CULTURAL SENSITIVITY IN COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION IN NIGERIA

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Abstrak

Kepentingan peranan budaya dalam kempen pencegahan penyakit jangkitan kelamin (STI) adalah tidak dapat disangkal. Namun, pemahaman tentang bagaimana budaya harus berperananan dalam mereka bentuk dan pelaksanaan kempen tersebut kelihatan masih kurang di Nigeria. Berasaskan fenomena yang dinyatakan, kajian ini meneliti bagaimana budaya boleh dikonsepsualisasikan untuk memperbaiki komunikasi kempen pencegahan STI di Nigeria. Data dikumpulkan melalui temubual mendalam terhadap 22 belia positif STI dan 19 negatif STI yang berusia dalam lingkungan 15 hingga 26 tahun di kawasan Selatan-Barat dan Utara-Tengah Nigeria. Data tersebut dianalisis melalui kaedah analisis tematik. Walaupun sebahagian daripada aspek budaya menyumbang secara positif, terdapat juga kesan negatif. Agama, nilai dan pantang larang, amalan budaya, dan ketamadunan didapati sebagai empat aspek utama menunjukkan pertalian dan pengaruh di antara budaya dan STI dalam komunikasi mesej STI di Nigeria. Bukti menunjukkan bahawa agama tidak menggalakkan belia terlibat dalam hubungan seks pra-perkahwinan dan luar nikah. Belia Nigeria mengakui nilai dan pantang larang sebagai mempunyai pengaruh kuat ke atas perkara berkaitan seksualiti. Walau bagaimanapun, masih terdapat beberapa amalan yang tidak menggalakkan tingkah laku seksual selamat seperti peranan kepatuhan wanita, poligami, berkhatan wanita dan menggunakan wanita muda untuk kepuasan seksual. Dapatan juga menunjukkan keperluan mesej STI dalam menangani isu-isu stigmasasi, penggunaan dialek tempatan, salah faham dalam ilmu STI, gambaran negatif STI, penggunaan maklumat semasa dan pendedahan status STI. Komunikasi pemasaran bersepadu dikenalpasti sebagai saluran berkesan kepada individu negatif STI. Walau bagaimanapun, individu positif STI lebih suka menggunakan komunikasi interpersonal dan radio. Kajian ini menyimpulkan bahawa peranan komunikasi kepekaan budaya adalah penting dan menjadi peneraju dalam intervensi tingkah laku sama ada sebagai agen mahupun pihak yang bermanfaat. Justeru itu, dua Model Kepekaan Budaya STI dikemukakan sebagai panduan berpotensi untuk menghasilkan penerimaan intervensi dalam kalangan pelbagai komuniti belia di Nigeria.

Katakunci: Kepekaan budaya, Komunikasi kempen kesihatan, Tingkahlaku seksual, Penyakit jangkitan kelamin, Belia

Abstract

The role of culture in sexually transmitted infections (STIs) prevention campaign has been crucial. However, a common vision on how culture ought to inform the design and implementation of the campaign appears to be lacking in Nigeria. Given this phenomenon, this study examined how culture can be conceptualized into improving STIs prevention communication campaign in Nigeria. Data was collected through indepth interviews of 22 STIs positive and 19 STIs negative young people within the ages of 15 to 26 years in South-West and North-Central Nigeria. Data was analyzed through thematic analysis. While some of these cultural aspects help positively, others have negative impacts. Religion, values and taboos, cultural practices, and civilization were discovered to be the four major aspects where culture and STIs have nexus and influence communication of STIs messages in Nigeria. Evidence showed that religion discourage youths from pre-marital and extramarital sex. The Nigerian youths acknowledge values and taboos as having a powerful influence on matters of sexuality. However, there were still some local practices which discourage safe sexual behavior such as subservient roles of women, polygamy, female genital mutilation and using young females for Findings indicate the need for STIs messages to address sexual satisfaction. stigmatization, the use of local dialects, misconception in STIs knowledge, negative portrayal of STIs, usage of current information and disclosure of STIs status. It was discovered that integrated marketing communication channels will be effective to STIs negative individuals. However, the STIs positive individuals prefer the use of interpersonal communication and radio. The study concludes that a culturally sensitive communication intervention is crucial and should spearhead behavior interventions, both as agents and beneficiaries. Two STIs cultural sensitivity models were proposed as a potential guide in order to make the intervention gain acceptance among young people in various Nigerian communities.

Keywords: Cultural sensitivity, Health communication campaign, Sexual behavior, Sexually transmitted infections, Young people

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Kadiri Kehinde Kadijat

Dedication

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List of Abbreviations

STIs Sexually Transmitted Infections

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

WHO World Health Organisation

ARV Anti-retroviral Drugs

HIV/AIDS Human Immune Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

HSV-2 Herpes Simplex Virus type 2

PLWHA People Living with HIV/AIDS

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 An Overview

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) constitute a major global health issue owing to the severity of its prevalence over the years and the target age group that they are ravaging. Going by the World Health Organisation's (WHO) reports, there is need for concerns regarding the plight of the youth who are at grave risk of contracting STIs. The WHO report of 2013 revealed that more than a million people acquire sexually transmitted infections (STIs) every day. The report further shows that an estimated 499 million new cases of curable STIs (gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis and trichonomiasis) occur yearly. Furthermore, an approximately 536 million people are estimated to be living with incurable herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2) infections. Approximately 291 million women have a human papillomavirus infection at a point in time (WHO, 2013).

The WHO reports of 2014 expounded that as at 2013, HIV/AIDS have claimed the lives of more than 39 million people since its inception. It was approximated that there are 35 million people living with HIV at the end of 2013 with 2.1 million people becoming newly infected with HIV in 2013 globally (WHO, 2014). Sub-Saharan Africa is the most affected region with 24.7 million people living with HIV in 2013. The data above further shows that about 70% of the global total of new HIV infection resides in the region. A 2014 WHO report on school and youth health further clarifies that in some countries (particularly in the developing countries) up to 60% of all new HIV infections occur

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