



**DE MONTFORT
UNIVERSITY
LEICESTER**

Exploring the support needs of HIV positive mothers that have uninfected children: An account of speaking with ten local women about life, motherhood and HIV, *Pandya R, 2006*

1) Problem:

Anecdotal evidence suggested that HIV positive women only accessed specialist HIV services during key stages in their life: i.e. diagnosis, childbirth or when they had a poor CD4 count and high viral load.

2) Research design:

- Qualitative
- Interpretivist
- Sampling frame: cluster and purposeful strategies were adopted. Inviting women who lived in Leicester and were HIV positive with one or more uninfected children.
- Ten semi-structured interviews, conducted face to face.
- Thematic analysis
- Research steering committee which had stakeholder involvement

3) Findings:

- Seven mothers thought HIV affects their life in many ways including; appetite, sleep, libido, relationships and the future.

- Two women found out they were HIV positive through blood donor centres. Four mothers were tested for HIV during antenatal screening. Two said their infection was a result of being raped in Africa.
- Nine mothers received domestic help and informal support from family when they were sick.
- Nine mothers had not disclosed their HIV status to their child(ren).

4) Recommendations:

- A. More research is needed on children and young people affected by HIV and their needs
- B. Specialist HIV services need work closely with mainstream services to ensure co-ordinated and seamless support for people living with HIV
- C. Existing HIV services need to set up self help training/ support for women to help ease the difficult process of HIV disclosure to family, including children.
- D. Information needs to be more widely available on HIV testing, pre and post test counselling.