

DECLARATION

I Faustina Munalula hereby declare that this dissertation represents my own work and that it has not been previously submitted for a degree at this or any other university.

Signed:

Date:

APPROVAL

This dissertation of Faustina Munalula is approved as fulfilling part of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Education in Religious Studies of the University of Zambia.

Signature of Examiners and Date

1. Signed..... Date.....
2. Signed..... Date.....
3. Signed..... Date.....

DEDICATION

This dissertation has been dedicated to my husband, Vincent Chiyongo and my children Romeo Ndozi and Mulevwan Mantoka for their endurance, patience and moral support throughout the course of this study.

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ACRONYMS

AIDS	-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANGASS	-	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
ART	-	Antiretroviral Therapy/Treatment
ARVs	-	Antiretroviral
CHAZ	-	Churches Health Association of Zambia
HAART	-	Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy/Treatment
HIV	-	Human Immune deficiency Virus
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organisations
OPD	-	Out Patient Department
PCAZ	-	Palliative Care Association of Zambia
PLW-HIV	-	People Living with HIV
UNAIDS	-	United Nations Joint Programmes on AIDS
UTH	-	University Teaching Hospital
WHO	-	World Health Organizations
ZRA	-	Zambia Revenue Authority

ABSTRACT

The Zambian government and several other organisations tend to put more emphasis on medical treatment of HIV and AIDS than on the care for AIDS patients. As such, the Catholic Church introduced hospice palliative care services in Zambia in the 1990s to alleviate the sufferings of AIDS patients. These hospices operate on principles of combining teaching and clinical research, and they are experts in pain and symptom relief with holistic care to meet the physical, social, psychological and spiritual comfort of patients and their families. This is in line with the Church's mission of healing of the sick. This study sought to investigate this healing ministry. To achieve this, the researcher used qualitative method in the collection and analysis of data, and three hospices were picked as a unit of analysis. A case study design was adopted and the data was collected using interviews, participant observation and document analysis. A purposively selected sample size of 45 was used.

The research reveals that hospice services have become relevant elements of Catholic pastoral ministry. In addition, it shows that through palliative care, terminally ill patients have regained strength and through counseling, families have incorporated their sick siblings in family affairs. Those who had lost hope of living have received hope to go on with their lives. Hospices provide good nutrition which enables the weak to gain strength and be able to go back home smiling and well enough to do some work. In addition, families are also given assistance to help them pull through the tormenting period. Furthermore, the research revealed that in executing holistic care, there was need for every hospice to have a chaplain who would look into the spiritual needs of the sick. It further revealed that experts do not just provide services but learn virtues such as patience, joy, tolerance and endurance from nursing the terminally ill.

In conclusion, research findings revealed that in the light of no cure or vaccine for HIV and AIDS yet found, a hospice with palliative care services remains the ideal place to offer love and care to the terminally ill patients with no stigma attached, hence maintaining their dignity even in the face of death. Therefore, it is recommended that every sector should work towards alleviating the sufferings of those infected and affected by AIDS.