

## Theoretical Perspectives on Community Engagement in HIV Prevention and Programming among the Basotho Tribe

Puleng Relebohile Letsie\* and Dipane Hlalele\*\*

*\*United Nations Development Programme, Lesotho  
E-mail: puleng.letsie@undp.org*

*\*\*School of Education Studies, University of the Free State, Qwaqwa Campus, South Africa  
E-mail: hlaleledj@qwa.ufs.ac.za*

**KEYWORDS** Community Engagement. HIV Prevention. Behaviourism. Frameworks. Basotho

**ABSTRACT** Community level HIV prevention proposes that attempts to change the norms, attitudes, collective self-efficacy and risk behaviour practices in populations vulnerable to AIDS are essential for various reasons. People contract HIV as a result of sexual and drug abuse activities that take place in their day-to-day lives in the community. Changing communities to make them safer is a logical direction for HIV prevention; hence community level and population-focused interventions have the potential to be cost effective by virtue of their scope. Therefore, the aim of this article is to investigate, through a literature study, the background of community engagement in issues of health and well-being among the Basotho in the era of HIV and AIDS. This will be preceded by a discussion of the various community engagement theories and frameworks in the context of HIV and AIDS prevention, care and support, and impact mitigation. A subsequent section will focus on the psychological theory of Behaviourism in relation to cultural movements and gender dynamics. The research paper will conclude with a comparison of the community engagement and Behaviourist theories and their suitability to the HIV and AIDS response among the Basotho tribe.