THE MANAGEMENT OF AN HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMME IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

by

CECILIA NCANE MKHONTO

submitted in part fulfilment of the requirements for
the degree of

MASTER OF EDUCATION

in the subject

EDUCATION MANAGEMENT

at the

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

SUPERVISOR: PROF JN VAN WYK

JUNE 2005
DECLARATION

I declare that: “THE MANAGEMENT OF AN HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMME IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE is my own work and that all sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

................................................ ...................................
(SR CN MKHONTO)           DATE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am deeply indebted to the following people for their valuable contribution in the completion of my dissertation:

Professor Noleen van Wyk for the unfailing guidance, patience and understanding during my journey of research. She believed in my ability and kept encouraging me when the journey was tough.

Professor Eleanor Lemmer who edited my manuscript.

Mrs Annatjije Kukkuk who helped me with the typing.

Thanks are also due to:

Hlabirna, who encouraged and helped me to persevere.

Kgomotso, who supported and gave me courage to go on.

Father John Kilcoyne who corrected my manuscript.

My congregation, The Sisters of St Brigid, for giving me the opportunity to study.

The principals, educators and learners of the participating schools who were willing to share their experiences to make this dissertation possible.
SUMMARY

In the light of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in South Africa, the Department of Education is promoting HIV/AIDS awareness programmes in public schooling. This dissertation focuses on the management of these programmes in secondary schools in the North West Province using a literature review and empirical investigation. The former discusses the disease and treatment, its prevalence and impact on education and the role of principal, educators and parents in prevention. A qualitative study investigated the views of a small sample of principals, teachers and learners from three secondary schools in the North West Province. Sites and participants were selected by purposeful sampling. Data gathering took place by interviewing principals and educators and by essays written by tenth grade learners. Findings illustrated the importance of community values, information, a school policy, inservice teacher training and the contribution of parents and the church. Obstacles to successful awareness programmes were identified and recommendations made.

KEY TERMS

HIV/AIDS in South Africa.
Awareness programmes.
Perceptions of educators and learners
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTER 1

### BACKGROUND, PROBLEM FORMULATION AND AIMS

1. **GENERAL BACKGROUND**
2. **HIV/AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA**
3. **GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC**
   1. **Strategic plans**
   2. **Provision of anti-retroviral drugs**
4. **THE MANAGEMENT OF HIV/AIDS IN EDUCATION**
5. **THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE**
6. **CLARIFICATION OF TERMS**
   1. **HIV**
   2. **AIDS**
   3. **Anti-retroviral drugs**
7. **PROBLEM FORMULATION**
8. **AIMS OF RESEARCH**
9. **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**
   1. **The use of qualitative approach**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>CHAPTER DIVISION</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>SUMMARY</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN SCHOOLS</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1</td>
<td>The stages of the infection</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2</td>
<td>Opportunistic diseases</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3</td>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1</td>
<td>The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in South Africa</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2</td>
<td>Government policy on HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS in the North West Province</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>THE IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS ON EDUCATION</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4.1</td>
<td>The effects of HIV/AIDS on learners</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN THE HIV/AIDS CAMPAIGN</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.1</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS awareness</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.2</td>
<td>Support for educators affected by HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.3</td>
<td>Support for learners affected by HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.4</td>
<td>Partnership with parents</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL IN MANAGING THE EFFECTS OF HIV/AIDS ON EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.6.1 Interpreting and implementing policy 26
2.6.2 Creating a positive school climate 27
2.6.3 Leadership role 28
2.6.4 Providing in-service training for educators 28
2.6.5 Staff motivation 29
2.6.6 Creating a positive school culture 30
2.6.7 The principal as instructional leader 31
2.6.8 Curriculum coordination 31
2.6.9 Enrichment programmes 31

2.7 THE EFFECT OF HIV/AIDS ON THE SUPPLY OF EDUCATORS IN SOUTH AFRICA 32

2.8 CONCLUSION 34

CHAPTER 3
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH DESIGN 35

3.1 INTRODUCTION 35

3.2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY 35
3.2.1 Qualitative research 35

3.3 DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES 39
3.3.1 Interviews 40
3.3.1.1 Individual interview 40
3.3.1.2 Focus group interview 42
3.3.2 Written texts 43

3.4 THE RESEARCHER’S ROLE 44
3.4.1 Interview guide 45
3.4.2 Reliability and validity

3.5 THE RESEARCH DESIGN
3.5.1 Status of the researcher
3.5.2 The language issue
3.5.3 Rationale for doing research in Bapong
3.5.4 Choice of schools
3.5.5 Choice of participants
3.5.6 Choice of learners

3.6 CHARACTERISTICS OF PARTICIPANTS AND BACKGROUND DATA
3.6.1 The principal and teachers
3.6.2 Interview of the principal and educators
3.6.2.1 Individual interview with the principals
3.6.2.2 Focus group interview with educators

3.7 DATA ANALYSIS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CODING CATEGORIES
3.7.1 Data analysis
3.7.2 The development of coding categories
3.7.3 Processing of data
3.7.4 Internal validity
3.7.5 Triangulation

3.8 SUMMARY

CHAPTER 4
DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1 INTRODUCTION
4.2 THE CONTEXT OF THE SCHOOLS

4.3 HIV/AIDS IN THE COMMUNITY
  4.3.1 Community values and the spread of HIV/AIDS
  4.3.2 Learners not living with their parents

4.4 HIV/AIDS IN THE SCHOOL
  4.4.1 Learners and educators’ knowledge of HIV/AIDS
  4.4.2 Learners affected by HIV/AIDS
  4.4.3 Learners infected by HIV/AIDS
  4.4.4 The need for school counsellors
  4.4.5 Preventing and treating HIV/AIDS in school

4.5 THE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMMES IN SCHOOLS
  4.5.1 Training of educators to teach HIV/AIDS PROGRAMMES
  4.5.2 Experiences and perceptions of educators of the programmes
  4.5.3 Experiences and perceptions of learners of the programmes
  4.5.4 Managing the programmes

4.6 SCHOOL POLICY ON HIV/AIDS

4.7 PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY
  4.7.1 Partnership with parents
  4.7.2 The role of the church

4.8 OBSTACLES TO AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMMES
  4.8.1 Belief in traditional healers
  4.8.2 Reluctance to use condoms
  4.8.3 Lack of support for sex education
  4.8.4 Stigma associated with HIV/AIDS
TABLE 3.3: THE PRINCIPALS
TABLE 3.4: EDUCATORS IN SCHOOL A

(ix)

TABLE 3.5: EDUCATORS IN SCHOOL B
TABLE 3.6: EDUCATORS IN SCHOOL C

APPENDIX A: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR THE PRINCIPAL
APPENDIX B: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR EDUCATORS
APPENDIX C: INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF THE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
APPENDIX D: EXTRACTS FROM A NUMBER OF GRADE 10 ESSAYS