

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AIDS/HIV

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In the memory of my parents
without whom I would not have come this far

Dedicated to my beloved daughters
Bethilda Anne and Felicia Anne

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ABSTRACT

HIV/AIDS has become a seemingly important health, as well as socio economic issue that has crippling effects on the economy of a nation. It not only has serious implications on the high risk behaviour groups but tends to spill over to affect the economic performances of a nation. At the same time poor economic conditions do tend to promote the high incidences of the diseases especially poorly developed nations such as the South African countries.

The purpose of this study is to examine the economic impact of HIV/AIDS in Malaysia. Although it is a recent phenomena, and HIV/AIDS prevalence in this country is low relative to other Southeast Asian countries, this study aims to point out that the economic impact of the disease is colossal and need close monitoring in order to ward of the serious implications that it could otherwise cause.

In addition this study looks into the household impact as well as the macroeconomic impact that is to look at how the quality and quantity of labour can be affected by the disease, hence causing a shortage in the already tensed demand for labour in the country. This study also examines the cost incurred by the individual and the government in treatment and control measures and how significant is the government's expenditure in controlling the epidemic. The government's budget allocation for the treatment and control measures is also looked into. Investigation on the economic performance and the HIV/AIDS disease and how economic conditions affect the HIV/AIDS is another area that is discussed as well as the appropriate policy measures to contain the spread of the disease

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