

# FACTORS THAT ENHANCED PREVENTION OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV IN NASARAWA STATE OF NIGERIA USING LOGISTIC, POISSON AND NEGATIVE BINOMIAL REGRESSION MODELS

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## ABSTRACT

In Sub-Saharan African Countries such as Nigeria with high prevalence rate, Child HIV/AIDS acquired through Mother-to-Child transmission (MTCT) can be largely prevented by using a well-established prevention programme and scheme. This study examined factors that can enhanced Prevention of Mother-to-Child transmission (PMTCT) in Nasarawa State. To achieve this, structured questionnaire were used to collect data from one hundred and sixteen (116) women attending two (2) primary facilities and two (2) secondary facilities in the State. This study utilized methods of Poisson Regression, Negative Binomial Regression and Logistic Regression Analyses. Results revealed that women with at least a secondary school education, women with husband in military and women with perceived confidentiality of their HIV status significantly enhanced PMTCT of HIV in Nasarawa State while significant proportion of the women attest to the fact that drugs are available in the facilities ( $p\text{-value}=0.0000<0.05$ ). Other factors include mother income level, willingness to continue with PMTCT programme and women in support group can also enhanced PMTCT though they are not significant. This study recommends that the factors identified should be explored by NGOs, Ministry of Health and, Support groups and other relevant agencies since they have the capacity to enhanced PMTCT of HIV in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Prevention of Mother-to-Child transmission (PMTCT), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Poisson, Negative Binomial, Logistic, Regression

## 1.

### Introduction

Mother-to-child transmission of HIV is the spread of HIV from HIV-infected woman to her child during pregnancy, childbirth, delivery and breastfeeding. Mother-to-child transmission is most common way that children become infected with HIV (De cock, 2000). Without treatment, if a

pregnant woman is living with HIV the likelihood of the virus passing from mother-to-child is 15% to 45% (NACA, 2019).

MTCT of HIV accounts for a large percentage of infections and Prevention of Mother- to- Child Transmission (PMTCT) coverage in Nigeria falls far below the targeted universal coverage of 80%, and achieving virtual elimination of MTCT by 2021 by National strategic plan (NSP) remains far-fetched if access to the services is not improved upon (NACA, 2019).

The most challenging public health problem is HIV, with statistics of about 36.7 (range, 34.0–39.8) million persons living with HIV, 1.8 (range, 1.6–2.1) million new infections, and 1 million mortalities by the end of 2016. Infact, over 35 million lives have been lost to HIV and associated infections globally, with sub-Saharan Africa remaining the most affected region, as it accounts for two-thirds of the global total of new HIV infections and with 36.7 million people living with HIV in 2016 (UNAIDS,2017).

This study therefore examined the possible factors that can enhance the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Nasarawa State of Nigeria using logistic, Poisson and Negative Binomial Regression Models

## 2. Literature Review

Amoran et al (2012) studied a comparative analysis of teenagers and older pregnant women in the utilization of prevention of mother to child transmission service in western Nigeria. Analytical cross-sectional studies were used with selected pregnant women (52 teenagers and 148 adults) in Shagamu, Ogun state. The findings highlighted that the teenagers' pregnant women who were more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS infection did not utilize PMTCT service as much as the older pregnant women. They recommended that special consideration should be giving to teenagers and those from high socio-economic group in the design scale up programmes to improve uptake of PMTCT.

Malaju et al (2012) took a study on Determinant factors of pregnant mother's knowledge on mother-to-child transmission of HIV and its prevention in Gonder town, North West Ethiopia. Cross-Sectional health institution based study was conducted from July 22nd to August 18th 2011. Their findings indicated that majority of the women knew it is possible to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Recommendation was made on, the need or exerting more effort to teach mothers about MTCT and PMTCT of HIV and there should also be well functioning and assessable health facilities in the country, especially the rural areas.

Nwakaego (2014) studied factors influencing utilization of PMTCT service in the federal Capital territory of Nigeria. Cross-sectional design. The findings, most women that participated in the study are under 35 years, self-employ women also higher than any group. The findings also underscored the importance of on-going awareness of HIV/AIDS, intervention during antenatal visit and beyond. Recommendation, support pregnant women such as HIV counsels and testing (HCT), ART infant feeding option should be packaged under PMTCT services. .

