

Introduction

Persons with disabilities living with HIV (PWDLHIV) experience overlapping markers of stigma, discrimination, and lack of access to basic amenities, education, and health services. They also suffer from a lack of HIV interventions and services presented in terms of unavailability of technical aids, lack of access to health facilities, and access to HIV diagnosis, prevention, and treatment services.

PWDLHIV experience other intersecting issues of gender and poverty. Some of the issues are heightened because of sociocultural beliefs such as the Asexuality narrative.

Other Social identities and factors such as socioeconomic status (SES), age, sociocultural beliefs, geographic setting, gender, education, Sexuality and Religion intersect to cause privilege or disadvantages for PWDLHIV in relation to ART adherence.

This study explored the lived experiences of PWDLHIV concerning adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) in Nigeria.

Methods

Study Design

- Qualitative research design
- **Theoretical Framework:** *Intersectionality*
- In depth interviews using open and close ended questions
- 37 Interviews conducted
- Structured observation also conducted.

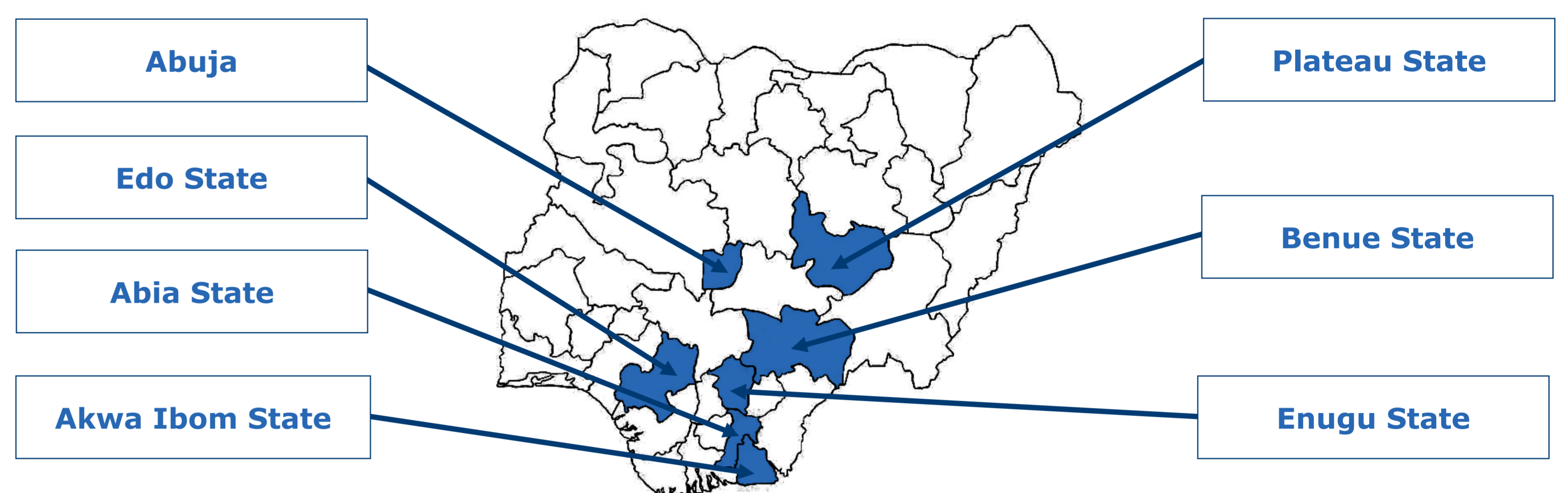
Study Population, Sampling, and Recruitment

- 29 persons with disabilities living with HIV from 6 Nigerian states based on the National AIDS Indicator Impact Survey (NAIIS).
- The states are states with high and medium prevalence rates and where the first author had networks in.

Data Analysis

- Reflexive Thematic Analysis (Braun et al., 2019)
- All recorded interviews were transcribed and imported into NVivo 1.5.1 for analysis

Recruitment Sites



Recruitment Criteria

Inclusion

1. Persons with physical disabilities. If recruitment of persons with physical disability proves difficult considering they could be hard-to-reach, persons with sensory disabilities will also be recruited.
2. PWDs must also be HIV positive.
3. PWDLHIV who are enrolled in care or not.
4. Adults who are greater than or equal to 18 years of age.

Exclusion

1. PWDs who are HIV negative.
2. PWDs with intellectual or psychosocial disability.
3. PWDs with a 'double impairment' particularly visual and hearing impairment as communication would be too difficult or participants cannot give informed consent.

