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UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

**THE INFLUENCE OF MUSLIM FAMILY AND SCHOOL
CULTURE ON ADOLESCENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF AND
ATTITUDES TO HIV AND AIDS**

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UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

2010



**THE INFLUENCE OF MUSLIM FAMILY AND SCHOOL CULTURE ON
ADOLESCENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF AND ATTITUDES TO HIV AND AIDS**

BY

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Submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree

PHILOSOPHIAE DOCTOR

In

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN

**FACULTY OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
SOUTH AFRICA**

SUPERVISOR: PROF C.G. HARTELL

**PRETORIA
2010**



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“A teacher can save more lives than a doctor.”

¹Peter Piot (2004)

¹ *HIV & AIDS and Quality Education for All Youth – Preparatory seminar Geneva, 7th September 2004*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincere appreciation and gratitude to the following people without whom I would not have achieved this goal:

- ❖ The learners, teachers, parents and officials of the school used in the study.
- ❖ Prof Hartell for his supervision, academic and technical assistance.
- ❖ The Centre for the Study of AIDS, University of Pretoria for financial assistance that made the research possible.
- ❖ Pavitraj Dass and Mr A. N. Singh for technical support and editing.
- ❖ My precious family and friends who supported me patiently during this challenging experience.



INTRODUCTION

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ADDENDA

1. Ethical Clearance Certificate
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4. Sample of letter of informed consent to parents /guardians of learners
5. Sample of letter of consent to parents, teachers and principals
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DECLARATION

I, Jyothi Arjun Chabilall, declare that this thesis is my own work and all the citations have been acknowledged in text and referenced in full.

Signature: _____

Date : _____



ABSTRACT

In order to establish the way in which the Grade 10 Muslim learners perceived HIV/Aids, the research was designed to expose the direction (if any) provided by the values and cultural symbols within the dominant culture of the family and the school. The enquiry was motivated by the fact that the 15-24 year age-group (of which the Muslim adolescents were a part) is still considered a most vulnerable group in terms of HIV/Aids. Although the South African Department of Education has prescribed that HIV/Aids be taught during the Life Orientation periods at schools, this has been affected by operational problems. Learners do not always have the benefit of accurate information and confident role models who are able to guide them towards responsible behavior. Anecdotal evidence pointed to the possibility that HIV/Aids were low amongst Muslims who form a comparatively high percentage in the Western Cape Province of South Africa where the study was conducted.

Since the Social Cognitive Theory and the Eight Gateways or “entry points” of school culture highlight social interventions, the theoretical framework facilitated data collection and reinforced the findings. Analysis revealed that a collaborative and trustworthy relationship within the school culture that embraced parents, learners and teachers. Responses of the teachers indicated that they made use of the guidelines from the South African Department of Education and teachings of their religion. The Muslim family and school culture emphasized abstinence instead of safe sexual behavior in their teaching of HIV/Aids because of their Islamic religious background. Although the Muslim learners were aware of the dangers of irrational behavior they conceded that there were some who ignored the guidance of their parents and teachers thus succumbing to other social pressures. However, they generally appreciated the knowledge provided by their family and school culture that supported them to adapt their attitudes and behavior especially in terms of HIV/Aids. The main recommendation of this study is that HIV/Aids education may be productive if an integrative approach is implemented where communities work collectively to promote strict moral adherence that will enable learners to avoid unsafe sexual behavior and HIV-infection.



HIV

AIDS

KNOWLEDGE

ATTITUDE

MUSLIM²

ISLAM³

FAMILY CULTURE

SCHOOL CULTURE

DUAL RELATIONSHIP

VULNERABILITY

ADHERENCE

ABSTINENCE

² A follower of Islam

³ The religion of the Muslims

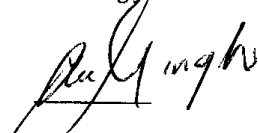


7 April 2010-04-07

Whom it May Concern

Please be informed that I, Mr. A. N. Singh, have edited the thesis entitled "The Influence of Muslim Family and School Culture on the adolescent's knowledge of and attitudes to HIV and AIDS" for Jyothi Chabilall.

Thanking you



Mr. A.N. Singh