Seroprevalence and sociological indices of HIV among the pregnant women attending ante natal in a secondary health facility

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A research to assess the sero-prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) among pregnant women attending ante-natal clinic at St. Luke Hospital, Anua-Offot, Uyo was carried out using standard serological methods. A total of one hundred and eighty-four (184) pregnant women were screened and thirty-seven (20.1%) of them were HIV-positive. The ages of all the women ranged from 17-44 years, out of which the age group 35-39 years had the highest prevalence (41.2%) of HIV positive, followed by 25-29 years (24.4%) while <20 years and ≥40 years had none. Married pregnant women had the highest overall prevalence of 14.1% while individual recognized as divorcees/sex workers had highest prevalence (70%) within group. Working pregnant women were more affected (21.9%) than totally unemployed counterparts (17.8%), just as the educated were more affected (23.9%) than the uneducated (17.9%). None of the pregnant women was undergoing prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) programs. Though civilization seemed to have been taking its toll on the married women as already reported by other research, yet unprotected sex was obviously rampant as single youth, underage and divorcee formed large numbers of the pregnant women. The urgent need for PMTCT programme in this study area becomes obvious due adverse maternal and foetal outcome associated with HIV.

Keywords: seroprevalence, pregnancy, HIV, employment, education, PMTCT