

Editorial

A look into children's health issues and workers' views and challenges in Botswana, Ethiopia, South Africa and Zimbabwe

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The papers included in this issue are about topics ranging from agricultural production to treatment outcomes in patients on antiretroviral treatment. They present findings and recommendations about challenges faced in four countries, namely, Botswana, Ethiopia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

In doing so, the reader will be taken into a journey to marvel on disclosure messaging in children perinatally-infected with HIV and how parents grapple with how and what to tell them about the disease they are suffering from; another paper report on how the teenagers and young adults perceive themselves with regard to the risk of acquiring HIV and other sexually-transmitted infections. Two more papers, one, a short report briefly elaborates on views of young adults entering tertiary education on emergency contraception; the other paper describes the factors associated with late antenatal booking among young mothers-to-be.

Still about children, two other papers deal with the topical issues of the consequences of lack of physical activity and the outcomes of HIV treatment in this group. On a negative note, children are over-weighted as a result of not being physically active; and on a positive note, children on antiretroviral treatment survive the infection and live longer and healthier.

Two papers report on another major disease that affect the African continent, tuberculosis. One paper summarises that patients who get to be retreated after failing the initial treatment differ from the other patients with regard to their sociodemographic profile as well as with regard to treatment outcomes. The other paper reports the views of people who

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volunteer as tuberculosis treatment supporters and elaborates on their rationale and motives for doing so.

With regards to workers, views of health care workers on pharmacovigilance programme are reported with special notes being made on challenges and training needs to be addressed; similarly the factors facilitating and the barriers to the use of respirators for protection of health care workers are also detailed in another paper. Furthermore, the views of health care professionals on the national health insurance as implemented in South Africa are presented in a paper from a study conducted at tertiary level of care hospital. Moreover, the views of nurses on the difficulties they face in implementing evidence-based nursing care are reported also.

Finally, an explorative study sheds some light on the relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law; the factors affecting agricultural production among subsistence farmers are explored together with observations on agricultural practices and recommendations on how improvements could be made. A resource-book on education is presented as a reminder that inclusive education is of utmost importance to addressing some of the challenges discussed above.