



Prevalence and Prevention Strategies for HIV/AIDS Among Rural Women Farmers in Northern Ghana,

Abdulrahman Musah¹, Fatima Abdulaziz^{1,2}, Amariyah Ibrahim^{2,3}

¹ Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi

² Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research

³ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-Ghana)

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Correspondence: amusah@outlook.com

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Author notes

Abdulrahman Musah is affiliated with Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Fatima Abdulaziz is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Amariyah Ibrahim is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research and focuses on Law research in Africa.

Abstract

HIV/AIDS remains a significant public health challenge in northern Ghana, particularly among rural women farmers who are disproportionately affected by poverty and limited access to healthcare. A qualitative study employing semi-structured interviews with 50 randomly selected rural women farmers from four districts in northern Ghana. Data analysis followed thematic content analysis. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS among the sampled population was found to be 24%, with a higher proportion (36%) in younger women compared to older ones, suggesting generational differences in vulnerability. Rural women farmers in northern Ghana face significant barriers to accessing HIV prevention and treatment services. These include socio-economic constraints and cultural taboos surrounding sexual health. Integrating community-based HIV education programmes into farming cooperatives could improve awareness and access to preventive measures. Strengthening healthcare infrastructure, particularly for rural areas, is also crucial.

Keywords: *African geography, qualitative research, rural sociology, public health, prevention strategies, HIV/AIDS epidemiology, community engagement*

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