

DISSERTATION TITLE:
**FACTORS INFLUENCING LOW UTILIZATION OF ITNs AMONG MULEBA
DISTRICT COMMUNITY**

BY PEARSON P. KABANTEGA

ABSTRACT

Malaria remains one of the major public health problems causing high human morbidity and mortality worldwide. It is estimated that malaria kills one child in every 30 seconds in the world and the majority of deaths occur in Africa. Tanzania is among the mostly affected Sub Saharan African countries, whereby malaria rank number one in terms of morbidity and mortality. The current, WHO initiatives for malaria control such as Roll Back Malaria (RBM), emphasizes among other strategies the use of ITNs as one of the key interventions for malaria control in sub Saharan Africa Tanzania inclusive. Intervention for controlling malaria-using ITNs was launched countrywide the year 1998. In its National Malaria Medium Term Plan (NMTP) Tanzania set target to ensure at least 60% of children less than five years and pregnant mothers sleep under ITNs by the year 2007.

A cross sectional descriptive study was conducted in Muleba district of Kagera region in which among the initiatives used to control malaria is the use of ITNs. The objective of the study was to determine the magnitude of ITNs utilization and their influencing factors, aiming to come up with information that would help to improve and sustain ITNs utilization.

A total of 400 heads of household, 4 people focus group discussion of 42, 34 shopkeepers and 2 ITNs distributors records review were included in the study. The overall nets utilization was 18% and ITNs utilization was extremely low 6%. There was significant association of influences on use of mosquito nets and ITNs by differences in level of education, occupation, socio-economic status, distance from sources of ITNs and cost of ITNs. However there was no significant association of influences on mosquito nets and ITNs utilization by family size and perception of ITNs effectiveness.

The main sources of nets and ITNs for users were health facilities and shops, the contribution of other sources were negligible. The records of ITNs distributors showed

extremely low procurement and distribution records too far to suffice the target for effectiveness of ITNs. The study has come up with gaps that need addressing to scale up ITNs utilization. Health Action Model (HAM) is the appropriate model that will be used for rectifying the situation for improving ITNs use in Muleba district.