

**The Gender and Reproductive Health Research Initiative
Mapping a Decade of Reproductive Health Research in India**

**HIV/AIDS in India
An Annotated Bibliography
of Selected Studies (1990-2000)**

*Anita Rego
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Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)

CREA empowers women to articulate, demand and access their human rights by enhancing women's leadership and focusing on issues of sexuality, reproductive health, violence against women, women's rights and social justice.

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BACKGROUND

This annotated bibliography lists studies carried out during 1990-2000 on HIV/AIDS in India as part of a series of annotated bibliographies on gender and women's reproductive health. These bibliographies are part of the *Gender and Reproductive Health Research Initiative* sponsored by the Ford Foundation.

In September 1998, the Ford Foundation in New Delhi hosted interested individuals involved in women's health issues as activists or researchers to discuss their concerns about the future of reproductive health research in India. The participants spent a day sharing their experiences and briefly reviewing the content, nature and geographical distribution of studies in reproductive health in India that Ford Foundation had funded over the past few years. After discussion, the participants decided on a process for identifying gaps in research on reproductive health and for promoting future research that would address issues that had not been addressed or adequately explored.

The agreed upon process was to have the following stages:

- Prepare annotated bibliographies of social science research or clinical studies referring to social dimensions on six major areas of reproductive health, drawing mainly on published research over the period 1990-99.
- Based on the annotated bibliographies, prepare critical reviews of literature on each of the six areas of reproductive health. This review would examine, from a gender perspective, the entire body of research covered by the annotated bibliographies and identify the content gaps, methodological issues and ethical concerns.
- Disseminate the critical reviews as widely as possible to women's groups and NGOs, to those involved in women's studies, and to university departments dealing with health/population issues and reproductive health, in order to encourage the participation of a wide cross-section of actors in future research in the area.
- Invite brief research proposals to carry out studies that will address the research gaps identified by the reviews. Proposals will be short-listed by a team of experienced activists and researchers. The next step may consist of a workshop to help develop these proposals into fully fledged research plans.

The importance of involving a wide cross-section of people working for women's health and women's reproductive health from a gender perspective will govern the short-listing of proposals. Every effort will be made to encourage first-time researchers and activists to participate in the process, and to counter the notion that research is a "specialist" concern and activity.

The following subject areas were chosen for the annotated bibliography series:

1. Selected aspects of reproductive health: maternal health, reproductive tract infections and contraceptive morbidity
2. Selected aspects of general morbidity in women, especially the interface between communicable and non-communicable diseases and reproductive morbidity
3. Sexuality and sexual health
4. Abortion
5. HIV/AIDS
6. Reproductive health services

The Summary Table in the following pages provides a summary overview of the

- nature of the study
- geographic region covered
- objectives and methodology
- salient results

The annotated bibliographies follow these summary tables. These are organised into the following fields:

Abstract number:
Author(s):
Title:
Source:
Place of study:
Period of study:
Aims and objectives:
Study conducted by:
Nature of study:
Methodology:
Findings:
Reviewer's notes (optional):

Overview

Although HIV/AIDS is considered to be a developmental problem, few would disagree that the researchers have predominantly focused on understanding clinical aspects. This is despite the contrasting reality that the HIV/AIDS epidemic has brought in a movement away from medicalisation of the epidemic to a greater understanding of contexts and experiences of people. Beyond the individual who comes for help, lie his or her immediate social relationships, the structural and environmental determinants and the political system, which play important roles in the spread of the epidemic. Gender is one such dimension that impacts the epidemic in a multitude of ways.

There is a growing recognition that gender is an important dimension contributing to increasing social vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. It affects people in unique and different ways extending from medical, psychological and social aspects. Its influence has been seen not just in generating physiological vulnerability but impacting the epidemic throughout its course.

With this awareness, not just in the area of HIV/AIDS, but on large health issues impacting people, a group of interested individuals involved in women's health issues as activists and/or researchers came together and set the groundwork to look at social science research carried out in the decade 1990-2000. The prime focus was to identify their contributions to gender issues, the focuses and strengths, the gaps and learning points and to identify areas emerging from this research that could be addressed in future work. Six areas of concern in reproductive health were identified for this exercise, of which HIV/AIDS was one. Research done on each of these areas was searched by the designated working groups, which were subsequently annotated by them. A critical review paper using a gender perspective as the guiding theme was developed and disseminated to a wide range of groups. The papers looked at the content gaps, methodological issues and ethical concerns in the research. This has culminated into inviting proposals for future research in gender-related health issues.

The search on HIV/AIDS research literature has a precursor in the article by one of the team members, Dr. Nadkarni, where she looked at the social and cultural issues covered in the research carried out in the field of HIV/AIDS, with gender as one of the dimensions. With this as a guiding document, an attempt was made to carry out a systematic and comprehensive search of all the available literature on the Popline and Medline using the keyword HIV/AIDS/India. While this generated a large body of articles, only research articles on social sciences, covering the time frame 1988-2000 were selected for the annotations. The current search extended the decade demarcation followed by the group. The epidemic, unlike the other areas studied, has been in the country only for one and a half decades and hence, this exercise would give us an idea of what research progress has been made during this period.

Simultaneously, contacts were made through correspondence to individuals and organization working in the field to provide us with studies conducted by them. This predominantly was not a very reassuring exercise, but provided a scope for inclusion of articles unpublished or published in non-indexed journals.

The database at the SNTD Women's Studies Unit, and other available libraries such as the Tata Institute of Social Science, Nirmala Niketan, United States Information Service, British Council Library, Akshara, YUVA, Indian Institute of Population Studies, Centre for Health Studies and CARAT documentation cells library were also explored for information.

While attempts have been made to make the search as comprehensive as possible, there may be a few shortcomings. Failure of researchers to respond to our repeated requests, limited access to journals in Mumbai, and the heavy costs in procuring copies to name a few have impeded the effort. Greater responses from researchers through sensitization did to some extent support in unearthing a wealth of information and facilitated the process of accessing literature. Hence, it may be an effective tool that needs greater exploration.

The search led to a collection of 125 articles. Sources of articles reviewed are as follows:

1. Indian Journal of Public Health
2. AIDS Care
3. Indian Journal of Psychiatry
4. Indian Journal of Social Work
5. Reports and Books
6. Journal of Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women's University
7. Health and Population Perspectives and Issues
8. Indian Journal of Pediatrics
9. Journal of Communicable Disease
10. The National Medical Journal of India
11. Unpublished manuscripts

The bibliography is organized into three sections:

- The overall tabular presentation of a summary of the studies covering the nature, the geographic regions where the study was conducted, the objectives, the methodology and the salient results
- The annotation of each of the identified studies
- The reference list

The mammoth task of identifying, accessing, and annotating the articles would not have been a possibility without the committed efforts of Dr. Nayreen Dharuwalla, who painstakingly searched libraries and contacted people for relevant material. Ms. Shanthi Nakkeeran with her commitment and dedication gave form and structure to the annotations. Ms. Swati Ghodekar and Mr. S. K. Gaurishankar, who with utmost care and perfection have typed and processed the material for printing.

The libraries and their librarians assisted with the formidable task of searching journals and articles, and a special thank you goes to each of them. We are also grateful to the many individuals who sent in their articles, reports and chapters when we requested them. We are indebted to the members of the Reproductive Research Group who continuously supported and directed the effort to get the best out of us. The Directors of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Dr. Parthanath Mukerjee and Dr. R. R. Singh and the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences provided support and inspiration to move this mammoth task forward. We express our sincere gratitude to them. Dr. Lakshmi Lingam, the Co-Ordinator for the Centre of Health studies initiated us into the group and was there whenever we needed guidance and direction. We appreciate her good will and concern. We hope this document will be a valuable resource for researchers and funding organizations working in the field of HIV/AIDS and gender.

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TABLE SUMMARISING THE RESEARCHED STUDIES

OVERVIEW OF ANNOTATIONS				
SR.NO.	NATURE OF THE STUDY	GEOGRAPHIC REGION	OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES	SALIENT FEATURES
1	Epidemiology, Prison	South Bangalore	To study the sero-epidemiology of HIV and the risk of HIV transmission. Sample - 1,007 undertrials and 107 permanent convicts. ELISA test, pre- and post-test counselling provided along with assessment of risk behaviour.	20 (1.98%) out of 1,104 inmates in the prison were found HIV infected. Multiple partner relationships without condom usage were noted.
2	KABP, Hospital	West Mumbai	To examine the exposure to AIDS information among married women in Mumbai. Sample size 350 married women, WHO/GPA phase 2 KABP was used.	Exposure to media was positively associated with AIDS awareness. The study highlighted women's inhibition in talking openly about HIV/AIDS and hence media was a good source of information.
3	KABP, STD clinic attendees	South Madurai	To study the sexual practices, high-risk behaviours and the psychological responses to disclosure of seropositivity. Sample size - 5,284 (3,981 males, 1,306 females), ELISA - Western Blot to determine the HIV status, interviews and questionnaires to assess risk behaviours and sexual practices were used.	Though contraceptive use was noticed, condom use was absent. Physical illness was more frequent among positive people. Psychiatric illnesses were present but not related to HIV.
4	Community responses, Hospital & community	West Mumbai	To explore the household and community responses to HIV/AIDS. Sample - 26 PW, 4 couples, 25 households. In-depth interviews, key informant interviews and FGDs.	Household responses to HIV infected people were supportive but genderised and contextualised. Lack of awareness in the community regarding HIV related issues prevailed.
5	KABP, College students	South Hyderabad	To locate predictors of attitudes towards persons with AIDS among young adults in India. Sample - 203 college students. Structured questionnaire was used.	Family income was an important predictor variable. Health communication and education campaign emerged as important factors influencing the attitude and knowledge of AIDS related variables.
6	KABP, Community	North-East Manipur	To assess perceptions regarding AIDS awareness and policy implications of intervention programmes in ethnic tribal areas in Manipur. In-depth interviews with key informants, participant observation and FGDs were carried out.	A qualitative difference on the needs for prevention programmes was noted for the IDUs and other respondents. The problem of accessibility of the IDU population has also been brought out.
7	Community response, Community	North-East Manipur	To assess specific aspects of the community response to AIDS and understand the perceptions of social and structural vulnerability. Sample size 561, stratified random sampling. Questionnaire method and key informant interviews were carried out.	The majority were aware of the mode of AIDS transmission and supported HIV/AIDS prevention education. Teachers were more sceptical about the state health programmes in treating AIDS. Students were concerned about the problem.

8	KABP, Medical practitioners	South Chennai	To identify health care facilities and optimise STD services to reduce HIV/AIDS transmission. Doctors interviewed. Structured observation during doctor-patient consultation was carried out.	Health care facilities provided services for STD patients. The majority of the doctors reportedly advised their patients for condom use. This was not reflected in the observed practices. No gender difference was noticed among the patients attending STD clinics.
9	Risk and risk reduction, College students	West Mumbai	To find out the concomitants of HIV/AIDS risk behaviours and intention to engage in risk behaviours in adolescents in India. 1,230 college students aged between 16-17 years were administered modified CDC questionnaire.	Men were more at risk than women. AIDS awareness was associated with socio-economic factors. Condom users indicated more positive norms and less anxiety towards HIV transmission. Norms and anxieties on condom usage related to the status of current sexual activities, anticipation of sex and not at risk for sex.
10	Community response, Mixed	West and South Mumbai & Bangalore	To examine the socio-cultural context in which HIV/AIDS related discrimination, stigmatisation and denial are experienced. Sample size - 46 HIV infected persons (33 were from Mumbai and 13 were from Bangalore). In-depth interviews, key informant interviews and FGDs were used.	Health care settings were major sources of discrimination. Gender differences were noted in the discriminatory experiences. Double discrimination was reported by the group of commercial sex workers, eunuchs and homosexuals affected with AIDS.
11	Risk and risk reduction, Community	North Delhi	To describe the pre- and extra-marital heterosexual activity and condom usage among residents of a lower class urban settlement colony of Delhi. Surveys, interviews and pre-tested questionnaires were used. Sample size - 650 households.	Men indulged in pre- and extra-marital sexual activity, which was associated with the social-cultural permissibility of a male dominated society. Condom usage was low. Heterosexual activity and awareness regarding HIV/AIDS were positively associated.
12	Risk and risk reduction, Truckers	East Bengal	To explore specific details about truck drivers in the Indian context with regards to the socio-economic status, sexual behaviour patterns and level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS. Sample size - 510 truck drivers, ELISA test, intervention programme, questionnaire and interview method were used.	Most of the truckers were illiterate. They had no awareness about HIV/AIDS and also the utility of condoms. The majority of the truckers had multiple partners (50-100) who were CSWs. There was minimum and irregular condom use among truckers.
13	Intervention, NSS students	South Coimbatore	To analyse the content of the training programme given to the NSS students and also assess their awareness about AIDS. Sample size - 110 boys and 190 girls from 8 colleges. Interview method was used.	NSS students were sufficiently informed about AIDS and its transmission. Gender differences were noticed regarding information on AIDS transmission.
14	Intervention, Rural Community	West Ahmednagar	To assess the awareness of the rural community regarding AIDS and also examine the effect of the intervention programme. Sample - 1,000 respondents from 50 households were selected randomly. Interviews before and after health education were carried out.	The health education drive increased the awareness about AIDS drastically. Educational status played a key role in acquiring knowledge about AIDS.

