

Exploring Pertinent and Fundamental Factors Weighing Down the Battle against HIV/AIDS in a Few African Countries

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KEYWORDS Prevention. Political Goodwill. Poverty. Culture. Gender Inequalities. Health Infrastructure

ABSTRACT This paper, through a review of literature, aims to critically discuss the factors that have made African countries so vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. The following findings were found to contribute to their vulnerability: immense and protracted poverty, migration, state of gender inequalities, the pace of HIV/AIDS response, the nature and type of the virus, the state of health infrastructure, the perceptions surrounding sex and sexuality in many African societies, patriarchy and cultural power dynamics. The following mitigation factors have been recommended: Strengthening poverty alleviation programs; sustained and effective sexual behavioural change; diluting cultures and effectuating a paradigm shift of the patriarchal mindset to be gender neutral. The paper recommends more vigorous research into the dynamics fuelling HIV/AIDS in different countries.