

H.I.V./AIDS campaign thro' Swahili poetry

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One of the major challenges facing Kenya and indeed Africa as a whole is H.I.V./AIDS. The Kenyan Government has put the fight against H.I.V./AIDS top in its agenda.

On first sight, language appears to have little or nothing to do with the real and burning problems of economic development, spread of H.I.V. and poverty alleviations. However, language plays a critical role in the campaign against H.I.V./AIDS.

Language is a facilitator of the process of development. Without a common language that is shared among many communities, the development process and especially the transfer knowledge will drag on for years.

The proposed paper seeks to analyse the use of Swahili Poetry to convey H.I.V/AIDS messages. Kiswahili is the national language of Kenya and it is estimated that 80% of the Kenyan population can read and write Kiswahili. Kiswahili Poetry has been instrumental in the campaign against the spread of H.I.V/AIDS in Kenya.

Among the issues of concern that this paper seeks to address are;

- What issues does Kiswahili Poetry address?*
- In what form does Kiswahili come?*
- How available is Swahili Poetry to the common man?*
- How does Kiswahili Poetry address H.I.V/AIDS? In the form of warning messages? Cautioning or informing?*

By answering above and other questions, we hope to demonstrate that Kiswahili Poetry is a powerful tool in alleviating the spread of H.I.V/AIDS in Kenya.