

Pervasiveness of Poverty among People Living with HIV/AIDS in South Eastern Nigeria

J. O. Ezeokana*, O. A. U. Nnedum*, and S. N. Madu**

**Department of Psychology, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria*

***Department of Psychology, University of Limpopo, South Africa*

KEYWORDS Poverty. PLWHA. HIV/AIDS Disease. Igbo People. South Eastern Nigeria. Africa

ABSTRACT The purpose of this study was to examine the pervasiveness of poverty among people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in south eastern Nigeria. A total of 154 Igbo people residing in South Eastern Nigeria made up of 50% people living with HIV/AIDS and 50% medically diagnosed HIV-negative individuals participated in a study that tested three hypotheses. Results indicated that a statistically significant difference was found between PLWHA and those that were not, regarding poor standard of living, with $F(1,153)=23.67, p<.000$; poverty, with $F(1,153)=05.76, p<.004$; but not with household poverty, with $F(1,153)=.772, p<.487$ as predicted. Socio-economic index of poverty (Nnedum, 2006) was used to assess individuals' poverty status. The results supported all the three hypotheses. The result suggests that Poverty is a prevalent issue among people living with HIV/AIDS in south eastern Nigeria. Reducing poverty is a viable pre-requisite in both stemming the epidemic and providing adequate care and support to those affected with HIV/AIDS disease?