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Information Needs by People Living with Hiv/Aids in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital, Amaku-Awka, Anambra State.

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Introduction

Information is the pivot in which the economic, social, political and industrial development of any nation revolves. In fact, information is the bedrock/pillar of the nation. It is like the wings with which a nation flies. Therefore, no nation can develop without making effective use of information. Information is a crucial agent of change, a conveyor of knowledge, a reinforcement of ideas and opinions. Information is meant to change or increase understanding of something. Acknowledging the impact of information on human development, Mooko & Aina, (2017) opined that every individual, whether literate or illiterate, needs information for variety of issues essential for survival.

Information needs according to Case & Given (2016) is the recognition of one's knowledge as inadequate in order to satisfy one's goals. Information needs rises as a result of something missing and leads to one searching and locating the information that will bring about a greater understanding and meaning of what is unknown. Hence, Okonoko, Ojukwu & Derorah, (2015) stated that information need is a factual situation in which there exist an inseparable interconnection with "information" and "need". Okonoko et al, (2018) summed information need to be the amount of positive information that an individual or group of users need to have for their work, health, recreation and other purposes. Furthermore, information need occurs whenever individuals find themselves being ignorant of how to handle a situation. Information can be presented using people's speech, writings or gestures, films, letters, diaries, radios and television, etc. that is to say that information touches every facet of life thus nothing meaningful can be done without information. Information can also be seen as the gateway to other resources be it social, economic, political, technological or educational. To that extent, information is considered a vehicle for development, advancement and way forward in all areas of human

endeavor. Man by nature is an inquisitive being and always desires to know something and his needs meet. His desire to know is not restricted to a particular personality, age, sex, profession or level of knowledge. It is then, an acknowledge fact, that everyone needs information as information has the capacity to create, teach and spur one to acquire knowledge in each task, role or profession. Information can be said to be that which clears uncertainty, doubt and ignorance in life of its user. It's an answer to a question asked.

This study is focused on the information needs by people living with HIV/AIDS. Direct or indirect involvement often mandates people to need and seek information that will enable them live without fear having HIV/AIDS. People living with HIV/AIDS need a wide varied of information to meet their personal and clinical needs. Therefore, people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH/A) need information that is accessible, of excellent quality, up-to-date, manageable and relevant as well as information services that will assist them in finding information. HIV/AIDS being a major health problem/challenge people face worldwide, needs relevant information to enable PLWH/A device coping strategies in dealing with HIV/AIDS. When people are healthy they can work and any nation who whose workforce comprises of sick people cannot go far. According to Omenugha & Ekwagha, (2018), HIV/AIDS can only be transferred through few processes namely; unprotected sexual contact with infected person, blood transfusion (sharing of syringes, injection equipment, clipper, razor, etc), mother to child (during pregnancy or breast feeding), and kissing (only if there is sour in the mouth). This means that HIV/AIDS cannot be contacted through casual contact with infected persons, either at workplace, school, church or home etc. Hence, people living with HIV/AIDS are expected be treated with love and care. Hence, information need is very important for people living with HIV/AIDS because a popular saying states that if you are not informed, you are deformed.

Information Needs of People Living with HIV/AIDS

In spite of the importance of information in all human activities. Information means many things to different people. To some people, information is news, while others refer to information as facts and yet to others, information is an essential data that adds to knowledge either positively or negatively. The librarians' associate information with recorded knowledge, the microbiologists consider information as the genes in DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) which are transmitted from one generation to the other. The Oxford dictionary, (2014) described information as knowledge communicated or received concerning a particular fact or circumstance, it is a knowledge gained through study, communication, research and instruction.

Information needs are matters of priority, what we need is an overriding issue Iwara, (2015) stated that needs arise when the state of possessed knowledge is less than what is needed to deal with some pressing issues. Hence, information need is a need arising from a knowledge gap experienced in completing research and a need to make sense of issues related to such research. In other words, information need appears when there is a missing link in the solution of an identified problem. Clearly, every human being no matter his level of education, affluence, age, rank, sex and location, needs and select information from the environment which he applies to the solution of a problem. An information need perceived and recognized by the user leads to information seeking. Without a clear understanding of what information need means, how information needs started and the influencing factor, healthcare professionals cannot begin to provide information to address needs. Thus, Ibegwam, (2013) defined information needs as information requirements of an individual. In this study, the information needs of PLWH/A will be made clear to provide timely health information in an effective manner. In essence, information need of individuals in any society could be influenced by purpose and need at hand.