15	Methodological issues in the study of AIDS, Secondary source	West Mumbai	To present an overview of the research studies documented on HIV/AIDS and analyse the trends in social and behavioural research in terms of the methodologies adopted, gaps in research and future challenges. Qualitative methods were used.	Trends in social science research were noted. The areas for future research were identified.
16	Risk and risk reduction, Mixed	22 cities in India	To map the pattern of the high risk behaviours and study its relation to the spread of HIV/AIDS. Ethnographic approach was adopted. Rapid assessment was done through key informant and focus group discussions.	Condom usage differed across the categories of sex workers. The reasons for non-usage across the categories had a bearing on the context of the act and the social situation they are in.
17	Risk and risk reduction, Sex circuits	South Chennai	To study the high risk sexual setting in free circuits: prostitution in Chennai, men who have sex with men, <i>alis</i> in Tamil Nadu for developing interventions to prevent the spread of AIDS. Participant observation, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and key informant interviews were used as data collection tools.	High levels of prevalence of HIV among sex workers, lack of awareness about AIDS and negligible condom use among MSM was reported. The possibility of intervention across the groups especially the <i>ali</i> , who lacked information, was noted.
18	KABP, Mixed	South Tamil Nadu	To understand sexual behaviour patterns that carry a high risk for transmitting or contracting STDs and AIDS.	Significant gender differences between men and women with regard to sexual practices was seen. Risk behaviours such as multiple partners, homosexual and unsafe sex was noted. 13% were afflicted with some form of STDs.
19	Risk and risk reduction, Mixed	South-Asia and U.K.	To understand the dynamics of sexuality, the psycho-social framework of sexual behaviour and context in which they exist in the South Asian framework and to develop appropriate strategies to counter the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Sample - 1,200 South Asian MSM. Data were collected through informal meetings, discussions, shared interviews, anecdotal research, communication exchanges questionnaires and participatory work.	A majority of the MSM were married. Unlike the West, "gay identified" acceptance and support groups were not strong among South Asians. Among the males, sexual gratification in South Asia was based on the availability of sex, whereas it was based on the desirability of sex in the West. Multiple sexual partners were noted in both groups.
20	Specific group (IDUs), Hospital	North-East Manipur	To present relevant data on home-based care for HIV positive injecting drug users (IDUs) at Imphal. Sample size - 340 IDUs.	Despite "institutional setting" being the most assessed care facility for IDU treatment, it was not popular among IDUs due to fear and discrimination. Families of HIV subjects were not favourable to home care management.
21	Risk and risk reduction, Mixed	West Mumbai	To study the sexual behavioural patterns among the different occupational groups in Maharashtra. Sample size - 3000. In-depth interviews and questionnaires were used.	Pre-marital sex was noted to be more in higher educational and occupational groups. High numbers of white collar workers, when compared to other occupation groups, were going to "paid sex" and/or engaging in "group sex." AIDS awareness was noted to be higher in white collar workers and low among labourers.

22	Epidemiology, Secondary source	Multi-centred	To review the current situation regarding the epidemiology and public health programme on AIDS among children in Asia. Reports of HIV related infection from 11 countries were used.	Increasing rates of infection across different cities in India, especially Mumbai, Pune and Manipur were noted. The rates among ante-natal months differed across the cities with Mumbai taking the lead.
23	Psychosocial impact, Community	North Delhi	To examine the socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS in different household settings. Sample - 600 households and 484 subjects. Survey method, questionnaire and hypothetical approaches were used.	AIDS awareness was found to be positively associated with economic status. The impact of illness was more in poorer households and particularly in those where women were important economic partners. Self-employment and the extended households had less impact compared to job earners.
24	Risk and risk reduction, Community	West Taluka Anand (Gujarat)	To investigate the prevalence of condom use among married sexually active men, who had not adopted any permanent method of contraception. Sample - 1,478 men aged between (18-55 years). Questionnaire method used on correct use of condoms.	The majority of the respondents were not aware of condoms. The knowledge of correct use of condoms was positively related to regular use and educational status.
25	Intervention, Sex workers	North Delhi	To know the pattern of STD and HIV seropositivity among the female commercial sex workers in Delhi and examine the psycho-social and sexual behaviour in the subjects. A health education counselling drive was carried out. Sample - 100 CSWs aged between 15- 40 years. Questionnaires and counselling methods were used.	Prevalence of HIV infection was lower in Delhi compared to other states. The majority of the commercial sex workers were uneducated and only 5% were reported to be using condoms. Condom usage increased with health education.
26	Epidemiology, Hospital	Northern India	To understand the epidemiology of AIDS and to develop strategies to cope with social, economic and medical impacts. Sample - 134 patients, Elisa test, Western Blot, and questionnaires were used.	Increasing trends were observed in HIV infection. Heterosexuality was the common route of infection, with promiscuity for men, infection from partner for women and blood transfusion for children.
27	Psycho-social impact, Hospital	West Mumbai	To identify the psycho-social problems and coping mechanisms adopted by persons with HIV/AIDS. Sample - 30 PWA. Observation and interview.	"Fear" and "anxiety" were the common response of the subjects. Disclosure of HIV/AIDS infection led to depression, low self-esteem and social withdrawal. 77% of the total subjects reported coping through mental "disengagement."
28	Psychosocial impact, Community	South and Southeast Asia	To estimate the economic cost and examine the loss of productivity due to premature mortality and the time spent by care-givers in caring for HIV patients. Sample - 500 men. Questionnaires and case studies were used.	There was no concrete connection between poverty and AIDS, but poor health was linked with poverty. The economic impact of AIDS was severely experienced in poor households and as well in households where women were the sole bread winners. There emerged a lack of political will on the part of the government in formulating insurance policies for HIV/AIDS patients.

29	Risk and risk reduction, IDUs	North-East Manipur	To explore the extent of risky injecting behaviour in the IDUs of Manipur. Sample size - 488, interviews were carried out.	70% of IDUs were sharing needles. Age and ethnicity had a significant influence on sharing of needles. Unsafe needle practices were not influenced by AIDS awareness, educational status or sero status of the individual.
30	Psychosocial intervention, Community	West Mumbai	To design and test the family life education program, with an AIDS prevention module, for low-income adolescent girls in Mumbai.	Compared to girls, boys were better informed and more open to discussions on AIDS issues. After the interventions a higher proportion of girls reported correct knowledge about menstruation, reproduction and HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS was most discussed (62%) compared to other topics.
31	Risk and risk reduction, Hospital	South Bangalore	To develop and evaluate a module for HIV/AIDS related to risk reduction among patients with alcohol dependence.	High-risk behaviour was noted to be positively related with consumption of alcohol. Minimal impact was found among the high-risk behaviour subjects, after the risk reduction intervention programmes.
32	Communication needs, Mixed	West Goa	To assess current behaviour practices, understanding HIV/AIDS/STD among selected groups and identify apt IEC approaches.	Communication needs across groups were discussed.
33	Epidemiology, Hospital	West Maharashtra	To apply a method based on measurement of prevalent HIV-1, p24 antigenemia for identification of risk factors for newly acquired HIV infection. Patients were from two STD clinics. Screening test, interviews and questionnaires were used as data collection tools. Sample size - 348 (58 positive, 290 p24 antigen negative).	23% of HIV sero-prevalence was noted. The majority of those infected were commercial sex workers. More of p24 antigen negative males (51%) were non-users of condoms. P24 antigen were positively identified with fever, night sweat and arthralgias as predictive symptoms to identify HIV infection.
34	Care and support: Network of positive people	4 Major Cities	To develop a network for care and support and to improve treatment facilities and make the people living with AIDS aware of their rights. Sample size - 115 respondents. In-depth interviews, FGDs and questionnaires were used.	Hospital treatment was sought when ill but was procedurally strenuous. The use of homeopathic or <i>siddha</i> medicine was common. Lack and fear of social acceptance was observed for the HIV infected people. Awareness about human rights, and information about forums as self-help groups were reported useful.
35	Intervention, Nurses	East West Bengal	To assess the impact of an awareness programme imparted to in-service nursing staff on their knowledge regarding AIDS. Sample size - 105 nurses, two day seminar on AIDS awareness. Pre-designed proforma used.	A significant increase in knowledge in the trainees (from 8% to 51.4%) was observed.
36	Risk and risk reduction, Truckers	West Indore	To explore the high-risk behaviours of truck drivers with regard to HIV/AIDS and also their health-seeking behaviour to reduce the risks of contracting HIV/AIDS.	14% and 33% of the senior and junior truck drivers were affected by STDs. The majority of them (94%) were ignorant about AIDS and condom use was negligible. Allopathic treatment with poor follow-up and absence of counselling was followed.

37	Risk and risk reduction, Truckers	West Indore	To examine the vulnerability of adolescent truck cleaners to contraction and transmission of HIV/AIDS. Sample - 210 truck drivers, oral interviews, semi-structured proformas were used.	25% of the cleaners had a history of sexual encounters with CSWs. The majority (94%) of them had indulged in unprotected sexual activity and were using alcohol. Lack of knowledge on AIDS and condom use was noticed.
38	Interventions, STD clinic attendees	North Delhi	To assess the impact of counselling on knowledge, attitude and practices against HIV infection among the high-risk groups especially the subjects attending an STD clinic. Sample - 500 STD patients. Pre-tested schedule was administered before and after the health education drive.	Health education increased the awareness of AIDS from 60% to 91% and condom use from 14.6% to 74.8%. Increases in the awareness were more among females.
39	Risk and risk reduction, Tattooists	West Bharuch (Gujarat)	To study the tattooing practices in a pilgrimage place in Gujarat and their associated risk factors of transmitting AIDS. Sample - 14 tattooists and 280 persons who were tattooed.	For the majority (85.7%) of tattooists, tattooing was an ancestral profession. They were not aware of the risks in tattooing. Tattooing was done for customary, friendship and religious reasons.
40	Risk and risk reduction, Labourers	North Delhi	To document the vulnerability of workers to contract AIDS, examine their labour rights and suggest policies concerning HIV/AIDS. Exploratory study, survey method and questionnaires were used.	All the workers were migrants and a majority of them were in temporary work. No insurance policies existed for workers with AIDS. AIDS awareness was low and 60% of patients preferred to go to private practitioners than to general hospitals.
41	Risk and risk reduction, Mixed	South Chennai	To identify trends in high-risk behaviour among selected population group. Sample - 12,853 subjects, survey method and questionnaires were used.	The knowledge on AIDS increased among all the groups particularly women. The knowledge of prevention of AIDS increased to over 90% of the population. Risk perception also increased from 61% to 75% in women factory workers.
42	Psychosocial impact, Hospital	South Bangalore	To assess the prevalence of psychological morbidity in heterosexual HIV infected individuals. Sample - 51 HIV +ve heterosexual subjects. Pre- and post-test counselling. Anxiety and depression were measured. Multiple regression analysis was used.	Heterosexuality and infection from partners of women are the main routes of transmission. Painful symptoms were significantly associated with anxiety and other psychiatric morbidity. The majority of the alcohol users were also vulnerable to psychological morbidity.
43	Epidemiology, Hospital	South Bangalore	To assess the clinical and risk profile of psychiatric sero-positive in-patients for HIV infection. Among 2,283 psychiatric patients tested, 43 out of 51 sero-positive respondents and their families were interviewed.	Prevalence of sero-positivity increased gradually from 0.47% in 1993 to 5.33 in 1997. 81.4% of the patients had affective disorders related to HIV infection and 18.6% were classified as having a psychiatric problem etiologically linked to HIV infection.
44	Interventions, Sex workers and clientele	East Calcutta	To reduce the incidents of HIV and STD infection among sex workers and assess the efficacy of a health and psycho-social intervention programme. Survey methods followed with counselling were used.	The intervention programme increased awareness from 30.7% to 96.2% and condom usage from 69.5% to 76%. Peer pressure, improved status and organising sex workers acted as contributing factors for behavioural change.