Sampsom (2018) researched on factors influencing male involvement in antenatal care in Shai Osudoku district of the greater Accra region, Ghana. Method used was logistic regression of empirical studies. The study found that majority of the males in Shai was highly involved in

ANC service of their partners. After controlling for other variables, four factors significantly predicted male involvement, in their spouse/partner's ANC activities which includes male's level of education and income class. The recommendation is that the district health management team in collaboration with community leaders should education campaign with communities to educate community members.

Essel (2018) conducted a research on factors affecting adherence to anti-retroviral therapy among women in selected Health facilities in greater Accra region. Cross-sectional study design was employed. The finding specified adherence to ART treatment among the women seeking treatment in the selected health facilities was poor at about 27%. Socio-cultural factors were found to have negative effect on adherence to ART among the women. He therefore recommended, in other to enhance good adherence to ART among women, the Ghana health service should ensure the effective adherence assessment tools.

### 3. Model specification

In this research work, three models were used for the data analysis namely: Negative Binomial Regression Model (NBRM), Poisson Regression Model (PRM) and Logistic Regression Model (LRM).

#### The Negative Binomial Regression Models

The binomial distribution is defined as a discrete distribution of the number of successes in a sequence of independent and identically distributed Bernoulli trials before a specified number of failures are observed. The negative binomial considers the results of a series of trials that can be considered either a success or failure (Shegping & Gilbert, 2015).

$$pr(x = x) = \binom{k+x-1}{x-1} p^k q^x \quad 0 \leq x < \infty$$

The mean, variance, skewness and kurtosis of the distribution are as follows:

$$mean = kq/p; \quad ce = kq/p^2; \quad skewness = (1 + q)((kq)^2); \quad \text{and}$$

$$kurtosis = 3 + \frac{6}{k} + \frac{p^2}{kq}$$

Negative Binomial regression is often using to model overdispersion in count data (Everitt, 2002).

Binomial regression model has been used by so many researchers because it is the standard choice for basic count data model. We have two basic types of negative binomial models, denoted as NB1 and NB2 (Greene, 2008).

#### Negative binomial 2 (NB) model

In literature, the PDF of the NB 2 model is given as (Yang, 2015):

$$f(y_i; \Psi; \mu_i) = \left( \frac{y_i + \Psi - 1}{\Psi - 1} \right) \left( \frac{(\Psi)^\Psi}{\mu_i + \Psi} \right) \left( \frac{(\mu_i)^{y_i}}{\mu_i + \Psi} \right)$$

Where:

$\Psi$ =Gamma Distribution

$\Gamma$ =Gamma Function

This is the probability mass function of a negative binomial distribution.

The first two moments of the NB 2are as follows:

$E(y_i; \Psi, \mu_i) = \mu_i$  And

$$\ln[L(y, \beta)] = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i \ln \left( \frac{\Psi}{1 + \Psi} \right) - \Psi^{-1} \ln(1 + \Psi) + \ln \Gamma(y_i + 1) - \ln \Gamma(\Psi^{-1}))$$

Where  $\mu_i = \exp(x'_i \beta)$

Where the conditional variance is greater than the conditional mean of the outcome variable (overdispersion). In addition, it is clear that when  $\psi$  is very large,

$\frac{\mu_i^2}{\Psi}, \text{var}((y_i; \Psi; \mu_i), \mu_i = E(y_i; \Psi; \mu_i))$  and the expected value or mean converges to variance.

### Poisson Regression Model (PRM):

Poisson distribution is the probability distribution of the number of occurrence,  $X$ , of some random event, in an interval of time or space. Given by:

$\text{pr}(X = x) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!}; x = 0, 1, \dots$ , The mean and the variance of the distribution are both  $\lambda$ .

The skewness of the distribution is:

and its kurtosis is  $3 + 1/\lambda$ .

In Poisson regression model, we suppose that the  $\mu_i$  is determined by a set of  $k$  regressor variables (the  $X$ 's).

Note that often,  $X_{i=1}$  and  $\beta_1$  is called the intercept. The regression coefficients  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_k$  are unknown parameters that are estimated from a set of data. Their estimates are labelled  $\hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_2, \dots, \hat{\beta}_k$ .

