

ABSTRACT

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is still a global epidemic causing around 8000 deaths a day. Anti-retroviral (ARV) and related improvement of the medical care has stabilised growth of this epidemic. Nevertheless People Living With HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) need to live like the rest of the society and their psycho-social needs and medical needs hinder their quality of life. Thus it is timely to look at the quality of life of People Living With HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) through assessing psycho-social needs and medical needs. It was established through publications that there is a definitive gap between psycho-social needs and medical needs and the services delivered to them. Further the gap would have a direct effect on the effectiveness of the quality of services delivered in HIV/AIDS programs. The essence of this study was to investigate the possible relationship between the fulfilment of medical needs and psycho-social needs of PLWHA and how it affects their satisfaction. A quantitative study was performed with qualitative support directed to PLWHA in Sri Lanka. The conceptual framework and the variables were formulated based on recently published studies. The study comprised of 100 respondents who were registered HIV patients in Government Medical Clinics in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. The interviewer administered questioner was distributed among the sample and a qualitative interview was carried out with a medical administrator and a person living with HIV/AIDS to validate the data collected by the study proper. It was revealed that they are concerned about both Medical needs and Psycho-social needs, and the latter has the lesser concern. The findings of the study indicate that HIV patients showed that overall satisfaction that is significantly related to both Psycho-social needs and medical needs. The findings further showed that patients attach a higher importance to medical needs and that the medical needs cluster around four key factors; patient access to clinical care; spiritual and home care; patients concern for the family and stigmatisation. It was also found that, access to practice religion, health care for the family, accessibility to clinics have significant influence, and the relationship with the health care workers have a considerable impact on satisfaction of PLWHA. The study arrived at valued conclusions that significant improvements should be made in assuring medical needs as well as administrators should focus on psycho-social needs, which should complement the medical needs.