

# **KNOWLEDGE OF WOMEN ATTENDING ANTENATAL CLINICS ON TRANSMISSION OF HIV THROUGH BREAST-FEEDING IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA**

by

**FAIDES TSALANI KASINJA**

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements

for the degree of

**MASTER OF ARTS**

in the subject

**HEALTH STUDIES**

at the

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**SUPERVISOR: DR GH VAN RENSBURG**

**JOINT SUPERVISOR: PROF SM MOGOTLANE**

**JUNE 2006**

Student number: 0747-108-4

## DECLARATION

I declare that **KNOWLEDGE OF WOMEN ATTENDING ANTENATAL CLINICS ON TRANSMISSION OF HIV THROUGH BREAST-FEEDING IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA** is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any other institution.

SIGNATURE

(Faides Tsalani Kasinja)

DATE .....

# KNOWLEDGE OF WOMEN ATTENDING ANTENATAL CLINICS ON TRANSMISSION OF HIV THROUGH BREAST-FEEDING IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA

STUDENT NUMBER: 0747-108-4  
STUDENT: FAIDES TSALANI KASINJA  
DEGREE: MASTER OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT: HEALTH STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA  
SUPERVISOR: DR GH VAN RENSBURG  
JOINT SUPERVISOR: PROF SM MOGOTLANE

## ABSTRACT

Breast-feeding by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) positive mothers poses a risk of transmitting HIV infection from the mother to the baby. This study attempted to describe and explore the knowledge of antenatal women in Gaborone, Botswana on the transmission of HIV through breast-feeding.

The research results, obtained from interview schedules, revealed that the respondents had: a greater knowledge of transmission of HIV in adults than mother-to-child-transmission (MTCT); a moderate understanding of infant feeding methods; poor understanding of the risk of HIV transmission through different infant feeding methods and feelings that infant feeding method reveals ones HIV status, which indicate stigma and discrimination.

The study findings may assist health care providers to intensify educational programmes and counselling in the antenatal clinics and communities to reduce MTCT.

## KEY CONCEPTS

Antenatal women, breast-feeding, factors influencing choice of infant feeding methods, infant feeding methods, preferences in infant feeding methods, mother-to-child-transmission.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I wish to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the following:

- Almighty God, for giving me the ability and opportunity to undertake and complete this study
- Dr GH Van Rensburg and Prof SM Mogotlane, my supervisors, for their guidance, encouragement and support
- The Ministry of Health Research Unit, for permission to conduct the study
- The Matron of City council clinics and administrators and staff of the clinic, for allowing me to conduct the study there
- The Research Unit staff, city council administrators, clinical staff, and central statistics office staff, for their support and assistance
- The respondents, for their time, sharing and input
- Professor E Steffen's, Mr N Hall and Mrs Sitolo, for the interview schedule development and statistical analysis
- Mrs T Burger, for literature search
- Ms lauma Cooper, for editing the manuscript
- Ms EC Coetzer, for assisting in the layout of the study
- Ms R Tsheko, for allowing me off when there was a need even in times of critical shortage
- Mrs E Kip and Mrs N Namame, for your support and advice
- Samuel, my husband, and Thokozani, Chisomo and Benjamin, my children, for their love, emotional and psychological support, and confidence in me
- Everybody who assisted me in any way in accomplishing this study, thank you so much - may God bless you all!

## *Dedication*

*To my late father and mother, Paul Joseph Chiundira and Jenayi Chimwana  
Mphandanzaora-Chiundira, who always said that life is a journey and that we are  
more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our saviour. God bless you and keep you.*

*I miss you but know you are safe in God's arms.*