



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Roles, responsibilities, and experiences of “models of hope” in the HIV/AIDS caregiving continuum in the volta region of Ghana

Category:

Communicable diseases (Malaria, TB, HIV, NTD)

Authors:

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Objectives:

Ghana's "Models of Hope" Programme trains HIV-positive individuals to serve as community counselors and educators, enhancing support services in the HIV/AIDS care continuum. This study sought to understand the roles, responsibilities, and experiences of models of hope in the HIV AIDS care-giving continuum in the Volta Region of Ghana.

Method:

The study employed an exploratory qualitative study design. In-depth interviews were used to collect data from 12 models of hope through purposive sampling. Data were analyzed using the Atlas ti software and presented using quotes from the participants.

Results:

The study revealed that, participants roles and responsibility is being peer paralegals and using their personal journeys to inspire newly diagnosed individuals. The lived experiences of participants revealed a dual narrative of positivity and challenges. On the positive side, many reported improved social relations and increased confidence. Conversely, negative lived experiences included difficulties in convincing clients to adhere to treatment. Personal challenges included discrimination, financial difficulties, and missed employment opportunities, which hindered their effectiveness. To navigate these challenges, participants employed various coping mechanisms. Many accepted the nature of their work, which allowed them to remain resilient in the face of adversity.

Conclusion:

Models of Hope serve as crucial sources of inspiration for individuals living with HIV (PLHIV), leveraging their personal experiences to offer vital support, counseling, and education. Nevertheless, issues such as discrimination and stigma persist, underscoring the necessity for continuous support and systemic reforms to improve the impact and outreach of Models of Hope.

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