Statement of Problem

The information needs of people living with HIV/AIDS are looked at in this study. From observation, the fear of having HIV/AIDS can be devastating to people. Some people still live with the fear of going to hospital to know their HIV status. They begin to imagine, "What if I test positive?", "What will become of me?", "How do I face my family and the society at large?" These few questions alone can lead to fear or even extend to depression when finally, one tests positive. One of the health targets under the new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) is to see to the end of HIV/AIDS epidemic by the year 2030. However, there must have been a previous date stated to curb out this epidemic which failed that made the SDG to extend it to 2030. Could it be that the information needs of people living with HIV/AIDS were not been met? Are there challenges that affect information needs by people living with HIV/AIDS? If there are challenges affecting their information needs, then what could be the possible solutions to those challenges affecting their information needs? Therefore, this study will examine Information needs by people living with HIV/AIDS.

Purpose of Study

The main purpose of this study is to determine the information needs by PLWH/A in Chukwuemeka Odimegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital, Amaku-Awka, Anambra State.

Specifically, the study aims;

1. To determine the information needs of people living with HIV/AIDS in Chukwuemeka Odimegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital (COOUTH), Awka.
2. To identify the challenges that affects information needs by people living with HIV/AIDS in COOUTH, Awka.

3. To ascertain the solutions to the challenges affecting information needs by people living with HIV/AIDS in COOUTH, Awka.

Significance of the Study

The outcome of this study will be significant to six (6) major people namely; the Health care providers, the people living with HIV/AIDS, the Government, the non-governmental organization, the information professionals and the researchers.

Scope of the Study

The study contents will concentrate on the information needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, the challenges as well as the solution to the challenges affecting information needs by people living with HIV/AIDS in COOUTH, Awka.

Research Questions

1. What are the areas in which people living with HIV/AIDS needs information in COOUTH, Awka
2. What are the challenges that affects information needs by people living with HIV/AIDS in COOUTH, Awka
3. What are the solution to the challenges affecting information needs by people living with HIV/AIDS in COOUTH, Awka

Concept of Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome

AIDS stands for Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome. AIDS is the most advanced stage of HIV which can take many years to develop if not treated, depending on the individual. One cannot get AIDS without HIV but must get AIDS once infected with HIV so both work hand in hand. AIDS is a disease caused by the damage that HIV does to your immune system. AIDS is very deadly and can lead to death over time. With treatment, it usually takes about

10years for someone with HIV to develop AIDS. Treatment slows down the damage the virus causes and can help people stay healthy for several decades before death. Pat, (2012) stated that sometimes HIV/AIDs patients are denied access to health care. They suffer segregation in schools, hospitals, churches as well as social activities and that has prevented them getting access to information needs to be able to cope with HIV/AIDs.

Concept of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

According to Center for Disease Control and Prevention, (2021) Human Immunodeficiency Virus is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. If HIV is not treated, it can lead to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). Learning the basics about HIV can keep ones healthy and prevent HIV transmission. Some of the Symptoms include: Influenza-like illness; Fatigue. With proper medical care, HIV can be controlled. People with HIV who get effective HIV treatment can live long, healthy lives and protect their partners.

Concept of Information Needs of People Living with HIV/AIDS

In spite of the importance of information in all human activities, information is a term that is difficult to define because it has several dimensions. Information means many things to different people. To some people, information is news, while others refer to information as facts and yet to others, information is essential data. The telecommunication engineers associate information with bits and data, the librarians associate information with recorded knowledge, the microbiologists consider information as the genes in DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) which are transmitted from one generation to the other. The Oxford dictionary (2014) described information as knowledge communicated or received concerning a particular fact or circumstance, it is a knowledge gained through study, communication, research and instruction.

Information can assist in reducing the degree of uncertainty in the operating environment of an organization. In the economic world, information is seen as a commodity which is as exploitable as coffee, cotton, mineral resources, machinery, human resources and so on, which can be used wisely to produce more goods for the consumption of society. Still in the economic world, information can be a crucial economic resources which is capable of improving the knowledge state of an individual towards taking rational decisions. Therefore, information servers as a communicating ideas, opinions, belief, values, perception and knowledge to people in the society, business, organizations, social gathering, religious associations and so on which enables them to solve private and public/corporate problems. Hence, information is a powerful tool that educates the mind and develops the three domains of learning; affective (attitude), psychomotor (skills) and cognitive (knowledge) according to (DidinWidyartono 2017).

Needs are matters of priority, what we need is an overriding issue. (Iwara, 2015) stated that needs arise when the state of possessed knowledge is less than what is needed to deal with some pressing issues. Hence information need is a need arising from a knowledge gap experienced in completing research and a need to make sense of issues related to such research. In other words, information need appears when there is a missing link in the solution of an identified problem. Clearly, every human being no matter his level of education, affluence, age, rank, sex and location, needs and select information from the environment which he applies to the solution of a problem. An information need perceived and recognized by the user leads to information seeking. Without a clear understanding of what information need means, how information needs started and the influencing factor, healthcare professionals cannot begin to provide information to address needs. Therefore, patients indicate that they want, requiring different kinds of information on different problems or purposes. Thus, Ibegwam, (2013) defined

information needs as information requirements of an individual. In this study, the information needs of PLWH/A will be made clear to provide timely health information in an effective manner. In essence, information need of individuals in any society is influenced by purpose and need at hand.

