

Just published (book in French) - February 2014

Family and society through the lens of HIV/AIDS epidemic in Viet Nam

Myriam de LOENZIEN

Summary

The main hypothesis of this book lies in the central role of the family in structuring behaviors and attitudes regarding health and social recourse, in connection with two other crucial sets of institutions in the fight against HIV/AIDS: the health sector and the support groups. This research uses data from an original study performed in 2006 and 2008 in urban and rural areas of Quang Ninh province in Viet Nam. Comparisons are made with data from the 2005 Vietnam Population and AIDS Indicators Survey (VPAIS). Results show that family plays a central role in the search for solutions to problems linked to the epidemic. Specific characteristics of HIV positive people and members of their households show various types of vulnerability and impacts of HIV infection. Regarding prevention, family faces many impediments, among others lack of information and difficulties in ensuring communication between its members regarding sensitive topics. It intervenes in many ways in the process of testing. Disclosure of an HIV positive status often leads to new configurations of relationships. Care and treatment of health problems highlight a development of help provided by parents to their adult children and emphasizes female involvement. This contrasts with weakening spouse relationships. Through these many aspects, HIV epidemic appears as revealing family relationships as well as playing a dynamic role in their evolution in a context of restructuring health sector, developing associations and changing social norms.

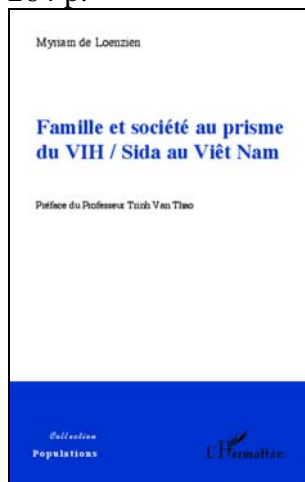
Key words: Family, HIV/AIDS, prevention, care, household, Vietnam

<http://www.editions-harmattan.fr/index.asp?navig=catalogue&obj=livre&no=42753>

Myriam de LOENZIEN explores the relationships between population, society and health in Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Demographer at the French Research Institute for Development (IRD), she works at the Population and Development Center (CEPED) and teaches population studies at Paris Rene Descartes university.

ISBN : 233633951X, 9782336339511

264 p.



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