KNOWLEDGE OF AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS MALE CIRCUMCISION AMONG UNIVERSITY MALE STUDENTS: A CASE OF BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION.

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Abstract

Medical male circumcision has emerged as one of the human immune deficiency virus (HIV) prevention methods of HIV negative men engaged in heterosexual contact. Scaling up of male circumcision in Zimbabwe is running at a low pace. People need to understand the role male circumcision plays in the prevention of HIV infection. This study searched for knowledge and attitudes of male students at Bindura University towards male circumcision as a prevention strategy against HIV infection. The health belief model guided the research since it works at ensuring the adoption of those behaviours that are perceived to promote and maintain health. A quantitative research design using a three part structured questionnaire was used and random sampling was used to select participants. Sample size of 50 (fifty) was considered in view of financial and time requirements associated with large samples. Data was captured and analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences version 16. The majority of participants showed good knowledge of male circumcision as a human immune deficiency virus prevention strategy. However 88% of the respondents were not circumcised and were not willing to be circumcised despite the good knowledge about male circumcision. This negative attitude was associated with concern about pain, loss of cultural identity, loss of sexual pleasure and fear of stigmatization and embarrassment. The researcher concluded that despite the high levels of knowledge displayed by participants about male circumcision as a preventive strategy against human immune deficiency virus, there was negative attitude towards male circumcision. Since most of the participants are not circumcised and are not willing to be circumcised it is important to come up with strategies to eliminate barriers in order to facilitate change of attitude towards male circumcision.