45	KABP, Hospital	South Bangalore	To study the knowledge and control over sexual behaviour of their spouses and the awareness of sexually transmitted diseases among HIV infected women. Sample size - 50 HIV infected women aged between 22-30 years.	Of the 50 women studied, spouses of 40% had visited CSWs. 36% had a mistress or a second wife. The majority of them accepted the spouse's sexual behaviour as culturally acceptable. Counselling increased safe sex practices in 50% of couples.
46	Risk and risk reduction, Mixed	South Tamil Nadu	To assess the appropriateness of clinical management provided to health facility seekers. Sample size - 306. 153 allopathic practitioners, 153 RIMPS. Questionnaires and interview methods were used.	52% of the STD HCP providers were general medical practitioners with MBBS. The majority of the female medical practitioners were obstetricians. Condom use was more advised by the male HCPs. Clinical facilities were satisfactory.
47	Psycho-social factors, Hospital	South Bangalore	To assess the patterns of high-risk behaviour and knowledge of HIV/AIDS among psychiatric patients. Sample size - 60 psychiatric patients. Questionnaires and interview methods were used.	50% of both men and women had a history of HIV related high-risk behaviour. 17% of the women patients acquired the STD from the spouse or partner who had multiple sexual contacts. Unprotected sexual contact of men with CSWs and inability of the women to negotiate for condom use with the partners were important contributors for HIV infection.
48	Risk and risk reduction, Mixed	South Chennai	To provide repeat measures on behaviours for observing trends in high-risk behaviour among the selected population. Sample size - 5,581. Survey method and questionnaires were used as data collection tools.	Factors like knowledge level on AIDS, help seeking, and condom use had increased in all the groups, particularly in CSWs except in women factory workers. The behaviour change programme has had a positive effect on the perceptions of the group.
49	Psycho- social impact, Hospital	South Bangalore	To study the relation between the psycho-social and health-related concerns among the HIV infected individuals. Sample size - 34 psychiatric patients with HIV. Check-lists and interviews were used.	27% reported psychological problems prior to the diagnosis of HIV. High-risk behaviour was reported by 50% of subjects. 53% had physical symptoms related to HIV and others were asymptomatic. The concerns regarding HIV infection were gender specific.
50	Risks and risk reduction, STD clinic attendees	West Pune	To understand the awareness, knowledge and risk behaviour of HIV/AIDS among two groups of women: women sex workers and women in other work. Sample of 711 women, 409 women sex workers and 302 were women in other work. Structured questionnaires were administered. Chi-square and Fisher's exact test were used for data analysis.	63% of women sex workers reported a history of having STDs, which was higher compared to the women in other work, and reported the symptoms for the first time. Women sex workers were (60%) twice as likely to use condoms as compared to women in other work (only 7%). In the repeat measure after a year, awareness of condom usage increased in both groups, but was still lower among women in other work.
51	Intervention, ICDS functionaries	East Calcutta	To assess the effect of an awareness programme in improving the knowledge of ICDS functionaries on different aspects of AIDS and its prevention. AIDS awareness programme, questionnaires were used as data collection tools.	The awareness programme had an impact and was reflected in improved knowledge levels among ICDS functionaries.

52	Epidemiology, Hospital	North Lucknow	To examine the rising trend of AIDS infection among high-risk group individuals in Lucknow. Sample size - 61,178. ELISA test for screening and Western Blot for confirmation	353 HIV positive individuals were identified through the study. The number of HIV infected patients had increased steeply from 1.2% in 1988 to 54.4% in 1997.
53	Epidemiology, Hospital	West Pune	To examine the increasing trend of HIV sero-prevalence among pulmonary tuberculosis patients in Pune, India. Western Blot test was used for case confirmation and chi-square test were used to find out the linear trends in sero-positivity.	The results show about 6 times increase in the prevalence of HIV in TB patients over 6 years.
54	Risk and risk reduction, Mixed	South Chennai	To observe trends in high-risk behaviour among selected population groups and measure the success of intervention programmes in seven different high-risk groups. Interviews, FGDs and in-depth interviews using different questionnaires for each group were adopted.	All the groups, except women factory workers and women students, showed high levels of knowledge on STD prevention. Condom use was highest among CSWs (56% followed by 44% in truck drivers and helpers). Perception of risks was observed to be higher among females compared to males.
55	Epidemiology, Hospital	South Chennai	To review and document the characteristics of AIDS patients in Tamil Nadu, India. Sample size - 100, Western Blot test and sexual history through interviews.	The majority of the patients were aged between 21-30 years. The major mode of transmission was heterosexual activity with multiple partners and unprotected sex. The most common mode of presentation of the disease was tuberculosis.
56	Interventions, Community	West Mumbai	To develop a programme of preventive education on AIDS for adolescent boys and girls from urban slums of Mumbai, India. Sample size - 4,557 males, 4,206 females. Group discussions, educational intervention programme, questionnaires were administered to 15 males and 31 females before and after the educational intervention programmes.	The intervention program has increased knowledge about family planning and AIDS.
57	KABP, Hospital	West Maharashtra	To study the sexual behaviour and risk perception to HIV among women attending MTP clinic in Pune.	One-third of the respondents (55%) were minors and did not have any basic information about their sexual partners. By and large respondents were found ignorant about HIV/AIDS, mode of transmission and prevention.
58	Psycho-social impact, Community	Different states of India	To assess the socio-economic impact of AIDS epidemic. Sample size - 167. Survey method, interviews, questionnaires were used.	53% were graduates. 37% of them had one symptomatic condition such as TB. 10-30% of the annual income of the HIV infected person was spent on treatment. Income was significantly and negatively related to the economic impact.
59	KABP, Teachers	West Maharashtra	To find out the understanding and attitude of college lecturers towards sex education and know their willingness in imparting sex education. Sample size - 212. Questionnaire was administered.	The majority were males (57%) and aged below 40 years. While 73% opined their role in guiding students, only 65% showed willingness to impart sex education.

60	KABP, Health workers	Gharuan, District Ropar	To assess AIDS awareness among the PHC staff and to assess the feasibility of a health education programme. Pre-tested proforma on AIDS awareness was administered.	Gross lack of knowledge, especially on source of infection and high-risk group, was observed.
61	Risk and risk reduction, Mixed	South Chennai	To explore the patterns of high-risk behaviour, their determinants and to understand their knowledge, perception and misconceptions regarding health indicators especially on STD/HIV/AIDS. Snowball technique, participant and non-participant observation, focus group discussion, in-depth interviews and questionnaires were used.	80% were married with children. Poverty was cited as the main reason for entering the sex trade. Awareness regarding AIDS and mode of transmission and prevention was very high among both the groups. Condom use too was high (38% were regular users).
62	KABP, Community	North Delhi	To assess HIV/AIDS awareness and factors affecting the knowledge regarding AIDS among the slum dwellers in Delhi. Sample - 150 households, 361 individuals. Interview method was used.	Only 44% had heard about AIDS. 69% reported sexual behaviour as the source of transmission. Women had relatively lesser knowledge on AIDS.
63	KABP, Social work and nursing students	North Delhi	To assess the knowledge on HIV/AIDS and attitudes towards people with AIDS and homosexuals among the social work and nursing students. Sample size - 887 students of social work, nursing and humanities background. Questionnaire was administered.	Females and students from the older age group demonstrated higher knowledge about AIDS than males. 56% of students were supportive in their attitude towards AIDS patients, with social workers being the most positive.
64	Intervention, Children	West Maharashtra	To assess the effectiveness of a HIV/AIDS intervention programme among school-going children. Sample - 26,870 school students. Questionnaires were administered before and after the intervention programme.	Over all, knowledge on AIDS was very low. The knowledge score marginally increased from 6.48 to 7.18 and attitude score decreased from 4.46% to 4.29% due to the intervention programme. Students were indifferent towards homosexuals and CSWs and this did not change with the intervention.
65	Intervention, College students	South Ganthigram Tamil Nadu	To assess the level of knowledge about AIDS among the university students of different social economic backgrounds. Sample size - 599 (307males, 292 females). Data were collected through interview schedule.	50% lacked awareness on modes of transmission of AIDS. The level of knowledge on AIDS was higher among girl students and also among those from the health faculty. Vernacular students had better knowledge levels in comparison with English medium school students.
66	KABP, Merchants	South Mangalore Karnataka	To explore the knowledge and attitude towards AIDS among merchants in Mangalore. Sample size - 291. Questionnaires were used for data collection.	Prevalence of AIDS was widely recognised by 66% of the sample. Regarding their attitude, it was noticed 54% were scared of AIDS. Suggestions like condoms and disposable syringes were given by 54% and 47%, respectively.
67	KABP, Autorickshaw drivers	West Aurangabad Maharashtra	To find out the awareness and preventive practices related to HIV/AIDS among autorickshaw drivers. Sample - 129 autorickshaw drivers. Interviews and pre-tested questionnaires were used.	The majority (88%) had heard about AIDS but did not have knowledge about its transmission. 70% reported TV as the common source of information. They had good knowledge about signs and symptoms of HIV/AIDS

68	KABP, Truckers	North Patiala	To assess AIDS awareness and degree of high risk behaviour in truck drivers and formulate intervention strategies for the same. Sample - 232, interviews to assess. ELISA test, Western Blot were used.	Most of the truck drivers were ignorant about AIDS as a disease. Only 4.2% knew about sexual transmission of HIV, 5.7% reported having genital ulcers, which can increase the risk of HIV.
69	KABP, Barbers	West Mumbai	To understand the awareness of barbers about the transmission of HIV and assess the need for educating barbers about HIV. Sample - 78. Interviews were conducted.	84% were aware of the risk of infection due to use of contaminated instruments, but hygienic practices were not maintained. 21% of them used the same blade for 2 to 3 persons and 70% expressed unwillingness to work with HIV positive persons.
70	Counselling, STD clinic attendees	North Delhi	To assess the impact of counselling and assess the incidence of AIDS among the high-risk groups. Sample - 500. Interviews using separate schedules were used before and after the intervention.	Counselling increased the awareness of AIDS from 60% to 97%. The response abstaining from sex with CSWs increased from 28% to 81% and by avoiding multiple partners from 14% to 60% and condom use from 15% to 75%.
71	KABP, Health care professionals	North Ludhiana Punjab	To find out the awareness, attitude and preventive practices on AIDS among the health professionals. Sample - 282. Questionnaire was administered to the students.	Knowledge about the vertical transmission of AIDS and misconceptions regarding the spread of AIDS exists among all the groups. Awareness of the risk of contaminated blood transfusion in spreading AIDS was higher in nurses (99%).
72	KABP, STD clinic attendees	North Delhi	To study the level of awareness and knowledge on AIDS among STD patients. Sample size - 75 male STD patients. Interviews and schedules were used.	79% were aware of AIDS but did not have any information about AIDS. More than 50% of the patients were aware of the non-existence of a cure for AIDS. Misconceptions regarding the transmission of AIDS were noticed.
73	KABP, Teachers	North Lucknow	To assess the AIDS awareness among school teachers of a rural area. Sample - 15 schools were randomly selected. Questionnaire was used.	80% were aware of AIDS but 28% were not aware of its transmission. The higher number of years of education positively correlated with AIDS awareness.
74	KABP, Blood donors	North Lucknow	To explore the levels of awareness of AIDS in blood donors and assess the risk of infection acquired through blood transfusion. Sample - 1,012. Questionnaires were used and the responses were categorised.	The majority of the blood donors were males, mostly married (70%). Knowledge about AIDS differed significantly across income, educational and occupational groups.
75	KABP, Health care professionals	South Chennai	To assess the knowledge, sexual practices and attitudes towards HIV/AIDS among medical students. Sample - 409. Cross-sectional study, questionnaire were used.	Misconceptions regarding AIDS were found more in female students. Condom usage as a preventive strategy was stated more frequently by male students (92%) when compared to female students (72%). Only one-third of students showed willingness to be supportive of HIV infected students.

