

CHAPTER 5 : SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.1 SUMMARY

In the study, loveLife counselors were interviewed on their perceptions of the impact of HIV and AIDS on the sexual conduct of adolescents. Five counselors were interviewed. From the interviews, it was apparent that adolescents are knowledgeable about HIV and AIDS. According to the counselors, HIV and AIDS infection rate has decreased amongst adolescents who are aged between 12 and 17. The reason for this decline in infection rate is due to the fact that adolescents were taking HIV and AIDS warning messages very serious. Adolescents are making use of condoms during penetrative sex, and many are being faithful to one sexual partner. LoveLife counselors further reported that adolescents are finding it very difficult to abstain from sexual relationships because of factors like peer pressure, socio-economic factors, etc.

From this study, it can be concluded that the information received from the loveLife counselors was biased. Most of what was reported by the counselors was contrary to what a lot of literature has reported. The counselors reported a decrease in the spread of HIV and AIDS among adolescents while literature stated the opposite. The literature mentions the fact that adolescents are not making use of condoms during penetrative sex and they are having multiple sexual partners. LoveLife counselors perceive adolescents to be using condoms during sexual intercourse and reported that adolescents are faithful to their sexual partners.

There is discrepancy between literature and the findings of the study, and because literature has been researched by a lot of researchers, the author is drawn to agree with what literature reported. Literature reports that there is no

change in how adolescents conduct themselves sexually. A lot of adolescents are still getting infected with HIV and AIDS, are not making use of condoms during penetrative sex and are engaging in sexual intercourse with multiple partners.

Even though there appears to be discrepancies between literature and the data collected, it was important for the study to be conducted. The importance of the study lays in the fact that the counselors' understanding was obtained, on how adolescents perceived sexuality. This will aid in the next study that should be conducted with adolescents themselves on how they perceived sexuality and sexual expression amidst HIV and AIDS. The study that could be conducted will attempt to bridge the gap between literature and the data obtained from loveLife counselors.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Using the findings of this study it is recommended that another study be conducted, which would have adolescents as the main key informants. Making adolescents the main source of information will provide a clearer picture of how HIV and AIDS has impacted on their sexual expression. It is also recommended that the key informants not be given interview guidelines before the interviews. This recommendation is important because if interview guidelines are given to informants before the interviews are done, that gives them time to prepare and that is risky as they might prepare answers that they thought the researcher would like to hear. Giving information guidelines before interviews might also give adolescents time to meet and discuss the answers which will jeopardize the study as information will not be reliable.