

Exploring Myths Associated with HIV/AIDS with Examples from A Few Countries of the World

S.M. Kang'ethe¹ and Sindiswa Xabendlini²

*¹Department of Social Work and Social Development, ²Master of Social Work Student,
University of Fort Hare, Private Bag X1314, Alice, 5700, South Africa
E-mail: ¹<Skangethe@ufh.ac.za>, ²<200901792@ufh.ac.za>*

KEYWORDS Stereotypes. Misinformation. People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Stigma and discrimination. HIV/ AIDS. South Africa

ABSTRACT There are various myths and misconceptions surrounding HIV/AIDS within South African communities that lead to the stigmatization and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS. The aim of this paper is to explore and spell out the underpinnings on underpinnings on myths surrounding HIV/AIDS in South Africa. This paper has used a review of literature methodology. Findings indicate that South Africa embraces immense mythical beliefs about HIV/AIDS. Also myths flourish due to: misinformation, misinterpretation, misperceptions of information associated with HIV/AIDS; are reinforced by cultures and patriarchy; and are also associated with the traditional healers. As a way of dispelling the myths, the paper recommends clients to look or seek scientific evidence in the therapies at their disposal, adapt the use of condoms, demystify the use of the ARV treatment modalities; and enhance community education; and government to regulate the work of traditional healers.