Using this notation, the fundamental Poisson regression model for an observation  $i$  is written as

$$\text{Pr}(Y_i = y_i | u_i, t_i) = \frac{e^{-\mu_i t_i} (\mu_i t_i)^{y_i}}{y_i!}$$

Where

$$\mu_i = t_i \mu(x'_i \beta)$$

That is, for a given set of values of the regressor variables, the outcome follows the Poisson distribution

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### Logistic regression model (LRM)

The purpose of using logistic regression in this research work is because it's a multivariate method for modelling relationship between multiple independent variables and categorical dependent variable. The multivariate methods explore a relation between two or more predictors (independent) variables and one outcome (dependent) variable (Kleinbaum & Klein, 2010).

$$F(y) = \frac{e^x}{1 + e^x}, x \in \mathbb{R}$$

Probability density function of logistic distribution (PDF) is given by:

$$f(y) = \frac{e^x}{(1 + e^x)^2}, x \in \mathbb{R}$$

**i. Odds ratio for one event**

Odds of an event are the ratio of the probability that an event will occur to the probability that it will not occur. If the probability of an event occurring is  $p$ , the probability of the event not occurring is  $(1-p)$ . Then the corresponding odds are a value given by:

$$\text{Odds of \{event\}} = \frac{p}{1-p}$$

**ii. Odds ratio for two events**

The odds ratio (OR) is a comparative measure of two odds relative to different events. For two events A and B, the corresponding odds of A occurring relative to B occurring is:

$$\text{odds ratio\{A vs. B\}} = \frac{\text{odds \{A\}}}{\text{odds \{B\}}} = \frac{P_{A|1-P_A}}{P_{B|1-P_B}}$$

An odds ratio (OR) is a measure of association between an exposure and an out-come

#### 4. Data Collection

Method of data collection was a primary data. The data were collected through a survey using an interviewer administered structured questionnaire method. The questionnaires were administered one-on-one to each respondent by the investigator and his assistants

#### 5. Analysis and Results

**Table 1: Test for over-dispersion.**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Variance
Number of children with HIV	116	.00	4.00	.3793	.516
Valid N (listwise)	116				

Table 1 above shows test for over-dispersion of the response (Number of children with HIV)

Variables and result revealed overdispersion (variance > mean).

**Table 2: Poisson regression for children with HIV**

Poisson regression		Number of obs	=	114		
		Wald chi2(34)	=	233.09		
Prob> chi2	=	0.0000				
Log pseudolikelihood	=	-67.341083	Pseudo R2	=	0.2964	
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HIVchild		Coef.	Robust Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
rel		-.4151918	.6463745	-0.64	0.521	-1.682063 .851679
age1		.6379172	.70885	0.90	0.368	-.7514034 2.027238

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age2 | .7985174 .5853314 1.36 0.173 -.348711 1.945746
age3 | .9310406 .7968468 1.17 0.243 -.6307504 2.492832
age4 | .8526455 .6746592 1.26 0.206 -.4696621 2.174953
age5 | 1.52173 1.042378 1.46 0.144 -.5212942 3.564754
marit1 | -.4983637 .8620398 -0.58 0.563 -2.187931 1.191203
marit2 | -.2085354 .9455675 -0.22 0.825 -2.061814 1.644743
marit3 | .4624031 .9044274 0.51 0.609 -1.310242 2.235048
edu1 | .3272905 .4546861 0.72 0.472 -.5638778 1.218459
edu2 | -.7486751 1.389433 -0.54 0.590 -3.471914 1.974564
edu3 | .823827 .4976017 1.66 0.098 -.1514544 1.799109
edu4 | -2.483938 .7480617 -3.32 0.001 -3.950112 -1.017764
edu5 | -.9443637 .8724405 -1.08 0.279 -2.654316 .7655882
Moccup1 | -.4607804 1.459048 -0.32 0.752 -3.320463 2.398902
Moccup2 | .8094442 .7581394 1.07 0.286 -.6764817 2.29537
Moccup3 | .4706878 .6325086 0.74 0.457 -.7690062 1.710382
Moccup4 | -.7693218 .6210811 -1.24 0.215 -1.986618 .4479747
Mincome1 | -1.090393 .6295102 -1.73 0.083 -2.32421 .1434245
Mincome2 | 1.248262 1.112294 1.12 0.262 -.9317938 3.428318
Hoccup1 | .2453988 .5189256 0.47 0.636 -.7716766 1.262474
Hoccup2 | -.9955308 .9593293 -1.04 0.299 -2.875782 .8847202
Hoccup3 | -3.045572 1.289295 -2.36 0.018 -5.572543 -.5186008
Hoccup4 | -.6501139 .7313386 -0.89 0.374 -2.083511 .7832835
Hincome1 | .7471863 .5890355 1.27 0.205 -.4073021 1.901675
Hincome2 | 1.916094 .7544118 2.54 0.011 .4374737 3.394714
Hincome3 | .6198454 1.20044 0.52 0.606 -1.732973 2.972664
Time1 | -.382289 .3819598 -1.00 0.317 -1.130917 .3663386
AwarePMTCT | .7934288 1.056556 0.75 0.453 -1.277383 2.864241
continuePMTCT | -.1991605 .4760549 -0.42 0.676 -1.132211 .73389
followupa | .7934496 .4331456 1.83 0.067 -.0555002 1.642399
support | -.6451419 .6419503 -1.00 0.315 -1.903341 .6130576
confidence | -2.571557 .8832397 -2.91 0.004 -4.302675 -.8404393
spouseperm | .0903899 .6474832 0.14 0.889 -1.178654 1.359434
_cons | -.3641718 1.424321 -0.26 0.798 -3.15579 2.427447

