



Acceptance and Behavioural Changes Among Kinshasa Sex Workers in Response to HIV/AIDS Prevention Interventions: A Two-Year Community-Based Study in Democratic Republic of Congo

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Abstract

Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), is a hub for sex work and HIV/AIDS transmission. Understanding how community-based interventions are received and their efficacy in altering sexual behaviour can inform public health strategies. A mixed-methods approach combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews will be employed. Data collection will occur bi-annually for two years, using structured questionnaires to assess knowledge and practices regarding HIV/AIDS prevention. During the study period, a significant proportion (65%) of sex workers reported increased condom use, with notable improvements in knowledge about transmission routes and protective measures against HIV. Themes emerging from qualitative interviews included perceived stigma reduction and improved access to healthcare. The interventions were well-received by the majority of participants, but challenges persist regarding consistent adherence to recommended preventive behaviors. Further research is needed to explore long-term sustainability and effectiveness in diverse settings. Future studies should consider incorporating community-based education and support services for sustained impact. The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta}^{-1} p X + \text{varepsilon}$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: *African geography, HIV/AIDS, qualitative methods, behavioural change analysis, sex work epidemiology, intervention evaluation, community participation*

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