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**HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination in Malawi****Pamela Boris**

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**H**IV/AIDS is a serious global infection and chronic condition with no cure currently available. Since 1985 when the AIDS case was identified in Malawi, considerable effort has gone into HIV and AIDS responses including prevention and treatment. There is significant stigma associated with being HIV and AIDS positive in Malawi but this can be substantial with health implications by interfering with prevention effort and discouraging people with cultural behaviors by seeking diagnosis. Stigma is an attribute that deeply discredits and results in the reduction of a person or group, while discrimination involves treating someone in a different and unjust or unfair way often on the basis of their actual or perceived belonging to a particular group. It mostly consists of an action or omission that results from stigma and is directed towards those individuals who are stigmatized. Discrimination can occur at different levels such as individual, family, community or the nation, because HIV mostly affects the economically productive age group between the ages of 15 and 45 years. In most places people affected with HIV have been stigmatized. According to the Government of Malawi the major economic cost of HIV and AIDS is the loss of human resources in both private and public sectors. The main factor is to review the literature to the factors that fuel HIV-related stigma. For an effective response to address HIV and AIDS-related issues, investigation of processes that underpin HIV-related stigma and their implications for institutional policies and programs that are highly recommended as key areas for the future. Furthermore, it is argued that HIV prevention cannot be successful without addressing the associated stigma. It is also recognized that HIV and AIDS stigma can manifest differently in different settings as it is socially constructed and this may pose a limitation to it and in 2014, 64% of countries had some form of regulations that were put in place to protect people living with HIV from discrimination.

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