The Social and Cultural Contexts of HIV/AIDS Transmission in the Kagera Region, Tanzania

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Abstract

Like poverty, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is affecting the sub-continent of Saharan Africa more severely than any other parts of the world, with sixty three percent of global AIDS cases occurring in this region. Tanzania is one of the severely affected countries within sub-Saharan Africa. It is evident that AIDS in this continent is transmitted mainly through heterosexual contact. Since a cure is yet to be found, a change in sexual behavior seems to be the only reliable method of controlling the further spread of HIV. Sexual behavior is shaped by a variety of social and cultural factors inherent in the society. Therefore, understanding the social-cultural context within which AIDS is spreading