Emerging Adult’s Lived Experience of Perinatally Acquired Human Immunodeficiency Virus

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BACKGROUND

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Epidemic

PHILIPPINE UNDERPINNING

Although HIV/AIDS continues to be a major public health issue globally, significant strides have been made in the fight against the disease as indicated by:

- A significant decrease in the rate of new infections from 3.47 million in 1997 to approximately 2.1 million in 2015.
- An increase in the number of people living with HIV from approximately 5.8 million in 1999 to 36.7 million in 2015.
- A decrease in AIDS-related deaths from 2.4 million in 2010 to 1.1 Million in 2015 (UNAIDS, 2016).

These advances are attributed to the introduction of antiretroviral drugs (ARD), services such as those to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of the virus, and improved childhood and treatment programs (Lee, Aronson, and Foster, 2006). Consequently, people with HIV are living longer and enjoying a better quality of life. However, Sub-Saharan Africa continues to bear the greatest burden of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 2015, they accounted for approximately 2.5 Million (70%) of the 36.7 million people living with HIV globally. This amount is approximately two times of all new HIV infections globally (WHO, 2016).

PHILOSOPHICAL UNDERPINNING

Emerging adulthood is defined as a period between late adolescence and early adulthood when individuals are most likely to have the freedom to make life-altering decisions, such as work, education, and relationships, while also establishing a sense of identity and independence (Arnett, 2000).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM, PURPOSE & RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Problem Statement

The concept of the human brain is the self-reflecting machine of every human, which is most likely to be the foundation to make life-altering decisions as well as work, education, and relationships, and long-term employment. These provide new opportunities (Gottfredson, 2010). The research project was to analyze the influence of the developmental stage, because many studies have been done to determine the effects of the physiological, psychological, and sociological challenges that they may encounter. It is important to understand the developmental phase of emerging adulthood to enhance the health and resilience of this particular population. Emerging adulthood is the critical stage of life where one transforms from a student into an adult. The research paper is in the form of a qualitative study to enrich our understanding of this population.

Purpose

The purpose of the present qualitative project is to examine the emerging adult’s lived experience of perinatally acquired HIV. The core of this study is to give voice to the PAHIV emerging adult by gaining an understanding of their experience of PAHIV.

PHILOSOPHICAL UNDERPINNING

Paradigm

Interpretivism

Qualitative Research

PHENOMENOLOGY

IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is the PAHIV Individual’s voice against the social, psychological, and biological challenges that they may encounter. The findings will enrich our understanding of their experience and the processes that enhance their psychological, social, and emotional well-being.

PHYSIOLOGICAL CHALLENGES

- Increased participation in post-secondary education.
- Increased number of women entering higher education.
- Increased participation in secondary education.

SOCIOLOGICAL CHALLENGES

- Career-defined gender roles.
- Sexual and gender identities.
- Social media.
- Social norms and values.
- Social support systems.
- Social networks.
- Solitary and isolated.

PSYCHOLOGICAL CHALLENGES

- Evaluation of health relationships.
- Evaluation of relationships with others.
- Evaluation of relationships with social media.
- Evaluation of relationships with friends.
- Evaluation of relationships with family.
- Evaluation of relationships with partners.
- Evaluation of relationships with romantic partners.
- Evaluation of relationships with sexual partners.
- Evaluation of relationships with intimate partners.
- Evaluation of relationships with romantic intimate partners.
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