

## Assessment of Knowledge and Attitude of Health professionals towards Pediatric HIV Disclosure in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Author** Dr. Fikremariam Gudeta\*, Department of Family Medicine Addis Ababa University, College of health science ,Co- Author Dr. Meseret Zerihun\*, Department of Family Medicine, Advisor –Dr. Seifu Hagos (BSC, MPH, PHD) Department of Public Health

### Abstract

**Background:** Knowledge and attitude towards pediatrics HIV testing and disclosing positive result at the right time is important in having a good treatment outcome in HIV treatment and care. Vertical transmission of HIV from infected mothers to children is a common phenomenon in developing countries. After the introduction of highly active antiretroviral treatment (HAART), most children are living longer than before which is good indicator of a HIV care. Recently, HAART has become widely available to children living in sub-Saharan African countries, and this makes disclosure of HIV status an important issue. Not much research is done regarding HIV disclosure in Ethiopia which makes this an important area of study.

**Objectives:** To determine knowledge and attitude of health professionals towards pediatrics HIV result disclosure in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**Methods:** A cross sectional quantitative study using self-administrative questioners was conducted in two hospitals and four health centers in Addis Ababa. Simple random sampling technique applied for selection of hospitals, health centers as well as health professionals. Bloom's modified cut point was used to describe the knowledge level and Likert's scale was used for attitude assessment. Data analysis was done by SPSS version-24 software. Chi-squared test and Odds ratios were computed. Bi-variate analysis was done for those having significant association of P-value of ( $<0.05$ ) and 95% confidence interval.

**Results:** A total of 210 health professionals participated in the study with response rate of 95.54%. 102(48.6%) had good level of knowledge and the 108(51.4%) had poor level of knowledge regarding HIV disclosure. The study showed that attitude of respondents to be 20 (9.5%) negative, 71(33.8%) intermediate and 119(56.7%) have positive attitudes about HIV pediatrics disclosure. Significant association ( $P<0.05$ ) was found between level of knowledge, attitude and training only.

**Conclusion and Recommendation:** Majority of health professionals had poor knowledge about pediatric HIV disclosure. Most of the study participants have intermediate and positive attitude level towards pediatrics HIV disclosure. Ministry of health and regional health bureau should give attention and support to provide training on pediatric HIV disclosure. Supervision of health care professionals and standard protocol on pediatric HIV disclosure should be implemented and monitored.