The information needs of PLWH/A are seen as any desire to have data, information or knowledge to solve problems, answer questions on HIV/AIDS health care and services and make quality decisions for their health benefit. PLWH/A needs information basically on the ever-changing concepts: drug information (availability and affordability), time management (drug taking, ARV visitations), therapies (care and support), seminars and workshops (technical vocational training), consultations and counseling programs, current awareness programmes on education, Human Right Acts (constitution), dieting (Nutrition) and so on. In other words, PLWH/ needs timely and relevant information to be able to cope in life with their health issues according to (Edewor, 2011).

The Challenges that Affects information needs by people living with HIV/AIDS

PLWH/A face challenges, having access to quality healthcare information and knowledge is very essential. Hogan & Palmer, (2013) identified difficulty in understanding the available information, lack of trust and lack of applicability as barriers to using HIV information. Looking deep into the challenges faced by PLWH/A via access to healthcare information, a lot of problems identified are as follows; Ignorance of Medical library: People living with HIV/AIDS are ignorant of the fact that a medical library is in existence in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital, Amaku-Awka, thereby, do not even make use of the library to source information concerning their health to help them satisfy their information needs. Some people living with HIV/AIDS are also ignorant of the medical library in COOUTH due to

the fact that they are illiterate. They wouldn't know where to start and how to go about looking for the information that will satisfy their needs. Some of them would not even be smart enough to ask for the help of the librarian in charge for one reason or the other. The medical library is expected to contain all the relevant information about all medical conditions for user to retrieve information based on individual health problems.

Method

This study adopted descriptive survey research design. Descriptive survey research design is used to investigate the state of things as they are on ground according to Nworgu, (2015).

Population of the Study

The total population of the study consists of 3,264 registered HIV patients for Antiretroviral (ARV) medical care in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu University Teaching Hospital (COOUTH) Amaku-Awka. No AIDS patient. A purposive sampling technique was used to select fifty (50) registered HIV patients, forty-two (42) questionnaires were filled correctly while 8 copies of the questionnaires were damaged. This sample was taken out of 3,264 HIV targeted population.

Instrument for Data Collection

The main instrument used for collecting data for this study is a questionnaire.

Method of Data Collection

There were 50 questionnaires distributed and 42 questionnaires were correctly completed and returned which represent 84% return rate. The questionnaire was designed using four-point rating scale. It was divided into two (2) parts. Part one (1) is designed to collect relevant background information on the patients whereas, part two (2) sought to elicit information on the research questions .It got to a point where the researcher had to read and explain the content of

the questionnaire to the HIV patients who find it difficult to read and write. This was done to be able to get the necessary response needed for the completion of this work.

Research Question 1: What are the areas in which people living with HIV/AIDS need information in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital, Amaku-Awka.

Very High Extent -VHE, High Extent- HE, Less Extent –LE, Very Less Extent- VLE

S/n	The Areas of Information needs	Mean	Decision
1.	Nutrition	9.52	Agreed
2.	Human Right	7.14	Agreed
3.	NGO activities (counseling &therapy)	4.76	Agreed
4.	Antiretroviral Medications	21.43	Agreed
5.	Drug Availability & Affordability	19.05	Agreed
6.	Financial Assistance	21.43	Agreed
7.	Educational Awareness Programmes	8.33	Agreed
8.	Care and Support	3.57	Agreed
9.	Technical & Vocational Training	2.38	Agreed
10.	Seminars	1.19	Agreed
11.	Workshops	1.19	Agreed

Table 1 above shows that the respondents agreed that the areas in which PLWH/A need information in COOUTH Amaku Awka are on Nutrition, Human Right, Non-governmental activities (Counseling and Therapies), Antiretroviral medications, Drug availability and affordability, Financial Assistance, Creating Educational awareness, care and support, Technical and Vocational Training, Seminars and workshop. With relevant information in the afore mentioned areas, people living with HIV/AIDS won't find it much difficult to cope with their health condition.

Research Question 2: What are the challenges affecting information needs by PLWA/A in COOUTH Awka.