76	Risk and risk reduction, Barbers	North Indore and Ujjain	To examine the various practices of barbers which may pose a risk of transmission for HIV/AIDS. Sample - 100. Oral interviews and on-site inspections.	None of the barbers were sufficiently aware of HIV transmission and the risk of using infectious instruments. Standards of preventive practices were the least in roadside barbers.
77	KABP, Aaganwadi workers	North Allahabad	To assess the knowledge regarding AIDS among <i>anganwadi</i> workers (AWWs). Sample - 120 AWWs.	AIDS awareness was more in AWWs (84%) as compared to labourers (50%). The majority were observed to be aware of the sexual mode of transmission but only 10% were aware of other routes. Both groups were unaware of vertical transmission of AIDS.
78	KABP, College students	East Burdwan West Bengal	To critically assess the level of knowledge on AIDS and HIV infections among newly admitted college students. Sample - 500. Questionnaires were used for data collection.	63% of the students belonged to the category of "satisfactory or above level" of knowledge on AIDS and mode of transmission, with a large section of women students (65%) in this category.
79	KABP, College students	North Delhi	To examine the level of knowledge and attitude regarding AIDS prevention among the college youth of East Delhi. Sample - 378, aged 17-21 years.	Different modes of transmission of AIDS such as blood transfusion (74%), homosexuality (17%) and visiting CSWs (36%) were suggested. Only 50% were aware of prevention of AIDS.
80	KABP, Health care professionals	South Bangalore	To examine the knowledge and attitude of the health professionals to elicit the training needs for programmes on HIV/AIDS. Sample - 232. Questionnaires were used for data collection.	Negative attitudes towards AIDS patients were noted (41%). High risk of infection was perceived by doctors (54%) and medical students (51%). Knowledge on disinfection procedures was very poor.
81	KABP, College students	North Delhi	To assess and compare knowledge and attitude towards HIV/AIDS among urban and rural students.	A significantly higher percentage of urban population as compared to rural, more female students as compared to male students, and more science students as compared to non-science students, were aware of AIDS. 30-40% of students showed positive attitudes towards possible AIDS infection in students.
82	KABP, College students	North Nagpur	To explore the knowledge on AIDS and its risk factors among adolescents from rural areas. Sample - 261 students. Pre-tested proforma was used.	Though 50% were aware of causes of AIDS, they were not aware of the preventive measures. 80% of students reported correct knowledge of various modes of AIDS transmission.
83	KABP, School students	North Nagpur	To assess the basic level of knowledge and attitude of secondary school students towards HIV/AIDS. Sample - 718 students. Questionnaire was administered.	The majority of the students (97%) had basic information about AIDS and 43% had misconceptions on the availability of a preventive vaccination. The overall attitude of the students towards AIDS was open-minded.

84	KABP, College students	West Mumbai	To assess and compare AIDS awareness among students of a metropolitan city of Mumbai and the smaller city of Pune. Survey was conducted and questionnaires were used for data collection.	Foreign magazines emerged as the most important source of information about AIDS. Awareness on condom usage was higher among the students of Mumbai as compared to the students of Pune.
85	KABP, School children	South Bangalore	To explore the knowledge on AIDS transmission and prevention among college and high school students in Bangalore city. Sample size - 1,128. A pre-tested questionnaire was administered.	Less than 50% cited transmission via intravenous injections, breastmilk, tattooing and common shaving razors in saloons. More men than women students were aware of condom usage.
86	KABP, Health care professionals	Manipal (Karnataka) & Trivandrum (Kerala)	To assess the knowledge on HIV and attitude towards people with HIV infection in a group of dental professionals in India. Sample - 200. Pre-tested questionnaire was administered.	There was poor knowledge about AIDS infection and only 12% were aware of simple disinfection procedures. The majority of the respondents (93%) had positive attitudes towards AIDS patients.
87	KABP, School children	Ambala (Haryana)	To evaluate the existing level of knowledge and awareness on AIDS among school children of 9 th and 10 th classes from rural and urban areas. Sample - 336. A close-ended questionnaire was used.	Though differences in the awareness level between girls and boys, urban and rural students existed, the girls in the rural group were better informed on prevention strategies when compared to those from urban settings.
88	KABP, School children	North Delhi	To study the level of awareness, knowledge and attitudes regarding HIV/AIDS among senior secondary school teachers. Sample - 74. A structured and pre-tested questionnaire was used for data collection	Pre-intervention awareness levels of AIDS were relatively high among the school teachers. The importance of condom usage in prevention, transmission modes and misconceptions about the curability of AIDS were better understood after the intervention programme.
89	KABP, Nursing students	West Maharashtra	To assess the awareness of nursing students regarding AIDS and identify the areas of confusion that can serve as an important target for educational intervention. Sample - 204 nursing students. Data were collected using questionnaires.	88% had correct knowledge about vertical transmission and 62% were aware of prevention of AIDS through condom usage. 43% had negative attitudes towards AIDS patients.
90	KABP, School children	North Delhi	To determine the level of knowledge and attitude of senior school children regarding AIDS, STDs and human sexuality. Sample - 716. Questionnaires and FGDs were used for data collection.	AIDS awareness was adequate among subjects. 89% were aware of the risk of having multiple partners and 70% were aware of condom use. Public school boys were more aware of the protection against AIDS as compared to their counterparts from government schools.
91	KABP, Hospital	South Vellore, Tamil Nadu	To assess the extent of AIDS awareness among patients attending an STD clinic for medical treatment. Sample size - 231. Subjects were interviewed.	The majority of the subjects belonged to the lowest socio-economic class and information media such as newspaper and radio could be hardly availed by them. Most of the subjects were ignorant about AIDS. Lack of awareness was also associated with illiteracy.

92	KABP, Spouses of paramedics	North Delhi	To study the dissemination of awareness, knowledge and attitudes towards AIDS among the spouses of the paramedical staff living in a medical college cum hospital complex. Sample - 206 (104 males, 102 females). Survey and interview techniques were used.	Awareness among men partners was significantly high (90.4%) when compared to women counterparts (43.8%). Women staff were more involved in sharing with their partners. Positive correlation was noted between education and awareness.
93	KABP, School children	North Delhi	To explore the level of knowledge among adolescent boys and girls regarding human sexuality and AIDS. Sample - 893, aged between 10-17 years. Questionnaires were used.	Limited level of knowledge about human sexuality and AIDS was present among Indian adolescents. Gender differences in the knowledge emerged revealing higher levels of awareness in males.
94	Intervention programme, School children	North Delhi	To assess the awareness regarding HIV/AIDS and the impact of IEC among school children. Randomly selected sample - 294 boys and 333 girls. Impact of the intervention was evaluated through questionnaires.	The majority of the students knew about AIDS and the non-availability of an AIDS vaccine. Awareness regarding condom use was known more to boys, whereas fatality of AIDS was known more to girls. IEC significantly increased knowledge on AIDS and its transmission.
95	KABP, Health care professionals	East Calcutta	To assess the knowledge of health personnel regarding HIV infection in the areas of aetiology, testing and treatment procedures and prevention. Sample - 400. Questionnaires were used for data collection.	Misconceptions regarding modes of transmission of AIDS were present in 50-60% of the paramedical staff. 80-90% of the health personnel had poor knowledge on the risk of transmission through contaminated blood. Clinical students were more informed as compared to the pre-clinical students.
96	KABP, Community	North Delhi	To assess knowledge and attitudes on HIV/AIDS and the prevalence of high-risk behaviours among slum dwellers. Sample - 228. A semi-structured pre-tested schedule was used.	Education had a positive correlation with AIDS awareness. Illiteracy among women (78.2%) was higher as compared to men (74.8%). AIDS awareness among men (59.1%) was significantly higher than their women counterparts (21.7%).
97	KABP, Community	East Calcutta	To assess the impact of current mass education programme on AIDS among the slum dwellers of south Calcutta. Sample size - 206, randomly selected. Interviews using structured pre-tested schedule were carried out.	27-42% had very poor knowledge on AIDS, its transmission, prevention and cure. The use of condoms for prevention was not known to them. 57% showed knowledge on persons vulnerable to AIDS infection.
98	KABP, Community	North Delhi	To ascertain knowledge, attitudes and practices related to STDs and AIDS among married women in urban slums. 210 married women were interviewed using pre-tested proforma.	There were high levels of knowledge on STDs (34.3%) as compared to AIDS (5.7%). Only 43% were aware of the risk of transmission through intercourse with an infected person.
99	KABP, Health care professionals	North Delhi	To assess the level of knowledge of general practitioners regarding AIDS and their attitude towards HIV/AIDS infected persons. Sample - 100 general practitioners having 10-15 years experience. Pre-tested questionnaire was administered.	Medical practitioners had very poor knowledge on AIDS. 23% were unable to give the correct acronym of AIDS and 44% were unable to identify the symptoms of HIV and STDs. Attitudes towards HIV infected person were negative.

100	KABP, Health care professionals	Central India	To explore the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practices on HIV/AIDS among indigenous medical practitioners and registered medical practitioners in central India.	There was poor knowledge on HIV/AIDS. Only 20% had information on modes of transmission. 58% knew about the role of condom use in AIDS prevention. They had negative attitudes towards HIV infected persons.
101	Intervention, Voluntary organisations	South Andhra Pradesh	To analyse the awareness of HIV among staff of voluntary organisations in Andhra Pradesh. To test efficacy of health education programmes.	The majority of the respondents were aware of AIDS. Ignorance about HIV/AIDS was noted more in rural youths (61%). A significant impact of the health education was observed on NSS students, community health care workers and Lions and Rotarians.
102	KABP, Community	South Andhra Pradesh	To study awareness of AIDS in a rural public community and to examine the role of governmental agencies currently engaged in creating awareness. Sample - 200. A semi-structured pre-tested schedule was administered to them.	67% were aware of AIDS while 30% were unaware of the modes of transmission. 30% were aware of the diagnostic facilities available at the medical college.
103	KABP, Community	South Andhra Pradesh	To study the extent of awareness of AIDS/STDs in the rural and urban communities of India with a purpose to strengthen the preventive measures and strategies in future. Sample - 400 (200 males, 200 females) aged 14-45. Pre-tested questionnaire was used for data collection.	Significant differences were observed between rural and urban responses regarding AIDS awareness. 67% of rural and 92% of urban subjects reported regular use of condoms.
104	KABP, Community	West Ahmednagar	To find out the level of AIDS awareness in a rural community in order to provide the guidelines for health education in the future. Sample - 712 males and 288 females. 1,000 subjects were interviewed on a pre-designed proforma.	A significant positive association between education and awareness of AIDS was noted. The knowledge on the modes of transmission was poor. 13% suggested avoiding multiple sex partners and 6% suggested use of condoms.
105	KABP, College students	North Delhi	To assess the level of knowledge of AIDS in university students. Sample - 329 aged 16-21 years.	63-87% of the students were aware of the different modes of HIV transmission. Awareness on prevention of AIDS was significantly higher in men as compared to women.
106	KABP, Community	East Calcutta	To assess the level of knowledge and attitudes about AIDS among educated youths in Calcutta. Sample - 153. Interviews were carried out for collecting data.	The majority of the youth (93%) had heard about AIDS. No gender difference was noticed in the information on AIDS. Education was positively associated with higher levels of knowledge on AIDS and this influenced the attitude towards HIV infected patients.
107	KABP, Mixed	North-East Manipur	To assess KABP on drug abuse, sexuality, HIV infection among general population and high-risk behaviour group (IDUs). Randomly stratified sample - 1,020. Survey and questionnaires were used for data collection.	The knowledge on AIDS and its transmission and prevention was less among IDUs as compared to the general public. The public's attitude towards IDUs and AIDS patients was negative. Factors such as multiple partners (46.2%), low condom usage and needle sharing (73.1%) led to the infection among IDUs.

108	KABP, Mixed	South Tamil Nadu	To assess the KABP related to HIV/AIDS among the general public and high-risk behaviour groups. Purposive sample of 1,547 drawn from general public and six high-risk behaviour groups. Data were collected through pre-tested interview schedule.	No statistically significant difference was observed between the general public and other groups on knowledge about AIDS. High-risk behaviours such as multiple partners, low condom usage, contaminated blood transfusion, and needle sharing by IDUs were noticed as causes for increasing infection.
109	Psycho-social impact, Mixed	South Bangalore	To study the knowledge about HIV/AIDS, the coping patterns adopted and problems encountered in living post-infection, by HIV sero-positive wives of men with HIV/AIDS. Sample - 30. Questionnaires and interview schedule were used for data collection.	Education and urban background positively correlated with knowledge on AIDS, which in turn influenced coping strategies. Problems encountered in the post-infection period were financial crisis, failing health, concerns about parenting efficacy, lack of social support and stress of care-giving.
110	KABP, Men having sex with men	-	To study the HIV/AIDS awareness and its implications on practices. Sample - 41 subjects. Questionnaires followed by intervention.	AIDS awareness was high, which further strengthened with intervention. Most were unaware of their sero-status.
111	KABP, Students	Western region	To understand sexual behaviour, possible risk and perceptions of responsible behaviour. Sample -1,821 college youth. Focus group discussions, in-depth interviews and key informant interviews were used.	Awareness on HIV was high and sexual experience similar across sexes. Condom usage was low and not consistent. Perceived vulnerability was also poor.
112	Interventions, School children	Western region	To highlight findings and lessons learned on three different preventive programs.	Education through teachers trained in HIV/AIDS was most effective compared to the peer model and the programme through medical officers.
113	Communication, Needs assessment	Western region	To identify the existing communication materials, approaches and needs, mixed groups inclusive of high-risk groups and key leaders. Focus groups, key informant interviews and personal interviews were used.	The study highlighted the needs and possibilities for strengthening IEC.
114	Community response	Two countries, one being India	To assess forms, contexts and determinants of denial, stigma and discrimination. Key informant interviews, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions were used.	Causes of stigma and discrimination are linked to moralistic and cultural understanding of sex.
115	Psychological and socio cultural impact	Western region	To explore response and coping strategies of postnatal women. In-depth interviews were used.	Some factors such as socio-economic stressors, content of communication and perception of infection and support system impacted coping.
116	Community response	Two countries one being India	To identify factors and mechanisms influencing household and community responses. 26 PWAs, 4 couples, both infected; and 25 household members were examined.	Household responses were supportive and positive. Community responses were based on fear.