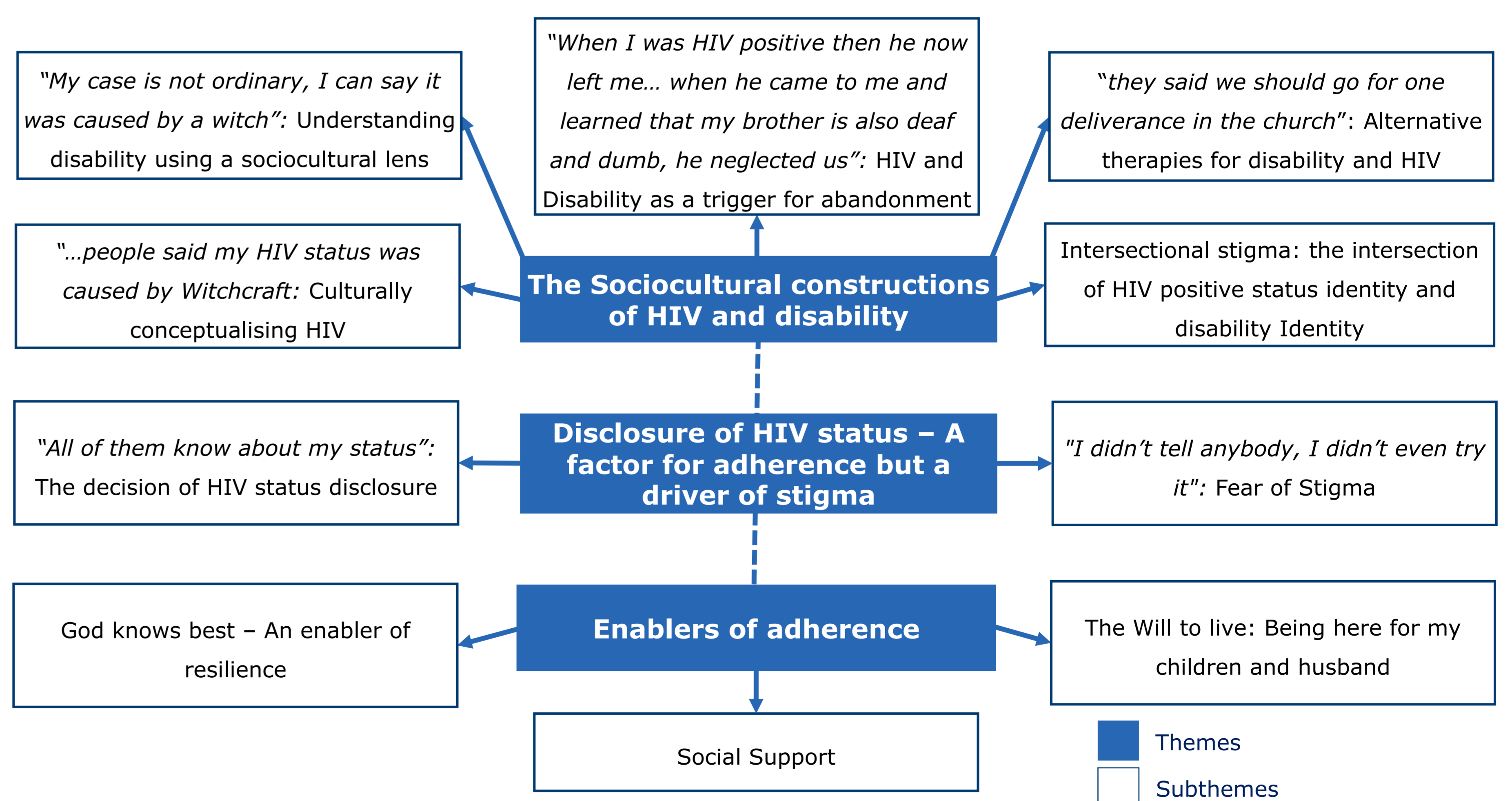
Conclusion

- The patriarchal system in African settings means women experience more disadvantages than men in terms of HIV services.
- Understanding the lived experiences of PWDLHIV can assist in providing rich context and support policy implementation that relate to PWDLHIV.
- The inaccessibility of HIV services for PWDLWH is multifaceted and intersectional. Interventions that consider the different social identities such as Gender and Socioeconomic Status of PWDLHIV may be more impactful.
- Governments within Africa should commit to the inclusion of PWDLWH in National Strategic Plans (NSPs), which will support disability-inclusive HIV programming.

Limitations

- Being a PhD study, it is limited by time and resources.
- Focus on only persons with physical and sensory disabilities but the ethical implication and complexities of including persons with learning and intellectual disabilities may have not being practicable for a PhD study of this scale.
- Inability of the researcher to travel for field work deprived the researcher of engaging more and possibly getting richer data. However, the instructive use of Research Assistants was timely, engaging and innovative.

Results



Acknowledgements

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