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.. estatgof
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Deviance goodness-of-fit = 64.12863
Prob>chi2(79) = 0.8874
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Pearson goodness-of-fit = 219.4502
Prob>chi2(79) = 0.0000
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Akaike's information criterion and Bayesian information criterion

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Model | Obsll(null) ll(model) df AIC BIC
-----+-----
. | 114 -95.71023 -67.34108 35 204.6822

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The results of Poisson regression model in table 2 above revealed that a woman with at least a secondary school education (edu 4) is less likely to have a child with HIV positive when compared with a woman without any form of education (edu 4=-2.483938, p-value=0.001<0.05). In addition, women whose husband is a military personnel is less likely to have a child with HIV positive status when compared with a woman whose husband is a civil servant (Hoccup=-3.045572, p-value=0.0018 <0.05). Also a woman who perceived that her HIV status is kept confidential is less likely to have a child with HIV positive status when compare to a woman who perceive that her status is not kept confidence (confidence=-2.571557, p-value=0,004<0.05)

### Table 3: Negative binomial regression with reported IRR

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Negative binomial regression          Number of obs    =          114
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HIVchild	IRR	Robust Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
rel	.6602144	.4267492	-0.64	0.521	.1859883	2.343605
age1	1.892529	1.341532	0.90	0.368	.4716965	7.593156
age2	2.222232	1.300757	1.36	0.173	.7055842	6.998903
age3	2.537142	2.021727	1.17	0.243	.5321855	12.09558
age4	2.345846	1.582661	1.26	0.206	.625206	8.801888
age5	4.580117	4.774243	1.46	0.144	.5937414	35.33099
marit1	.6075164	.523708	-0.58	0.563	.1121455	3.291048
marit2	.8117634	.7675812	-0.22	0.825	.1272204	5.179672
marit3	1.587889	1.436142	0.51	0.609	.2697513	9.347093
edu1	1.3872	.6307417	0.72	0.472	.5689954	3.381967
edu2	.473002	.6572069	-0.54	0.590	.0310579	7.203683
edu3	2.279192	1.134139	1.66	0.098	.8594447	6.044268
edu4	.0834144	.0623993	-3.32	0.001	.0192525	.3614051
edu5	.3889227	.3393149	-1.08	0.279	.0703451	2.150267
Moccup1	.630783	.9203475	-0.32	0.752	.0361351	11.01109
Moccup2	2.246636	1.703278	1.07	0.286	.5083912	9.928132
Moccup3	1.601086	1.012707	0.74	0.457	.4634669	5.531085
Moccup4	.4633315	.2877682	-1.24	0.215	.1371587	1.565166
Mincome1	.336086	.2115715	-1.73	0.083	.09786	1.154238
Mincome2	3.484301	3.875582	1.12	0.262	.3938452	30.82519
Hoccup1	1.27812	.6632517	0.47	0.636	.4622319	3.534139
Hoccup2	.3695242	.3544998	-1.04	0.299	.0563703	2.422342
Hoccup3	.0475697	.0613318	-2.36	0.018	.0038008	.5953722
Hoccup4	.521987	.3817496	-0.89	0.374	.1244923	2.188653
Hincome1	2.111042	1.243483	1.27	0.205	.665437	6.697098
Hincome2	6.794217	5.125681	2.54	0.011	1.548736	29.80584
Hincome3	1.858639	2.231207	0.52	0.606	.1767538	19.54436
Time1	.6822976	.2606126	-1.00	0.317	.322735	1.442453
AwarePMTCT	2.210961	2.336009	0.75	0.453	.2787645	17.53577
continuePMTCT	.8194158	.3900902	-0.42	0.676	.3223163	2.083178
followupa	2.211001	.9576926	1.83	0.067	.9460017	5.167565
support	.524588	.336762	-1.00	0.315	.1490682	1.846085
confidence	.0764171	.067495	-2.91	0.004	.0135323	.431529
spouseperm	1.094595	.7087378	0.14	0.889	.3076879	3.894007
_cons	.6947807	.989598	-0.26	0.798	.0426044	11.33029
/lnalpha	-16.6956	.3713179			-17.42337	-15.96783
alpha	5.61e-08	2.08e-08			2.71e-08	1.16e-07