117	Community responses	Western region	To examine family care-giving and receiving and organization of care as a function of gender and class.	Women were primary care providers. There was discrimination on care. Multiple care-givers did not imply equal distribution of care-giving.
118	Community responses	Western region	To ascertain family's psycho-emotional environment and coping mechanisms. In-depth interviews were used.	Individual and family lifestyles were altered through the progression of infection and to death.
119	Community	Orissa	To evaluate existing communication material and strategy available in the state. Key informant interviews, focus group discussions and questionnaires were used.	There was inadequate material. Communication needs and strategies are identified.
120	Psycho-social impact	Delhi	To study the psychiatric morbidity, circadian rhythmicity of cortisol and testosterone among positive asymptomatic defence personnel. Sample - 712. Quantitative and qualitative methods were used.	Overall psychiatric morbidity is 50%.
121	Community response	Western India	To examine household and community responses and its correlates.	The infection was looked at as an alien, dreadful and self-invited infection, mostly associated with sexual perversity and loose morals. Personalisation of infection was low.
122	KABP	Multicentred	To assess knowledge and its sources among women and the response of the government. Over 30,000 married women in 13 states were surveyed.	Only one in six ever-married women was aware with most belonging to advantaged sections.
123	KABP, MSM	Western region	To gain an understanding of knowledge of HIV/AIDS among the gay community and to gain access for interventions. Convenient sample, in the age range 20-40, either single or coupled.	Knowledge on HIV/AIDS did not translate into testing or preventive practices.
124	Interventions, Youth	Western region	To impact knowledge, behaviour and attitudes among adolescence	Interventions increased knowledge and were considered an useful strategy for influencing adolescents.
125	Household and community responses	Western region	To gain insight into the socio-cultural mechanisms influencing positive and negative responses and to identify interventions for management of the epidemic.	Concerns were gendered in the sero-positive individuals. Past relationships were important in current care-giving.
126	Communication Needs assessment	North East	To assess the communication needs for HIV/AIDS in Mizoram.	The existing scenario of the communication strategies and suggestions for improvement are discussed.

ABSTRACT NO. 1

- Author(s)** : Sundar, M., K. K. Ravikumar and M. K. Sudarshan
- Title** : A Cross-sectional Sero-prevalence Survey for HIV-1 and High-risk Sexual Behaviour of Seropositives in a Prison in India
- Source** : Indian Journal of Public Health, 1995, 39(3), pp. 116-118
- Place of study** : Bangalore, South India
- Period of study** : January 1993 to December 1993
- Aims and objectives** : To study the sero-epidemiology of HIV in a prison in India, and to examine the risks of HIV transmission.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Community Medicine, Kempe Institute of Medical Sciences, Bangalore
- Nature of study** : Hospital-based

Methodology:

A sero-epidemiological period prevalence survey was conducted in the Central Prison, Bangalore, covering 1,007 under-trials and 107 permanent convicts (only men) between January 1993 to December 1993. Following pre-test counselling, the voluntary participants were subjected to an ELISA test that was repeated thrice for confirmation. A structured questionnaire was administered to 20 (1.98%) under-trials who tested sero-positive HIV positive followed by post-test counselling.

Findings:

- 20 (1.98%) of the prisoners were HIV positive. A majority were illiterate (53%), belonging to a low income group (69%), married (61%) and their vocation involved frequent travel (61%).
- 23% had indulged in multiple partner relationships ranging between 50-60 individuals.
- 69% did not use condoms as they considered it a hindrance to sexual pleasure.
- Ineffective protective measures such as washing genitals with urine / soda water after sexual intercourse were practised.
- 90% of the subjects were unaware of HIV/AIDS.
- Prevalence of multiple sexual exposure and non-acceptance of condom usage was noted.

ABSTRACT NO. 2

- Author(s)** : Chatterjee, N.
- Title** : AIDS Related Information Exposure in the Mass Media and Discussion within Social Networks among Married Women in India
- Source** : AIDS Care, 1999, 11(4): 443-446
- Place of study** : Bombay, Maharashtra

Period of study : Mid-1994

Aims and objectives : To examine exposure of married women in Mumbai to AIDS information through mass media and the discussion of AIDS related knowledge and information within their social network.

Study conducted by : School of Public Health, University of Texas Health Science Centre, Houston, U.S.A.

Nature of study : Community survey

Methodology:

Face-to-face interviews were conducted with 350 married women, systematically sampled from three municipal hospitals in Mumbai. The WHO/GPA Phase-2 Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs and Practices (KABP) questionnaire was used. Discussions with the husband on HIV related information were evaluated on two levels: one as a general talk about AIDS and the other pertaining to the risk of HIV in their relationship. The social network was further classified at different interactional levels.

Findings:

- Out of 350 women, nearly three-fourth spontaneously reported television as the primary source of information. Those exposed to AIDS information through mass media were more informed about AIDS.
- Health education through mass media was suitable for women as they were reluctant to talk about sex in the social context.
- Most of the women acknowledged the public service announcements in television providing important messages regarding the disease and hence voiced the need for watching such programmes by the entire family.
- Among the women who were aware about AIDS, only half reported that they discussed the disease in their social network.
- Though television was the prime source of information, it was insufficient due to the brief and impersonal nature of the messages conveyed.
- There is a need for conveying effective risk assessment strategies.

ABSTRACT NO. 3

Author(s) : Rao, V. A., R. Swaminathan, M. K.Venkataramm, S. Ramajayam, R. Parhee, and U. K Luthra

Title : A Clinical and Behavioural Study of HIV Infected Subjects--A Comparison with STD Subjects

Source : Indian Journal of Psychiatry, 1991, 33(2): 95-103

Place of study : Madurai, Tamil Nadu

Period of study : 1 year 8 months, November 1988-July 1990

Aims and objectives : To study the sexual practices, knowledge of AIDS and the occurrence of physical (STD and non-STD) and psychiatric illness and the psychological responses to the "disclosure" of sero-positivity among treatment seekers at a STD clinic.

Study conducted by : Madurai Medical College, Madurai

Nature of study : Hospital-based study

Methodology:

A sample of 5,287 patients was subjected to ELISA and the Western Blot to determine their HIV status. Sexual history, knowledge of AIDS and presence of psychiatric disturbances (anxiety and depression) were assessed.

Findings:

- 1.6% were HIV positive. The sero-positivity rates for men and women were 1.06% and 3.29%, respectively.
- The age at first coital experience varied from 12 to 28 years for HIV subjects and 11 to 23 years for control groups.
- Promiscuity (84%) and multiple partners were more frequent among the HIV subjects compared to the control group.
- Since commercial sex workers formed the major category of women represented in the sample, significantly higher risk behaviour and a larger number of sex partners were noted among women as compared to men.
- Contraceptives were popular but not condoms.
- Psychiatric disorders (such as depression, schizophrenia, paranoia, anxiety disorder, substance abuse and mental retardation) were diagnosed in 51% among 65 assessed in the HIV positive group and 41% among 78 assessed in the control group. The psychiatric disorders were not related to HIV infection.
- Impaired mental functioning was reported in the subjects who were informed about their sero-positive status, however they were willing to receive counselling.
- Suicidal tendency was reported frequently although suicidal attempts were rare.
- Frequency of physical illness was significantly higher in the HIV sero-positive group than the control group.

ABSTRACT NO. 4

Author(s) : Bharat, S.

Title : Household and Community Responses to HIV/AIDS: Executive Summary of a Study in Mumbai

Source : The Indian Journal of Social Work, January 1997, 58(1): 90-98

Place of study : Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Period of study : 1988 to May 1994, 6 years

Aims and objectives : To examine the household and the community level responses, socio-cultural mechanisms, and coping patterns for HIV/AIDS in India.

Study conducted by : Unit for Family Studies, The Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Nature of study : Community study

Methodology:

Qualitative methods such as in-depth interviews and focus group discussions were adopted. Participants were selected through a purposive sampling. Twenty-six (26) HIV/AIDS positive individuals, 4 couples (both partners infected) and 25 households with HIV/AIDS infected members, all belonging to lower economic strata were selected from HIV cases recorded in the major hospitals of the city. The responses were content analysed.

Findings:

- A higher percentage of infection was recorded among men aged between 21-35 in the older and central part of the city.
- Households' responses to HIV/AIDS patients were supportive and not a single case of family rejection was reported.
- The household respondents were more concerned about the potential loss of a member and AIDS related complications and suffering rather than towards the "amoral" behaviour.
- Household responses were gendered and contextualised. Male HIV positive members were granted more acceptance, care and support than women.
- Women expressed a lot of anger when they become the innocent victims of their husband's sexual behaviour.
- The attitude of the person who takes care of a HIV/AIDS infected person was influenced by the quality of the relationship with that person. A positive relationship resulted in a supportive household response.
- Basic physical care and material assistance was provided in nearly all households, but psycho-emotional support and acceptance was largely gendered. The emotional needs of women were largely ignored.
- Extended households were more supportive as the responsibility was shared.
- The needs of men and women were different. Men's needs were self-focused whereas women's needs by and large were family oriented.
- Community responses to HIV/AIDS were very poor.

ABSTRACT NO. 5

- Author(s)** : Melkote, S. R., and D. Goswami
- Title** : Predictors of Attitudes to Persons with AIDS among Young Adults in India
- Source** : The Indian Journal of Social Work, 2000, 61 (1)Jan: 89-105.
- Place of study** : Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To study attitudes towards PWAs, knowledge of AIDS transmission and perception of risk among university students at the University of Hyderabad.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Telecommunications, Bowling Green State University
- Nature of study** : Community-based

Methodology:

203 students from 14 different departments of the University of Hyderabad were chosen using a systematic random sampling. Three dependent variables were selected: (1) attitudes towards PWAs, (2) knowledge of

AIDS transmission and (3) perception of risk. A pre-tested questionnaire was administered and factor analysis using the varimax method for rotation and multiple regression models were used for analysis.

Findings:

- Higher scores on knowledge of AIDS transmission, more positive attitude towards AIDS and safe sex and a higher parental income had a positive influence on attitudes toward PWAs.
- Though family income seems apparently to be an important predictor variable, its effect on attitude toward PWAs was statistically insignificant when other variables like attitude towards AIDS and safe sex and knowledge about AIDS transmission were controlled.
- The role of health education campaigns in bringing about a positive opinion towards PWAs by influencing attitude towards and knowledge on AIDS was remarkable.

ABSTRACT NO. 6

- Author(s)** : Thomas, J.
- Title** : Social Context and Community Perception of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care among IDUs and Their Communities
- Source** : The Indian Journal of Social Work, 1997, 58(4): 557-581
- Place of study** : Churachandpur, Manipur
- Period of study** : November 1993-March 1994
- Aims and objectives** : To assess community perceptions regarding HIV/AIDS prevention and care, and to bring out the policy implications in developing such programmes among an ethnic minority in Manipur.
- Study conducted by** : ICMR-WHO collaborative project on HIV/AIDS in Manipur
- Nature of study** : Community study

Methodology:

The study was conducted in three phases on a group of IDUs in Imphal and Chandrapur, Manipur. Qualitative methods like rapid assessment process, in-depth interviews with key informants, focus group discussions and interviews were used. In the first phase an ICMR/WHO study centre was set-up. In the second phase a census of IDUs in the two districts was carried out. In the third phase a systematic assessment of community perception towards IDUs and HIV/AIDS related issues was done.

