

DECLARATION

I, Shanzuwa Biggie do solemnly declare that this dissertation represents my own work and that it has not been previously submitted in whole or in part for examination for a degree at this or any other University.

Signed:.....

Date:

DEDICATION

To my wife MutintaMuchinduShanzuwa and four children; Biggie Shanzuwa Jr., Muchindu, Mukashansuwa and Shamalinda for their exceptional support and patience during the time of this study.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

This dissertation of Biggie Shanzuwa is approved as fulfilling part of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Master of Education in Special Education of the University of Zambia.

Signed Date.....

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Lastly, but not the least, to my wife Mutinta and children, Biggie Jr., Muchindu, Mukashansuwaand Shamalinda, who gave needed encouragement. God bless you all.

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Visually Impaired Learners' knowledge of the condition known as HIV and AIDS..27

Table 2: Availability of books on HIV and AIDS in Braille.....28

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.
CDC	Centre for Diseases Control.
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions.
HAART	Highly Active Anti-retroviral Therapy.
HIV	Human Immune Virus or Human Immunodeficiency Virus.
KS	Kaposi's Sarcoma.
MoH	Ministry of Health.
MTCT	Mother to Child Transmission.
OP	Opportunistic Infection.
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS.
PCP	PneumocystsCarini Pneumonia.
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection.
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease.
SAFAIDS	Southern Africa HIV/AIDS Information Dissemination Service.
UNICEF	United Nations Children Education Fund.
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
USAID	United State Agency for International Development.
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS.
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing.
WHO	World Health Organization.
ZAFOD	Zambia Federation of the Disabled.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the visually impaired pupils' awareness of HIV and AIDS in Upper Basic Schools. The study was guided by the following objectives: (1) to determine the extent of HIV and AIDS awareness among the visually impaired pupils in Upper Basic Schools of Zambia, (2) to find out how the visually impaired pupils in Upper Basic Schools acquired information on HIV and AIDS, and (3) to establish ways by which information on HIV and AIDS awareness for the visually impaired pupils in Upper Basic Schools may be increased if at all it was low. The study used a case study approach. Both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection were employed. The population consisted of all the visually impaired pupils and specialist teachers in Upper Basic Schools of Zambia. The sample size comprised 40 visually impaired pupils, (10 from each school in the sample), 4 head teachers and 8 specialist teachers (2 from each school in the sample). The study revealed that the majority of the visually impaired pupils do not have in-depth awareness of HIV and AIDS. The main reason advanced was largely lack of Braille version of the textbooks and other learning and teaching materials on the subject. The study revealed that the main sources of Pupils' awareness of HIV and AIDS matters were through drama and sensitization talks from teachers. The study also showed that there were no proper libraries within the sampled schools. Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations have been suggested: The Ministry of Education should ensure that all HIV and AIDS material sent to schools for the visually impaired is transcribed into Braille in order to enable them to read it.

1. The Ministry of Education should send HIV and AIDS Brailled material to all schools for the visually impaired in order to make it accessible to learners and thereby increase their awareness of the pandemic in those schools.
2. The Ministry of Education should train more teachers in Braille in order to increase literacy among the visually impaired and enable many of them to read and be aware of HIV/AIDS matters.