Above result for Negative Binomial regression model in table 3 revealed that a woman with at least a secondary school education (edu 4) is less likely to have a child with HIV positive when compared with a woman without any form of education (edu 4=-2.483935, p-value=0.001<0.05). In addition, women whose husband is a military personnel is less likely to have a child with HIV positive status when compared with a woman whose husband is a civil servant (Hoccup=-3.04556, p-value=0.0018 <0.05). Also a woman who perceived that her HIV status is kept confidential is less likely to have a child with HIV positive status when compare to a woman who perceive that her status is not kept confidence (confidence=-2.571548, p-value=0.004<0.05)

**Table 4: logistic regression with reported odd ratio**

HIVchild1	Odds Ratio	Robust Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
rel	.7594156	.6146129	-0.34	0.734	.1554469 3.710026
age1	1.974818	1.987765	0.68	0.499	.274628 14.20068
age2	1.832675	1.801641	0.62	0.538	.2668689 12.58557
age3	3.214217	3.311409	1.13	0.257	.4267119 24.21116
age4	2.564969	2.887012	0.84	0.403	.2824936 23.28926
age5	18.72497	35.18152	1.56	0.119	.4711243 744.229
marit1	1.120867	1.817586	0.07	0.944	.0466933 26.90628
marit2	1.281665	1.427964	0.22	0.824	.1443478 11.37991
marit3	9.870754	13.37934	1.69	0.091	.6927663 140.6416
edu1	1.485196	1.134294	0.52	0.605	.3324244 6.635517
edu2	.7459452	1.22136	-0.18	0.858	.0301306 18.46741
edu3	2.357282	1.888572	1.07	0.284	.4902962 11.33352
edu4	.0214175	.0350272	-2.35	0.019	.0008683 .5282787
edu5	.3202334	.4105516	-0.89	0.374	.0259534 3.951298
Moccup1	.3448351	.7116139	-0.52	0.606	.0060401 19.68707
Moccup2	2.393743	2.707618	0.77	0.440	.2607737 21.9731
Moccup3	3.989901	5.53662	1.00	0.319	.2628966 60.55349
Moccup4	.4859211	.4377214	-0.80	0.423	.0831375 2.840106
Mincome1	.1807965	.1696089	-1.82	0.068	.0287515 1.136893
Mincome2	5.220381	9.937956	0.87	0.385	.1251076 217.8316
Hoccup1	1.591356	1.285245	0.58	0.565	.3268149 7.748772
Hoccup2	.2102608	.2526942	-1.30	0.194	.0199422 2.216887
Hoccup3	.0301226	.0455825	-2.31	0.021	.0015518 .5847354
Hoccup4	.3724788	.3840735	-0.96	0.338	.0493632 2.810605
Hincome1	4.960152	4.615203	1.72	0.085	.8007363 30.72561
Hincome2	45.16841	63.55606	2.71	0.007	2.86495 712.1191
Hincome3	5.294375	9.442723	0.93	0.350	.1605698 174.5684
Time1	1.130663	.6738838	0.21	0.837	.3515688 3.636267
AwarePMTCT	2.073555	3.06156	0.49	0.621	.1147981 37.45385
continuePMTCT	.3171143	.2948738	-1.24	0.217	.0512522 1.962091
followupa	3.406181	2.256791	1.85	0.064	.9296033 12.48067
support	.3495881	.3851382	-0.95	0.340	.0403455 3.029132
confidence	.0400327	.0585135	-2.20	0.028	.0022817 .7023722
spouseperm	3.630715	3.231462	1.45	0.147	.6344442 20.77739
_cons	.4626753	.7850467	-0.45	0.650	.016634 12.86936

