

Self-concept and Academic Performance of Adolescents Affected by HIV/AIDS in Atteridgeville, South Africa

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ABSTRACT The study investigated the relationship between self-concept and academic performance of adolescents affected by HIV and AIDS. Purposive sampling was used to select a secondary school where 60 (30 HIV/AIDS-affected and 30 non-affected) adolescents in Grade 8-10 were used. The Beck Youth Inventories™ which has internal consistency of Cronbach's alpha coefficient that ranged from .91 to .96 was the instrument used in the study. Participants' first term's scores in the subjects of English, Mathematics and Life orientation were also used to measure their academic performance. The data were statistically analysed through t-test statistics, correlation and ANOVA. Findings show a significant difference in the self-concept of adolescents affected by HIV/AIDS and that of those who are not; no significant difference between the academic performance of adolescents affected by HIV/AIDS and that of those who are not, and no significant relationship between the self-concept and academic performance of adolescents affected by HIV/AIDS. The study concluded on the importance of improving the supportive school environment in the school.