

This is a research report of a study set out to investigate the influence of gender related factors on access to antiretroviral therapy. The results showed that the number of females visiting ART clinics was twice that of males, and in the 18-26 years age bracket, females were 3 times more affected by HIV/AIDS than males. The marital status carried a 5-fold risk of carrying the AIDS virus while women were twice as likely to be infected by their husbands as compared to men getting the virus from their wives. The findings indicate that the lower the formal education, the higher the chances of carrying the virus. The findings suggest men had a significant advantage over women on access to ARVs. The clinic schedules precluded about 10% of the patients from access. Social stigma was low (approx. 10%) within spouses, and very high (approx. 90%) outside the institution of marriage. Women bore the larger burden of the stigma. In addition, the results suggest that gender segregated clinics would have no influence on the number of patients attending the clinics.