Findings:

- Awareness about HIV/AIDS risks was higher among IDUs than the other respondents.
- Respondents showed a lack of knowledge on the mode of transmission of AIDS. Most of the subjects identified the need to develop a suitable preventive programme for high-risk groups.
- The needs of the IDUs were qualitatively different from others, who wanted programs and activities that would increase their self-worth.
- IDUs were not aware of the use of bleach in sterilising needles. They shared strong views about condom usage.
- Though church leaders were evasive in their response to HIV prevention initiatives, they showed a willingness to associate with HIV/AIDS preventive programs to motivate the young to change behaviour.

ABSTRACT NO. 7

- Author(s)** : Thomas, J., and M. Bandyopadhyay
- Title** : Ethnic Minorities and Their Vulnerability to AIDS in a Border State of India
- Source** : AIDS Care, 1999, 11(1): 45-60
- Place of study** : Churachandpur, Manipur
- Period of study** : January 1995
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the community response towards AIDS and to understand the community perception on social and structural vulnerability. The study also aims to identify the sources of information and pattern of communication about AIDS.
- Study conducted by** : ICMR-WHO collaborative project on HIV/AIDS in Manipur
- Nature of study** : Community-based

Methodology:

The study was conducted in Manipur to explore the social factors that affect HIV transmission and ethnicity, which are believed to act as barriers for preventive programs. One hundred and thirty-seven community leaders, 131 teachers and 367 students were selected by stratified random sampling. A survey was carried out by administering questionnaires in the local dialect. The data on social context were generated through key informant interviews.

Findings:

- 76% reported the possibility of HIV transmission through needle sharing and 65% were aware that HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted through social contacts other than sexual mode.
- 76% reported newspapers as their source of information on AIDS related issues.
- 86% perceived the need to introduce education on AIDS and drug abuse in schools and demonstrated a readiness to learn and teach about HIV/AIDS.
- The supportive attitude of the respondents towards the HIV infected person was coupled with a willingness to work as volunteers.
- Only 17% of the respondents acknowledged the capability of the state health department for treating AIDS, and 53% reported a lack of faith in the local government in treating AIDS.
- 56% supported hospital care for AIDS patients whereas 52% suggested possibilities of treatment at home.
- 7% were conscious and aware of their personal vulnerability.

ABSTRACT NO. 8

- Author(s)** : Kantharaj, K., T. E. Mertens, S. Davey, D. Mugriditchian, C. J. Van Dam, and K. M. Radhakrishnan
- Title** : Sexually Transmitted Disease Services in Madras: Could Their Role in AIDS Prevention Be Strengthened?

Source : Indian Journal of Public Health, 1995, 39(3): 93-99

Place of study : Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Period of study : November-December 1992, 2 months

Aims and objectives : To identify the health facilities for STD treatment and optimising STD services with the aim of reducing risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

Study conducted by : State AIDS Project Cell, Tamil Nadu, Chief Surveillance, Evaluation and Forecasting Unit; Global Programme on AIDS, World Health Organization; Department of Public Health; AIDSCAP Project, Family Health International, Thailand

Nature of study : Hospital-based study

Methodology:

The survey was conducted in five regions of Madras City. Ten medically qualified field workers were involved in enumerating health facilities for STD clinics. Brief open-ended and structured (checklist) interviews with doctors giving consultation to at least five patients in a week were carried out. The structured observation method was used during consultation.

Findings:

- The adequacy of the treatment given by doctors was compared against various standards, including the Indian National Guidelines and WHO guidelines. In 108 observations of consultations, most of the treatment was adequate.
- The doctors were able to identify more practices on the checklist when compared to the interviews.
- Three-fourths of the doctors advised their patients to use condoms.

ABSTRACT NO. 9

Author(s) : Mathai R., M. Ross, and S. Hira

Title : Concomitants of HIV/STD Risk Behaviours and Intention to Engage in Risk Behaviours in Adolescents in India

Source : AIDS Care, 1997, 9(5): 563-576

Place of study : Mumbai, Maharashtra

Period of study : Not specified

Aims and objectives : To examine the concomitants of having had sex, or the belief that sex may occur, in an attempt to determine the attitudes, beliefs and social skills of those who may be at risk of STD/HIV transmission in adolescents in India.

Study conducted by : School of Public Health, University of Texas, U.S. and AIDS Research and Control Center, Mumbai

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A sample of 1,230 students in the modal age 16 and 17 in standard 11 and 12 in three colleges were studied using a CDC questionnaire, modified for Indian standards. For the purpose of analysis, sexual risk behaviours and attitudes were divided as those who had sexual contact, those who anticipated that they would have sexual contact and those who had not had contact and did not anticipate any sexual contact.

Findings:

- 8% of men and 1% of women had sexual experiences and over one-third were not sure of being able to abstain from sexual activity with either steady or casual partners.
- Significantly more men had sex or were at risk of having sex as compared with the women.
- Of those who had sex, 47% used condoms.
- Significant differences were noted among those who had sex, anticipated risk of sex and who were not at risk of sex on confidence in condom usage. The latter group scored higher compared to the other two groups indicating the role of more positive norms and personal beliefs on sex.
- On correct use of condom and partner involvement, the other two groups fared well.
- The group at no risk of sex held norms that are more positive and had fewer anxieties towards consistent condom use.
- Knowledge about HIV/AIDS is related to the age, gender and educational level of parents as well as language spoken at home.
- Knowledge was higher and more liberal in sexual permissiveness among men than women on logistic regression.

ABSTRACT NO. 10

Author(s) : Bharat, S.

Title : HIV/AIDS Related Discrimination, Stigmatisation and Denial in India--A Study in Mumbai and Bangalore

Source : Unit for Family Studies: Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Place of study : Mumbai and Bangalore, India

Period of study : One year. January to December 1998. Data collection in Mumbai was carried out from January to September 1998 and in Bangalore from July to November 1998.

Aims and objectives : To understand the socio-cultural contexts in which HIV/AIDS related discrimination, stigmatisation and denial operate.

Study conducted by : Unit for Family Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Sponsored by UNAIDS, Geneva Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Nature of study : Cross-sectional community study

Methodology:

The sample was drawn from different groups such as people living with AIDS admitted in the hospitals,

household members of HIV positive people, health care staff, and professionals from other fields. Qualitative methods like case study method, observation and "dummy" patient interview methods were used. Selection of PLWH/A was based on those coming to the hospital and HIV positive individuals attending positive peoples' group meetings. Selection of personnel from medical and other sectors was done based on expertise. A total of 33 people from Mumbai and 13 HIV positive people from public hospitals at Bangalore were interviewed.

Findings:

- Hospitals were the main source of discrimination and stigmatisation. Some of the forms of discrimination included refusal by doctors/hospitals to provide treatment/admit/operate or transfer to another hospital and physical isolation once identified as positive.
- Patients were informed verbally about testing. Written consent and pre-test counselling were rare. Post-test counselling induced fear rather than support.
- Class bias was also noted in the hospital-based discrimination.
- Confidentiality was not maintained in hospitals.
- Both sero-positive men and women were vulnerable to physical, emotional and social discriminations. There was more discrimination towards women. Care was gendered.
- The doctors in the public hospitals had lots of apprehensions in treating HIV positive people.
- Workplaces, schools and child care institutions were other places of discrimination. Some forms of discrimination at the workplace included removal from job, compelling to resign and withdrawal of health/insurance facilities. Most of the industries had no written policy on AIDS.
- Marginalised women, such as commercial sex workers, eunuchs and homosexuals affected with HIV/AIDS faced double discrimination.
- The two central themes that emerged from examining the discrimination and stigmatisation of HIV/AIDS were "fear" and "prejudices" of personal and societal responses. Loss of ones own/family, image and social ridicule emerged as general fears.

ABSTRACT NO. 11

- Author(s)** : Kumar A., M. Mehra, S. K. Badhan, and N. Gulati
- Title** : Heterosexual Behaviour and Condom Usage in an Urban Population of Delhi, India
- Source** : AIDS Care, 1997, 9(2): 313-318
- Place of study** : Delhi, India
- Period of study** : 9 Months
- Aims and objectives** : To describe the pre- and extra-marital heterosexual activity and condom usage in order to recommend and make medical services available to underprivileged, lower class residents of a resettlement colony in New Delhi.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi
- Nature of study** : Community survey

Methodology:

Out of 2,404 houses in the study area, 650 houses were selected randomly and surveyed. Face-to-face interviews were carried out in the local language. A pre-structured and pre-tested questionnaire comprised of items on socio-economic and demographic status, beliefs and attitudes towards sexual behaviours, HIV/AIDS, alcohol and drug use was administered.

Findings:

- Pre- and extra-marital heterosexual activity was found to be significantly higher among men. Awareness of transmission of diseases through the sexual mode was higher in those practising sexual behaviour. Knowledge did not translate into preventive strategies.
- Literacy and family income were positively and significantly related with the prevalence of heterosexuality.
- Commercial sex workers, friends and/or neighbours were found to be important sex partners for both married and unmarried respondents.

ABSTRACT NO. 12

- Author(s)** : Verma, M. K., A. Dey, A. Islam, and A. Rao
- Title** : Intervention cum Awareness Strategy for the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS for Truck Drivers and Helpers at the Model Wuberia (Checkpost in West Bengal) Resource Centre
- Source** : Bhoruka Research Centre for Hematology and Blood Transfusion
- Place of study** : West Bengal, India
- Period of study** : 16 Weeks, August 1993-December 1993
- Aims and objectives** : To explore the sexual behaviour patterns and awareness about AIDS among truck drivers in the Indian context and to determine the effect of an intervention programme for prevention and control of AIDS.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi
- Nature of study** : Prospective study

Methodology:

A pre-intervention survey was done in three phases. In the first phase, 200 truckers were interviewed about their lifestyles, knowledge about AIDS and use of condoms. In the second phase, socio-economic data based on more qualitative research were obtained from truckers through pre-tested questionnaires. In the third phase, after administering ELISA tests on 50 truck drivers, an intervention programme was carried out with 400 truck drivers to find the usage of condoms among them.

Findings:

- Most of the truckers had low educational status. A majority of them were dependent on alcohol and visited commercial sex workers regularly. Multiple sexual relationships increased their vulnerability to AIDS.
- Their superiors forced them into homosexual practices.

- Most of the truck drivers were not aware of the role of condoms and their awareness about AIDS was very poor. The most common illness found among them was STD.
- 39 out of 510 were ELISA reactive.
- After the intervention programme, only a few were found to be regular and consistent users of condoms.

ABSTRACT NO. 13

- Author(s)** : Abirami, M., and K. Thangamani
- Title** : Role of National Service Scheme in Creating HIV/AIDS Awareness among Students in Coimbatore District
- Source** : Journal of Avinashilingum Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women University, Coimbatore, April 1999, 9(2): 66-70
- Place of study** : Coimbatore District, India
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To make a content analysis of training given to the NSS students on HIV/AIDS and to study the awareness, knowledge and attitude about HIV/AIDS among select NSS students
- Study conducted by** : Home Science Extension, Avinashilingam University, Coimbatore
- Nature of study** : Prospective study

Methodology:

The study was carried out in eight colleges and the sample of NSS students included 110 boys and 190 girls in second year class who had undergone University Talk AIDS (UTA) training and a HIV/AIDS awareness programme organised under NSS. The issues covered under UTA training were human sexuality, psychological impact of HIV/AIDS and preventive behaviour, communicative skills and action plan development for peer group educators. A purposive sampling method was used in the selection of the sample and the interview method was used to collect data.

Findings:

- Both boys and girls had sufficient knowledge about AIDS. A majority of them (more than 85%) were able to expand the acronyms HIV and AIDS correctly.
- They could define "syndrome" as a group of signs and symptoms of the disease.
- Most of them were aware of the modes of transmission of HIV/AIDS, however there was a difference of opinion in perception.
- Boys gendered modes of transmission to women especially sex workers as the carriers of disease while the girls considered men to be more at risk and attributed it to multiple sexual relationships.
- Students opined the need for preventive measures and counselling.

ABSTRACT NO. 14

- Author(s)** : Goyal, R. C.
- Title** : Impact of Health Education on AIDS Awareness among a Rural Community
- Source** : Health and Population-Perspectives and Issues, 1995, 18(2): 81-89
- Place of study** : Ahmednagar, India
- Period of study** : June 1993 - July 1994
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the awareness of AIDS among a rural community and the impact of a health education programme on AIDS awareness.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Rural Medical College, Loni, Ahmednagar
- Nature of study** : Prospective study

Methodology:

The study was conducted in 20 villages of the field area. Fifty households in each village were selected by random sampling. One thousand respondents were interviewed on AIDS in their respective local languages. Men had a higher representation due to non-availability of women respondents. The health education drive was carried out in August 1993 in selected villages and the respondents were once again interviewed in the following year to assess the impact of the programme.

