

**Stigmatization and its Implication on Socio-Economic Status of People Living with HIV
A Study of Maswa District, Tanzania
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Estimate of 36.9 million people globally were living with HIV in 2017 (UNAIDS, 2017) with an estimated 25 million living in sub-Saharan Africa. PLHIV now live longer due to the greater availability of Anti-RetroViral (ARV) treatment (WHO, 2017). However, stigma continues to undermine efforts to end AIDS (UNAID, 2017). This cross-sectional study focused on analysing the stigmatization and its implication toward socioeconomic status of PLHIV in Maswa district, Tanzania. PLHIV participated in the study were obtained from the three Care and Treatment Clinics in Lalago, Malampaka and Maswa hospitals in Maswa district, a total of 94 participants were obtained. Participants were randomly selected based on the attendance. Primary data were retrieved through semi structured questionnaires, Interviews and focus group discussions. Secondary data were sources from relevant researches and documents. Data were analysed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and excel, and were presented through tables and figures. The findings indicated prevalence of internalized stigma among the PLHIV in the district, thus results to PLHIV non-disclosure and implicates social lives of the PLHIV and their dependents. The study recommends Community involvement in dissemination of accurate information and facts about HIV and AIDS which will reduce or eliminate stigma triggers such as lack of information, inaccurate knowledge, and stigma outcomes of social isolation and negative self-image.