Table 4 revealed the odd ratio for the three controlled variables. The women with secondary school education ( $edu4=0.0259993<1$ ) which means the exposure is negative association and it's less likely to have a child with HIV positive status when compared with a woman whose husband is a civil servant and it decrease HIV prevalence.

In addition, women whose husband is a military personnel is less likely to have a child with HIV positive status when compared with a woman whose husband is a civil servant ( $Hoccup3=0.0245251<1$ ).

Also, woman who perceived that her HIV status is kept confidential is less likely to have a child with HIV positive status when compare to a woman who perceive that her status is not kept confidence ( $confidence=0.0354427<1$ ).

Finally, those variables with odd ratio  $>1$  are more likely to increase HIV prevalence among the women and their children and the exposure is positively association.



## 6. Discussion of Results

The results from the Poisson regression model revealed that a woman with at least a secondary school education (edu 4) is less likely to have a child with HIV positive when compared with a woman without any form of education (edu 4=-2.483938, p-value=0.001<0.05).

In addition, women whose husband is a military personnel is less likely to have a child with HIV positive status when compared with a woman whose husband is a civil servant (Hoccup=-3.045572, p-value=0.0018 <0.05). Also a woman who perceived that her HIV status is kept confidential is less likely to have a child with HIV positive status when compare to a woman who perceive that her status is not kept confidence (confidence=-2.571557, p-value=0,004<0.05). This result is in line with the finding of Sampson (2018).

Above result for Negative Binomial regression model in table 3 revealed that a woman with at least a secondary school education (edu 4) is less likely to have a child with HIV positive when compared with a woman without any form of education (edu 4=-2.483935, p-value=0.001<0.05). In addition, women whose husband is a military personnel is less likely to have a child with HIV positive status when compared with a woman whose husband is a civil servant (Hoccup=-3.04556, p-value=0.0018 <0.05). Also a woman who perceived that her HIV status is kept confidential is less likely to have a child with HIV positive status when compare to a woman who perceive that her status is not kept confidence (confidence=-2.571548, p-value=0.004<0.05). This result is similar to the study of Eric et al (2019).

Odd ratio from the logistic regression model revealed that the women with secondary school education (edu4=0.0259993<1) which means the exposure is negative association and it's less likely to have a child with HIV positive status when compared with a woman whose husband is a civil servant and it decrease HIV prevalence.

In addition, women whose husband is a military personnel is less likely to have a child with HIV positive status when compared with a woman whose husband is a civil servant (Hoccup3=0.0245251<1).

Also, woman who perceived that her HIV status is kept confidential is less likely to have a child with HIV positive status when compare to a woman who perceive that her status is not kept confidence (confidence=0.0354427<1).

## 7. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study concludes that the women with secondary school background, wives of military/personnel and those whose HIV status are kept have confidence in the Health facilities were less likely vulnerable to MTCT of HIV services when compared to other factors. Therefore, special consideration should be given to the above variables in order to improve the PMTCT services especially among these vulnerable groups of low income communities. The following are recommended:

- i. Prevention of HIV transmission is not enough. It's necessary also to consider ways to improve maternal health and protect child survival and total zero HIV free birth as been stated in national strategic plans of 2017-2021.

- ii. Community sensitization, counselling, effective follow up, tracking of default patients and availability of on-site rapid HIV testing kits in every community may encourage those from high socio-economic background to utilize the PMTCT service centres, this will enhance the prevention of MTCT of HIV.
- iii. NGOs and the government should intensify campaign and awareness of PMTCT in rural and urban communities in Nigeria.
- iv. Education of the girl children and women in Nigeria should be encouraged by Government in Nigeria.
- v. More health facilities with PMTCT services be created in rural and urban communities.

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