Findings:

- AIDS awareness and knowledge increased following the health education drive (40% to 72% on awareness and 35.82% to 95.77% on knowledge). The benefits were seen both in the illiterate and literate respondents.
- Knowledge was gained through the electronic media and information from the medical personnel.
- The health education drive increased knowledge on transmission of AIDS. They were able to identify specific symptoms of AIDS like severe weakness, loss of weight, fever and so on especially after the intervention programme.
- Misconceptions about the transmission of AIDS were clarified and various steps to prevent the spread of AIDS were enumerated by nearly 78% of the respondents after the health education drive.

ABSTRACT NO. 15

- Author(s)** : Nadkarni, V.
- Title** : AIDS Related Behavioural and Social Research in India
- Source** : Paper presented at the Satellite Conference in India as part of the International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Manila, October 1997
- Place of study** : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Period of study** : Not specified

Aims and objectives : To present an overview of the research studies documented on HIV/AIDS and to analyse the trends in social and behavioural research in terms of their focus, methodologies, gaps in research and future challenges.

Study conducted by : Department of Medical and Psychiatric Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Nature of study : Secondary source data

Methodology:

To review and analyse available research papers, reports, new bulletins, journals, abstracts and newspaper clippings.

Findings:

- Both the intervention and the research studies focused largely on women sex workers.
- In the initial phase of the epidemic, only traditionally stereotyped "high risk groups" were covered. With the movement of the epidemic into the next phase, there has been a gradual awareness on the need to "to study the contexts" within which the "normal" population are at "risk."
- Methodologies varied from surveys to case studies, intervention, and exploratory studies, administering questionnaires, focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, action research and participatory observation. Surveys were used most frequently.
- There has been a move from quantitative to qualitative research methods since 1992. The most important data collection tool has been the interview schedule and focus group discussions.
- Conclusions were often not related to the findings in the sample surveys and premature in intervention studies.
- In the studies related to women, innovative methods have been demonstrated to elicit their views on sex-related issues and health problems.
- Other gaps are with respect to the selection of the research design, inadequate development of data collection tools, incomplete analysis, and over-generalised conclusions. The indicators of behavioural change are not clearly defined.

ABSTRACT NO. 16

Author(s) : Sinha, M.

Title : A Summary of the Findings of the High Risk Behaviour Study from 18 Cities

Source : National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, 1997

Place of study : 22 cities of India of which only 18 were included for analysis

Period of study : 1994-95

Aims and objectives : To find the relation between high-risk behaviour and the spread of HIV/AIDS by studying a range of high-risk behaviour in a State and Union Territory; to describe social and organisational networks within which high-risk behaviour occurs; and to identify future partners in a variety of sectors who could undertake interventions.

Study conducted by : National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The country was divided into 10 zones, and 65 cities were identified in various regions all over the country. In each city a social work department and a central training team were engaged to carry out the study. Participant observation was carried out to study the lifestyles of high-risk groups such as clients and sex workers. Observation, informal open-ended interviews and focus group discussions were used for data collection. Purposive sampling was used. High-risk behaviour was studied in different groups such as (a) commercial sex workers (CSW), (b) men having sex with men (MSM), (c) eunuchs, (d) frequently travelling men (FTM), and (e) intravenous drug users (IDU).

Findings:

- The findings discussed here are based on findings from 18 cities.
- Reasons for not using condoms across the four categories of sex workers differed. Brothel-based CSWs were not using condoms for fear of losing clients. Home-based part-time sex workers were largely unaware of HIV/AIDS. Street-based sex workers were indulging in high-risk behaviour due to abject poverty and were largely unaware of HIV/AIDS. Call girls were found to be health conscious, aware of HIV/AIDS, sought the best health services and had some control over condom usage.
- Commercial sex workers and their children being victims of child abuse took recourse to these activities to earn their livelihood. High-risk behaviour was observed in this group.
- The *hijras* (eunuchs) are often exploited by men for their homosexual needs and demonstrate high levels of risky behaviour. Few were health conscious and sought proper health care services.
- In the category of frequently traveling men, drivers are conscious about their health, though not fully aware of AIDS. Misconceptions regarding the transmission of AIDS existed.
- The pattern of high-risk behaviour in IDUs did not emerge strongly.

ABSTRACT NO. 17

Title : Ethnographic Research of High Risk Sexual Setting, The Madras Experience

Source : Paper presented at the Workshop on Sexual Aspects of AIDS/STD Prevention in India, Mumbai, November 23-27, 1993

Place of study : Madras, Tamil Nadu

Period of study : Not specified

Aims and objectives : To develop interventions for preventing AIDS by studying the high-risk sexual settings in three circuits, namely, the commercial sex workers (CSW), men having sex with men (MSM) and *alis* in Tamil Nadu.

Study conducted by : Community Action Network, Chennai

Nature of study : Ethnographic study

Methodology:

The researchers posed as clients (participant observation) to study the high-risk groups lifestyles, concepts and beliefs, misconceptions, religion, ethnic backgrounds, networks, awareness about STD/HIV/AIDS and so on. Key informants were identified and their different experiences in the sex circuit were elicited through focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

Findings:

- Prevalence of HIV was high among sex workers in Chennai.
- Awareness levels on AIDS among brothel-based CSWs, home-based sex workers, street workers, the clients and the middle men were low.
- The use of condoms was linked to birth control.
- In the case of men having sex with men, the practice of anal sex was noted to be high, and condom usage was low.
- *Alis* in Tamil Nadu have a well-knit group and intervention is possible only if a senior member of their group carries it out.
- The study demonstrated that a targeted intervention with sex workers is possible. The community needs to be involved at all levels of the development of intervention.

ABSTRACT NO. 18

- Author(s)** : Reddy, N. D., M. Shivashankar, V. Ganeshan
- Title** : A Report on Select Urban (Madras) Sexuality (with reference to sexual aspect of AIDS/STD)
- Source** : Paper presented at the workshop on Sexual Aspects of AIDS/STD Prevention in India, Mumbai, November 23-27, 1993
- Place of study** : Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Period of study** : April 1985 to March 1992
- Aims and objectives** : To understand certain sexual behavioural patterns having a high risk for transmitting AIDS, by studying the knowledge and attitude towards sexuality of a section of people in Chennai.
- Study conducted by** : Dega Institute
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A pre-structured questionnaire on sexuality was administered among 10,273 respondents (8,116 men and 2,157 women). Respondents were drawn from people attending health centres or members of social organisations or persons known to the researcher. The first part of the questionnaire contained questions relating to the sexual behaviour of the respondents and the second part dealt with knowledge and attitudes of human sexuality. Interviews were also carried out after developing proper rapport.

Findings:

- Most of the study population (94%) had sexual intercourse, of which 60% had indulged in sexual activity for the first time with their marital partners.

- A significant percentage (40%) had sex prior to their marriage.
- Pre-marital, extra-marital sex, multiple partners, homosexuality and unprotected sex that were seen in the group constitute a high-risk behavioural pattern for contracting or transmitting AIDS.
- Thirteen percent of the respondents had been afflicted with some form of STD and expressed worry about the possibility of contracting AIDS.

ABSTRACT NO. 19

- Author(s)** : Khan, S.
- Title** : Cultural Contexts of Sexual Behaviours and Identities and Their Impact upon HIV Prevention Models: An Overview of South Asian Men Who Have Sex with Men
- Source** : The Indian Journal of Social Work, October 1994, (4): 633-646
- Place of study** : South Asia and U.K.
- Period of study** : 1988-94
- Aims and objectives** : To understand the dynamics of sexuality, the psychosocial framework of sexual behaviours and contexts in which they exist in the South Asian framework to develop appropriate strategies to counter HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- Study conducted by** : Naz Project, United Kingdom
- Nature of study** : Retrospective study

Methodology:

Data that emerged out of the befriending process such as informal meetings, discussions, shared interviews, anecdotal research, communication exchanges (900 personal letters, 2,240 telephone calls) and participatory work with a sample of 1,200 South Asian homosexual men was content analysed.

Findings:

- Vast majority of married men have sex with men. The cultural practice of compulsory arranged marriages, which is not of their choice, led men to seek sexual pleasure outside of marriage.
- In order to have stability in the marriage, these men did not develop any emotional relationship with other men.
- "Gay identified" acceptance was noted in the West but not in the South Asian framework.
- Anal sex between men and women was marked to be a significant sexual behavior among both groups
- In the West, support structures and gay venues were found whereas South Asian men lacked socially accepted space for them to meet other men.
- There was a lack of awareness regarding transmission of AIDS and condom usage.

ABSTRACT NO. 20

- Author(s)** : Yaima, N., S. Ninthouja, D. Sharma, L. Bijaya, K. Shyamkanhai, P. Narendra, K. Lisam and A. Agarwal
- Title** : Lessons from Home-based Care for Persons Affected with HIV and AIDS
- Source** : Indian Journal of Public Health, July-September 1995, 39(3): 113-115
- Place of study** : Imphal, Manipur
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To present relevant data on home-based care of HIV/AIDS positive intravenous drug users (IDUs) at Imphal.
- Study conducted by** : ICMR Unit for Research on AIDS in North-Eastern States of India
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

Three hundred and forty IDU subjects whose history of HIV infection has been registered by the larger ICMR units were considered. Out of these, 236 were cohort members. Clinical assessment was made on a cross-sectional basis. Clients were followed up in the ICMR clinic or at the client's home by a team of physicians and social workers. Data were collected using a pre-tested proforma.

Findings:

- 40% of the IDUs in the sample were taken care of in institutional settings, which was perceived by the family members to be adequate.
- Institutional settings were not popular in Imphal because of fear of discrimination by the health care professionals and the problems related to confidentiality in the hospital setting.
- Family support was found to be much higher in this group. Only 3 out of 340 families did not provide supportive home-based care.

ABSTRACT NO. 21

- Author(s)** : Savara, M., and S. Sridhar
- Title** : Sexual Behaviour amongst Different Occupational Groups in Maharashtra, India and the Implications for AIDS Education
- Source** : The Indian Journal of Social Work, October 1994, (4): 617-632
- Place of study** : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Period of study** : 1993
- Aims and objectives** : To study the sexual behavioural patterns among different occupational groups in Maharashtra and to understand the implications for AIDS education.

Study conducted by : Shakti, Mumbai

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A sample size of 3,000 respondents from five different occupational groups was selected. The students from the third year of college, migrant workers, employees of corporate sectors, factory workers, and loom workers working in small looms, were drawn as a sample. Initially, in-depth interviews with a few respondents were carried out. Based on their ability to read and write they were either given a self-administered questionnaire or interviewed. This was followed by group discussions. Analysis was done using simple frequency tables and discriminant analysis.

Findings:

- A variation in sexual behavior patterns based on occupational groups, age at marriage and education was observed.
- A higher degree of pre-marital sex was noted among the higher occupational and educational groups and those who married late.
- Persons approaching commercial sex workers and/or involved in group sex were the highest among the white-collar workers.
- Approximately 10% engaged in post-marital affairs. Those engaged in homosexual relations were very low.
- Awareness about AIDS, STDs and condom use was especially low among the migrant workers.
- AIDS awareness was higher among the students and white-collar workers.

ABSTRACT NO. 22

Author(s) : Narain, J., and G. Sodhi

Title : Epidemiology and Prevention of AIDS in Children

Source : Indian Journal of Paediatrics, 1995, (62): 307-315

Place of study : Southeast Asia

Period of study : Not specified

Aims and objectives : To review the current situation regarding the epidemiological and public health programme aspects of AIDS among children in Asia.

Study conducted by : Global Programme of AIDS, World Health Organisation, Southeast Asia Regional Office, New Delhi

Nature of study : Secondary source data

Methodology:

Reports on AIDS and HIV infection from 11 countries received by the South Asia Regional Office of the World Health Organisation were analysed.

Findings:

- Although the national average of the infection rate is very low, it is noticed that there has been 0.5-1% increases in the infection rate in Pune and Manipur.

- Recent sentinel surveillance data from Mumbai showed an alarmingly high rate of women (2.5% out of 800) attending antenatal clinics to be infected with HIV.
- Differences in the rates of vertical transmission of HIV-1 were seen in different studies, which could be due to distribution of risk factors, different research designs and length of follow-up.
- The severity of HIV associated diseases and the length of survival were determined by the exposure to different infections prevalent in an area as well as on the availability of clinical care services.