Very High Extent -VHE, High Extent- HE, Less Extent –LE, Very Less Extent- VLE

S/n	Challenges of Information needs	Mean	Decision
1.	Ignorance of medical library	2.39	Very High Extent
2.	Stigmatization	11.90	Very High Extent
3.	Discrimination	11.90	Very High Extent
4.	Absence of frequent Radio programmes on HIV	7.14	Very High Extent
5.	Absence of Televisions in ARV centre	7.14	Very High Extent
6.	High level of illiteracy	16.67	Very High Extent
7.	Human Right violation	7.14	Very High Extent
8.	Lack of government support (funding)	2.38	Very High Extent
9.	Distance of Antiretroviral centre	9.52	Very High Extent
10.	High cost of Antiretroviral drugs	2.38	Very High Extent
11.	Shortage of qualified medical professionals	9.52	Very High Extent
12.	Inadequate information resources	4.65	Very High Extent
13.	Absence of Counseling	3.57	Very High Extent
14.	Absence of therapy	3.57	Very High Extent

Table 2 shows that the respondents agreed that the challenges that affects information needs by PLWH/A in COOUTH, Amaku-Awka are ignorance of the availability of functional medical library that house most of the resources both electronic and hard copies , stigmatization, discrimination, high level of illiteracy, Human Right violations, absence of consistent radio programmes on HIV/AIDS in local language, lack of government support (funding), absence of televisions at strategic points in medication centre, distance of ARV Medical Centre, high cost of antiretroviral drugs, shortage of qualified medical professionals, inadequate information resources, absence of counseling and absence of therapies.

Research Question 3: What are the solution to the challenges faced by PLWH/A on information needs in COOUTH, Amaku-Awka

Very High Extent -VHE, High Extent- HE, Less Extent –LE, Very Less Extent- VLE

S/n	Solution to Challenges	Mean	Decision
1.	Adequate use of Medical Library	7.14	Agreed
2.	Organization of frequent radio programs on HIV/AIDS	5.95	Agreed
3.	Installation of Television in ARV centre	5.95	Agreed
4.	Location of Antiretroviral centre for registration	9.52	Agreed
5.	Acquisition of relevant information materials	23.81	Agreed
6.	Drug Availability & Affordability	2.38	Agreed
7.	Implementation & Promotion of Human Right	9.52	Agreed
8.	Educational Awareness Programmes	35.73	Agreed

Table 3 shows that the respondents agreed that the solution to the challenges faced by PLWH/A in satisfying their information needs in COOUTH, Amaku-Awka are adequate use of medical library, when the library is adequately used, the patient will get to know the available resources that are available. Another solution is frequent organization of radio programmes on HIV/AIDS in local languages. That is, using the prevalent local dialect that is prevalent to give out information. But we also have other languages, so what should be done is to have effective programs in the main three languages in Nigeria so that the information will be disseminated widely. Other solutions to this is installation of televisions in antiretroviral medical centre, close location of antiretroviral centre for registration, acquisition of relevant information materials, implementation and promotion of Human Right and this should be communication to the patient, , drug availability and affordability and educational awareness programmes.

Discussion and findings

From the result of findings, the areas of information need by people living with HIV/AIDS in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital (COOUTH) Amaku-Awka are

on Nutrition, Human Right, Non-governmental activities (counseling and therapies), antiretroviral medications, Drug availability and affordability, Financial Assistance, Creating Educational awareness, care and support, Technical and Vocational Training, Seminars and workshop.

The result is in line with the study of Giuse, Huber & Brown (2014) who stated that the information needs of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH/A) are mainly issues that are related to health information on how to stay safe, educational information to improve their learning with respect to health, policies of government to know new guidelines put up by the government for them that is those living with HIV, as well as the type of support groups that are available for them to link and access.

However, the challenges faced by people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH/A) when it comes to satisfying their information needs in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital (COOUTH), Amaku Awka include ignorance of the availability of medical library because this library has both electronic and some pamphlet that will enhance their understanding and improve their health conditions. We also have stigmatization and discrimination, high level of illiteracy, Human Right violations, absence of consistent radio and Televisions programmes on HIV/AIDS in local language, lack of government support (inadequate funds), distance of Antiretroviral (ARV) Medical Centre, high cost of antiretroviral drugs, shortage of qualified medical professionals, inadequate information resources and absence of counseling and therapies. This result is in line with the study of Bharat & Kendra, (2016) who stated that problems encountered in information needs by people living with HIV/AIDS are usually social barrier to mix with the society due to stigmatization and discrimination.

Conclusion

Information is expected to be communicated in a way that will be understood by the people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH/A) as this will go a long way in satisfying their needs. The PLWH/A need to know the available treatment provided by the hospital that give a message of hope to them and their loved ones. People will volunteer to get tested at their own will, if they are enlightened about HIV/AIDs.

When an Information need is identified it will go a long way in making PLWH/A to recognize and identify their problems in order to satisfy it. Information needs rises as a result of something missing and leads to one searching and locating the information that will that will bridge the gap and bring about a greater understanding and meaning of what is unknown. Information Needs By People Living With Hiv/Aids in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital, Amaku-Awka if meet will drive away fear from the hearts of people, it will also help them know what is required of them and know that HIV/AIDs is not a death sentence.

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