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**THE INFLUENCE OF CULTURAL PRACTICES OF BATSWANA PEOPLE
IN RELATION TO THE TRANSMISSION OF HIV/AIDS IN BOTSWANA**

by

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Dedicated to my husband THABO and
daughters KGOMOTSO and TEBOGO

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SUMMARY

**THE INFLUENCE OF CULTURAL PRACTICES OF BATSWANA PEOPLE
IN RELATION TO THE TRANSMISSION OF HIV/AIDS IN BOTSWANA.**

by

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PROMOTER: PROF. C.S.L.DELPORT

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In this investigation an attempt was firstly made to define, describe and explicate the phenomenon of HIV/AIDS providing a basis for understanding the multidimensional nature of HIV/AIDS in terms of its history, key characteristics, etiology, consequences, preventative and care strategies. Secondly, culture and cultural practices in general were investigated after which the characteristics, functions and elements of culture were studied. Hereafter, the researcher further investigated the situation of HIV/AIDS and cultural practices of the Batswana in Botswana through a literature study.

The aim of the study was to establish the influence of cultural practices of the Batswana on the transmission of HIV/AIDS in Botswana.

Three research questions were formulated for the study. The research questions included:

- (a) What are the current nature and prevalence of cultural practices of the Batswana in relation to the transmission of HIV/AIDS in Botswana?
- (b) To what extents do these cultural practices contribute to the spread of HIV/AIDS?
- (c) What can be done to prevent the problem of HIV/AIDS in relation with cultural practices of Batswana people in Botswana?

The selected research approach for the study was the combined quantitative- qualitative approach and the type of research, was identified as applied research. An exploratory research design was selected to reach the objectives of the study, namely:

- (a) To conduct the investigation within a theoretical based framework by undertaking a literature review on HIV/AIDS as a social phenomena, culture and cultural practices in general and the culture of the Batswana specifically.
- (b) To explore through an empirical study, the nature and prevalence of cultural practices of Batswana in relation to the transmission of HIV/AIDS in Botswana
- (c) To provide conclusions regarding the cultural practices of the Batswana in relation to the transmission of HIV/AIDS in Botswana.
- (d) To make recommendations for culturally appropriate behaviour-change strategies for Batswana in Botswana in an attempt to decrease the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Qualitative data through focus group discussions (22 females and 26 males) was collected. The sample thus included 48 respondents. The empirical research findings confirmed that it is acceptable in Botswana that men can have multiple relationships even after marriage. This includes polygamy, which is still part of the Batswana culture. Children are very important therefore the use of condoms is unacceptable. Prevention strategies do not take cultural practices into consideration.

The empirical findings based on quantitative data collected through a structured interview schedule with 66 respondents revealed that the two statements: (a) " A man is like a bull and should not be confined to one pasture" and (b) "Men are the only persons who can go to the cattle post and this puts women in subordinate positions" are part of the Batswana culture.

These behaviours contribute to the spread of HIV. Alcohol consumption is also a contributory factor to the transmission of HIV. The family should take responsibility in educating the children about HIV/AIDS.

The aim of the study and study objectives were achieved and a detailed presentation of recommendations are included in this research report.

Key words

HIV/AIDS, transmission, prevention, care, strategies, culture, cultural practices, sex, Batswana, Botswana.

OPSOMMING

**DIE INVLOED VAN KULTURELE PRAKTYKE VAN DIE BATSWANA IN
VERHOUDING TOT DIE OORDRAG VAN MIV/VIGS IN BOTSWANA**

deur

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In hierdie studie is eerstens gepoog om die fenomeen van MIV/Vigs te definieer, te beskryf en te verduidelik ten einde 'n basis vir 'n multi-dimensionele begrip ten opsigte van die aard van MIV/Vigs in terme van sy geskiedenis, sleutel kenmerke, etiologie, gevolge, voorkomende en versorgings strategieë te voorsien. Tweedens was kultuur en kulturele praktyke in die algemeen ondersoek waarna kenmerke, funksies en elemente van kultuur bestudeer is. Hierna het die navorser die situasie van MIV/Vigs en kulturele praktyke onder die Batswana in Botswana d.m.v. 'n literatuur studie ondersoek.

Die doel van die studie was om te bepaal watter invloed die be-oefening van kulturele praktyke onder die Batswana het op die oordrag van MIV/Vigs in Botswana.

Drie navorsingsvrae was geformuleer wat die studie moes ondersoek, nl:

- (a) Wat is die huidige aard en voorkoms van kulturele praktyke van die Batswana in verhouding tot die oordrag van MIV/Vigs in Botswana?
- (b) Tot watter mate dra hierdie kulturele praktyke by tot die verspreiding van MIV/Vigs in Botswana?
- (c) Wat kan gedoen word om die verspreiding van MIV/Vigs in verhouding tot kulturele praktyke onder die Batswana in Botswana te voorkom?

'n Gekombineerde kwantitatiewe-kwalitatiewe navorsingsbenadering is geselekteer terwyl van die toegepaste navorsings metodiek gebruik gemaak is. 'n Verkennende-navorsings ontwerp is gekies ten einde die navorsingsdoelwitte te bereik, nl. :

- (a) Om die studie binne 'n teoretiese raamwerk te onderneem deur 'n literatuur studie uit te voer ten opsigte van MIV/Vigs as 'n maatskaplike fenomeen, kultuur en kulturele praktyke in die algemeen en die kultuur van die Batswana in die besonder.
- (b) Om deur 'n empiriese studie die aard en voorkoms van kulturele praktyke onder die Batswana in verband met die oordrag van MIV/Vigs in Botswana te ondersoek.
- (c) Om gevolgtrekkings m.b.t. die kulturele praktyke onder die Batswana i.v.m. die oordrag van MIV/Vigs in Botswana te maak.
- (d) Om aanbevelings m.b.t. gepaste kulturele gedrags-aanpassingstrategieë vir die Batswana in Botswana te maak in 'n poging om die verspreiding van MIV/Vigs te bekamp.

Kwalitatiewe data, d.m.v. fokusgroepbesprekings (22 vrouens en 26 mans) is ingesamel. Die steekproef het dus uit 48 respondente bestaan. Die empiriese studie het bevind dat dit vir mans aanvaarbaar is om in Botswana meervoudige verhoudings, selfs na die huwelik, te be-oefen. Dit sluit in poligamie wat steeds deel van die kultuur in Botswana uitmaak. Die wek en voortbring van kinders is baie belangrik en gevolglik is die gebruik van kondome onaanvaarbaar. Dit het ook geblyk dat voorkomings-strategieë nie kulturele praktyke in ag neem nie.

Die empiriese bevindings gebaseer op kwantitatiewe data wat d.m.v. 'n gestruktureerde onderhoudskedule met 66 respondente bekom is, het getoon dat die stelling (a) "A man is like a bull and should not be confined to one pasture" en (b) "Men are the only persons who can go

to the cattle post and this puts women in sub-ordinate positions”, is nog alles deel van die Batswana se kultuur. Hierdie gedragpatrone dra dus by tot die verspreiding van MIV/Vigs. Die misbruik van alkohol is ook 'n bydraende faktor tot die verspreiding van MIV/Vigs in Botswana. Die gesin behoort verantwoordelikheid te aanvaar om die kinders oor MIV/Vigs te onderrig.

Die doel en doelwitte van die navorsing is bereik en 'n gedetailleerde aanbieding van die bevindinge en aanbevelings word in hierdie verslag weer gegee.

Sleutelwoorde:

MIV/Vigs, oordraging, voorkoming, versorging, strategieë, kultuur, kulturele praktyke, geslag, Batswana, Botswana.

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