

**CHALLENGES FACED BY COUNSELLORS IN HOME BASED
COUNSELLING AND TESTING**

(A CASE OF KIBERA INFORMAL SETTLEMENT)

FILLET LUGALIA

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ABSTRACT

Several countries, including Kenya, have implemented HIV-Preventive Programs and an example is VCT. However, the rate of uptake of voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) is low, and only about one in 10 eligible people have access to VCT in developing countries. Challenges of HIV testing including the difficulty of getting to testing sites and the cost of being tested has compelled most stakeholders in the fight against HIV/AIDS to introduce Home Based Counseling and Testing(Wachira et al, 2011).This study was concerned with the challenges faced by counselors in Home Based Counseling and testing(HBTC) in Kibera. Specifically the study sought to establish the effect of Home Based Counseling and Testing program on HIV spread, factors that affect the uptake of and provision of HBTC services, the attitude of residents of residents on the services, and challenges faced by counselors in home based counseling and testing in the area.

The research revealed that the perceived level of stigma and support is the major affecting uptake of Home Based Counseling and Testing services in Kibera, and that the program has tremendously increased the number of people knowing their HIV status. Furthermore, Kibera residents have a positive attitude towards the services offered by counselors although the counselors have heavy workload. Recommendation made included organizations implementing Home Based Counseling and testing program should employ more counselors to serve the vast number of clients. , Stakeholders in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the Kenya need to intensify campaigns on the deadly epidemic since most people especially illiterate pose no information on the virus, and Participants in HIV/AIDS campaigns in Kibera need to initiate programs that can address social stigma and discrimination in the slum among others.