

**Violence, abuse and discrimination: Key factors militating against control of HIV/AIDS among the LGBTI sector**

**D T Abaver and E N Cisse**  
Walter Sisulu University, South Africa

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) South Africans continue to face considerable challenges, including societal stigma, homophobic violence (particularly corrective rape) and high rates of sexually transmitted diseases and infections (particularly HIV/AIDS) even when discrimination based on sexual orientation was outlawed by South African's post-apartheid constitution. A study was conducted in a tertiary institution in the Eastern Cape of South Africa to ascertain violence, abuse and discrimination against the LGBTI sector as key factors that hinder the smooth implementation of HIV/AIDS program among sexually minority (LGBTI) group. Self-structured questionnaires were used to collect data by simple randomization selection. A total of 3048 participants (1285 male and 1763 female), aged 17-38 years, participated in this study. Though, a small number (987, 32.4%) of the participants witnessed violence against people in same gender relationship, 1557 (51.1%) participants were not aware of violence against the LGBTI sector, while 504 (16.5%) were ignorant of the societal stigma. Participants in this study indicated that the LGBTI sector in this particular tertiary institution face challenges such as abuse which includes physical (681, 22.3%), sexual (561, 18.4%), verbal (603, 19.8%) and emotional abuse (111, 3.6%). About 45.2% (1377) participants witnessed discrimination against the LGBTI sector in this institution, when 34% (1035) participants were not aware of such attitudes towards the sector. However, 20.9% (638) participants did not express their views about discrimination against the LGBTI sector. Social stigma which leads to violence, abuse and discrimination does exist in this institution. Though the knowledge of this societal stigma is in the minority among the students, there is still need to address these issues of violence, abuse and discrimination against LGBTI members in our tertiary institutions to create an enabling environment where people who belong to this sector will come out freely to access programs targeted at the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.

**Biography**

D T Abaver has completed his PhD from University of Abuja in Parasitology. He is a Chief Superintendent of Immigration Nigerian Immigration service, a paramilitary organization in the Ministry of Interior. He has published number of papers on HIV/AIDS, Immunology and Parasitology in reputed journals, such as *African Health Science*, *Pakistani Journal of Medical Sciences*, *African Journal for Physical, Health Education, Recreation and Dance (AJPHED)*. He is a Member of Nigerian Society of Parasitology and a Fellow, Institute of Cooperate Administration. Currently, he is a Contract Researcher at Walter Sisulu University, Eastern Cape, South Africa. His research interest includes epidemiology of HIV/AIDS and other opportunistic infections, preventive measures/techniques of HIV/AIDS, gender, age and sexual orientation as determinants for the impact of HIV/AIDS.

[dominicabaver@yahoo.com](mailto:dominicabaver@yahoo.com)

**Notes:**