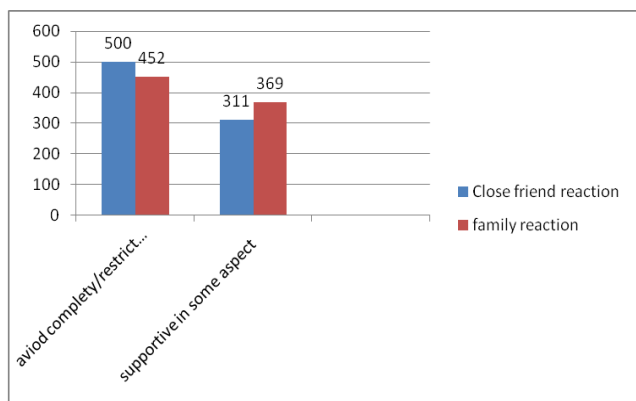


Figure : State of stigma and discrimination of family and close friends toward peoples living with HIV AIDS in kersa district

Policy

Recommendations

Despite the fact that more information dissemination are possible , nearly all house holds in kersa district of eastern oromiya zone have intention of discrimination to ward peoples living with HIV/AIDS . From this study we found that all hose holds included in our survey have a great stigmatizing behaviors up to the level of exclusion them from eating together, sharing drinking glass , using the same toilet and even by being around them in this community which show the severity of stigmatizing attitudes .

Policies to improve stigma and discrimination would greater improve the district residences. This necessitate the improvement of major public attitudes. For all peoples polices that improves the public awareness and knowledge should be formulated and address all peoples by community campaign of health information dissemination ,so that this will improve the care and support for infected peoples . This is the ways in which we increase the peoples who were tested and disclose their status to public . The district health bureau and administrative body should try to improve the peoples awareness toward HIV/AIDS in order to minimize stigma and discrimination

