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Aids menace to

grow in Africa

By IRUNGU ND'RANGU

The dreaded Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (Aids) disease Will be the leading killer Of

people in Africa in the next decade„ Dr Elizabeth Ngugi, of the

Aids Control Programme told a

scientific conference in Nairobi

Dr Ngugi said that while Aids

Will be third killer after cancer and heart diseases in developed countries, it will leap to

the top position in Africa if preventive measures are not taken

immediately

She said pioneering work is being done on the containment and

control Of the disease in Kenya.

Dr Ngugi said it had been established that 90 per cent of the

prostitutes at Pumwani in

Nairobi were With the

HIV virus.

She said in Mali, 24 per cent Of

the prostitutes were positive, in Ivory Coast 95 per cent

and in Guinea Bissau 33

cent.

Dr Nguzi said figures from

Kinshasa, Zaire, showed that 80

per cent Of the city's adolescents

m infected With the virus

that six per cent Of those

aged between 30 and 40 years

may be infected.

The figures show that four

Per cent Of those over 50 years are

infected while one per cent Of

those between one year and 14

years may be positive.

Mrs Ngugi said Aids will have a

profound impact on the African

family. She said the impact

would be felt in fertility levels,

abortions and divorce rates.

Dr Ngugi was addressing the

seminar on Collaborative Re-

search Project organised by the

University Of Nairobi's Medical

Micro-Biology Department.

The department hosts the

World Health Organisation

Centre for Collaborative Re-

search and Training On Sexualy

Transmitted Diseases for the

East and Central African Region.

She said 75 per cent Of the men

who patronise prostitutes now

use condoms. However, Dr Ngugi

warned that the use of condoms

does not stop the infection but it

slowed the spread Of the killer

disease.

Dr p. Datta of the National

Aids Programme said that de-

spite extensive research on breast

milk and HIV, researchers have

not been able to grow the virus

from breast milk in Kenya.