

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF PREVENTION OF
MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION (PMTCT) AMONG MEN
ACCOMPANYING THEIR PARTNERS TO ANTENATAL CLINIC
AT THE RIFT VALLEY PROVINCIAL GENERAL HOSPITAL
NAKURU IN NAKURU COUNTY**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Mother to child transmission has remained a public health concern for years. The role of men and couple's joint HIV counselling and testing at the ANC/PMTCT is Key in changing the course of the epidemic. Studies on male participation in PMTCT are not well documented, but a few indicate that the practice of men accompanying their partners is quite low. During this HIV era, male partner support can contribute a great deal to PMTCT adherence and reduce the number of infants born with HIV and maintain the wellness of the mother. This study aimed at finding out the level of knowledge, determine attitude and establish practices of PMTCT among men accompanying their female partners to the ANC clinic at the Rift valley Provincial General Hospital in Nakuru County. The research adopted a descriptive cross-sectional study design. Target populations included all men who resided in Nakuru Town west constituency, where the study site was located. Sample size was calculated from target population and used Andrew Fisher's (1994) method and respondents sampled conveniently. Data collection instruments used a semi-structured questionnaire with open and close-ended questions. Data analysis used SPSS version 20 application and findings presented in tabular form, bar graphs and pie charts. Participation in the study was voluntary after obtaining consent from the subjects. This study was carried out in the month of September 2015. The study also determined how Socio-demographic factors, Knowledge on HIV and PMTCT and Attitude towards PMTCT influenced Practice of male partners whereby those who had some education participated more in the programme as compared to those with none. Almost all respondents supported PMTCT but did not have adequate information to enable them give it a priority. Other study findings (75% of respondents) failed to accompany their partners to ANC due to cultural factors like being henpecked as well as a woman's affair. Financial hindrance was also a factor since most of the respondents were self-employed running small businesses which could hardly be enough for food. A study carried out in Equatorial Guinea by A.A. G Jimoh on Utilization of ANC services at the Provincial Hospital, Mongomo (1997) confirmed that hospital workers (50.73%), husbands (19%) and parents (13.97%) were the greatest influence on antenatal care attendance. In this study, all the respondents agreed that men have a role in escorting their wives to the ANC clinic 48%. Their overbearing influence tended to affect

breastfeeding practices, susceptibility to HIV/AIDS amongst women and contraceptive choices as well as antenatal care utilization. In conclusion the study revealed that a number of respondents had a good knowledge on PMTCT and its importance though a significant number of respondents were not aware at all. The researcher therefore recommended that there is need to intensify education on ANC/PMTCT and its importance which will bring more men on board. The electronic media, creating awareness in the community, recognizing those men who accompany their partners, discouraging out dated cultural practices like henpecking and a friendly facility environment can encourage more men to come to the clinic. The electronic media can play a major role in educating clients on ANC/PMTCT services. The government and other stakeholders also have a major role to play in policy formulation and taking services to the people since financial challenges were also raised in the study. However, the contradiction between men's awareness of PMTCT and low participation rate may suggest other external barriers which need to be explored and interventions made to address this gap.