ABSTRACT NO. 23

- Author(s)** : Basu, A., D. Gupta, and G. Krishna
- Title** : The Household Impact of Adult Morbidity and Mortality: Some Implications of the Potential Epidemic of AIDS in India
- Source** : In "The Economics of HIV and AIDS: The Case of South and South East Asia," D. E. Bloom and P. Godwin (eds.), Oxford University Press, pp. 102-154
- Place of study** : Delhi
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To examine the impact of socio-economic status on HIV/AIDS in different household settings and to identify high-risk situations.
- Study conducted by** : All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi
- Nature of study** : Exploratory study

Methodology:

A sample of 484 respondents was drawn from all parts of Delhi ranging from slums to upper income neighbourhoods. Using a hypothetical approach of using severe mental illness as proxy for AIDS infection, information was elicited from the respondents. Pre-tested questionnaires and interviews were used for data collection. A survey followed by case studies of households that experienced an adult death in the last two years was also conducted.

Findings:

- Economic status as measured by income, quality of housing material and asset ownership was directly related to AIDS awareness.
- The cost of illness and death was lower in economically better off households. Respondents from poorer income groups were more affected and could not afford to take off from work without loss of income.
- The type of employment played a role in meeting the cost of the incapacitated individual. For example, in self-employed households, other family members substituted the occupational role of the diseased person.
- Respondents from greatly affected groups were most likely to have working wives. Women's work participation was necessary to substantiate the family income.

ABSTRACT NO. 24

- Author(s)** : Sharma, V., S. Dave, and P. Chauhan
- Title** : Condoms: Mis-use = Non-use. The Condom Equation in Gujarat, India
- Source** : AIDS CARE, 1997, 9(6): 707-713
- Place of study** : Anand Taluka, Gujarat
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To investigate the prevalence of condom use and to assess the knowledge about the condom usage among married, sexually active men, who had not adopted any permanent method of contraception.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Community Medicine, P. S. Medical College, Karamsad and S. K. Hospital, Karamsad, Gujarat, India
- Nature of study** : Community survey

Methodology:

The study was conducted through survey in eight randomly selected villages in Anand, Gujarat. A sample of 1,478 married men between the ages of 18-55 were interviewed with the pre-tested questionnaires on their sexual practices, knowledge about correct use of condoms, and reasons for their use/non-use.

Findings:

- Seventy four percent had never used a condom, 24.4% were irregular users and only 1.8% were regular users.
- The majority of the respondents (69%) did not know that condoms offer protection against STDs and AIDS.
- Knowledge of correct use of condoms was positively related to regularity of use and education status of respondents.
- The most common mistakes in condom use were the use of oil-based lubricants and reuse of condoms.
- The commonly cited reasons for non-use of condoms was its interference with sexual activity and lack of confidence in its effectiveness as a contraceptive.

ABSTRACT NO. 25

- Author(s)** : Khan, M., and A. Sharma
- Title** : Psycho-social Sspects of STD and HIV Infection amongst Commercial Sex Workers in Delhi
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," O. P. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and Indrayan (eds.), 1997, National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi
- Place of study** : New Delhi
- Period of study** : March to September 1992

Aims and objectives : To identify the pattern of STD and HIV seropositivity among the women commercial sex workers in Delhi by examining the psycho-social and sexual behaviour in the subjects.

Study conducted by : National AIDS Research Institute (Indian Council of Medical Research), Pune.

Nature of study : Community survey

Methodology:

A health survey on psycho-social behaviour of 100 commercial sex workers, with STD infections in the age group 15-40 was carried out followed by a health education drive and counselling on HIV and STD. All the participants were administered a questionnaire and a complete physical examination was done. The serum sample was tested and re-tested for the confirmation of results.

Findings:

- The prevalence of HIV infection among the sex workers in Delhi was lower as compared to other states of India.
- The majority of the respondents (32%) were uneducated.
- The health education drive increased the regular use of condoms among clients from 5-43%.
- Sense of motivation, co-operation with medical staff and AIDS consciousness were higher in this group.
- It was noted that without sustained education campaign or peer support, the subjects reverted to unsafe sex practices.

ABSTRACT NO. 26

Author(s) : Giri, T., J. Wali, H. Meena, I. Pande, S. Uppal, and S. Kailash

Title : Socio-demographic Characteristics of HIV Infection in Northern India

Source : Journal of Communicable Disease, 1995, 27(1): 1-9

Place of study : Northern India

Period of study : 1986-93

Aims and objectives : To understand the epidemiology of AIDS in northern India in order to evolve strategies for effective control and respond to the medical, social and economic impact.

Study conducted by : Department of Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Nature of study : Prospective study

Methodology:

A sample of 134 HIV infected patients diagnosed based on ELISA tests were administered a questionnaire focusing on their socio-demographic and sexual behaviour pattern. The sample was classified into paediatric and adult group.

Findings:

- A progressive increase was noticed in the number of HIV positive patients. Gender and age differences were not noticed.
- Marital status had no bearing on incidence of seropositivity among adult men as compared to their women counterparts. Heterosexual contact was an important mode of transmission across single and married seropositive men (51 and 46, respectively).
- Seropositivity was higher in the married when compared to unmarried respondents.
- Heterosexual promiscuity among the men and transmission from their spouses in women was the major source of transmission.
- The transmission in children was mainly due to blood transfusion.
- Defence personnel and businessmen formed a large part of the adult population at risk.

ABSTRACT NO. 27

Author(s) : Sonawat, R., and S. Mathur

Title : HIV/AIDS Persons' Coping Strategies

Source : SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, 1999

Place of study : Mumbai

Period of study : One year

Aims and objectives : To identify the psycho-social problems of persons with HIV/AIDS to determine the coping mechanisms adopted and to develop intervention strategies for the persons with HIV/AIDS.

Study conducted by : SNDT Women's University, Mumbai

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The sample for the study was drawn from ARCON (AIDS Research and Control), J. J. Hospital. A purposive sampling of 30 subjects (23 men, 17 women) tested positive at least a month prior (as the consequences of being affected by AIDS are realised gradually by the individual), in the age group 20-45 was selected. An observation and interview schedule focusing on general profile, psycho-social problems and coping mechanisms was used for data collection.

Findings:

- HIV/AIDS infection was not limited to any particular class. Men and women became ill at the mean age of 30-35 and 25-30 years, respectively.
- Subjects reported "fear" and "anxiety" (40%), period of "depression" (17%), "shock" (7%) and numbness (20%). Only 13% "rationalised" the diagnosis and reported death as "inevitable." Three percent did not understand the implications of diagnosis.
- Subjects underwent demonstrable behavioural change after diagnosis.
- More than half the sample reported health problems like recurring fever, loss of weight and weakness.
- Disclosure of one's HIV positive status to family, spouse, relatives and peers was perceived to be a major threat due to fear of discrimination and ostracism.

- Individuals with a higher education perceived a greater impact of psycho-social problems as compared to the illiterates.
- Coping strategies were age and occupation related. The subjects between 25-30 years showed destructive mechanisms, whereas individuals with better occupations showed constructive mechanisms.
- Widows exhibited patterns that are more positive and other married women, being infected from their husbands, expressed anger.

ABSTRACT NO. 28

- Author(s)** : Pandav, C., K. Anand, B. Shamanna, S. Chowdhury, and L. Nath
- Title** : The Household Impact of Adult Morbidity and Mortality: Some Implications of the Potential Epidemic of AIDS in India
- Source** : In "The Economics of HIV and AIDS: The Case of South and South East Asia," D. E. Bloom and P. Godwin (eds.), Oxford University Press, 1999
- Place of study** : South and Southeast Asia
- Period of study** : 1991-94
- Aims and objectives** : To estimate the economic cost of HIV/AIDS due to loss of productivity through measures of morbidity and mortality, changes in skilled work and retraining, time spent by caregivers for caring and emotional trauma faced by patient and family.
- Study conducted by** : All India Institute of Medical Sciences
- Nature of study** : Exploratory study

Methodology:

An exploratory large-scale survey complemented with qualitative data using a hypothetical visualisation of the possible impact of them being incapacitated with comparison to some recognisable illness was considered.

Findings:

- Interviews of 500 men in 600 households from slums to upper-income neighbourhoods were held.
- Socio-economic status was reflected in the differential awareness about AIDS. Better off households were more likely to be aware of AIDS.
- Respondents from low socio-economic groups were not aware of the advantages of disposable needles. Higher income groups demonstrated increasing use of disposable needles.
- The results did not show a concrete connection between poverty and HIV/AIDS, however, poverty and poor health were connected.
- The impact of the illness was seen immediately and severely in poorer households of manual or unskilled labourers. They could not afford to take even a day off from their work without loss of income.
- Only 21% had access to any kind of formal insurance and there was a lack of governmental schemes such as insurance policies to complement the household economy of the diseased.
- There were social and cultural inhibitions regarding women entering bread earner roles in case of disability or death of earning men of the family.
- Extended families were able to provide better support to the victims of the disease.

- A woman's death, even when she is not a breadwinner, had an impact on the household economy, as there was a loss of ability to control and manage the household budget. The households in which women were economically active witnessed acute losses due to their deteriorating health.
- Though the television emerged as an important source of information, in remote areas and economically deprived groups, radio played an important role.

ABSTRACT NO. 29

- Author(s)** : Sarkar, S., S. Panda, K. Sarkar, C. S. Hangzo, L. Bijaya, N. Singh, N. Das, A. Agarwal, A. Chatterjee, B. Deb, and R. Detels
- Title** : A Cross-sectional Study on Factors including HIV Testing and Counselling Determining Unsafe Injecting Practices among Injecting Drug Users of Manipur
- Source** : Indian Journal of Public Health, 1995, 39(3): 86-92
- Place of study** : Imphal, Manipur
- Period of study** : February 1992 - July 1993
- Aims and objectives** : To explore the extent of risky injecting behaviour and to examine the determinants of safer injecting practices.
- Study conducted by** : ICMR Unit for Research on AIDS for North Eastern States of India, Calcutta
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional hospital study

Methodology:

A cross-sectional study was carried out among all the 488 intravenous drug users (IDUs) who attended detoxification centres and the prison at Imphal. Detailed interviews (seven days after admission and/or clearing of immediate withdrawal symptoms) with the patients admitted for detoxification and the self-reported behaviours based in pre-scheduled interviews were carried out. For the purpose of analysis the drug users were classified as "sharers" and "non-sharers" of needles. The awareness of the possibility of contracting the infection by needle sharing or sexual contact was used for the analysis. Infected persons were provided counselling services.

Findings:

- Risk behaviour had decreased during the period of study. This was attributed to the cleaning practices like boiling and reduction in sharing of needles.
- A few drug users (10%) reported no previous sharing of needles while 70% currently shared their injection equipment. Needle sharing had reduced in comparison with the previous study.
- Only a small number had specific knowledge of the protective role of cleaning of needles.
- A logical regression analysis revealed that unsafe needle sharing behaviour is not influenced by knowledge on HIV transmission or educational status.
- Age and ethnicity had a significant influence on needle sharing.

- Author(s)** : Bhende, A. A.
- Title** : Evolving a Model for AIDS Prevention Education among Under-privileged Adolescent Girls in Urban India
- Source** : International Center for Research on Women. Women and AIDS Research Program, Research Report Series No.5, 1997
- Place of study** : Mumbai
- Period of study** : 1997
- Aims and objectives** : To design and test a sex and family life education program, with AIDS prevention, for low-income adolescent girls in Mumbai.
- Study conducted by** : International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai. Funded by the International Center for Research on Women, Women and AIDS Research Program
- Nature of study** : Intervention study

Methodology:

The study was carried out in three phases:

- The preparatory phase, where a household survey was conducted to study community people
- The intervention phase
- The dissemination phase.

Focus group discussions and informant interviews were conducted to gain an understanding of the range of knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviour of adolescent girls and boys and mothers of adolescent girls regarding various aspects of sexuality, STD, HIV/AIDS and related issues. Observation of community events and the daily routine of the target group were also undertaken. A baseline survey was conducted on a sample of 85 adolescent girls and 125 adolescent boys. A street play was carried out for awareness building and support for the programme. In the final phase of the study, a one-day workshop was organized to disseminate the findings of the study to national and state-level policy and program experts in the fields of health and family planning. Comparisons were made on their perceptions of their status, issues of marriage, health, relationship with parents, sexual harassment, puberty and reproductive health issues, their relationship with the mother and their own aspirations across the sexes.

Findings:

- Adolescent girls did not have much information about menstruation and reproduction and none were informed about STDs and AIDS. The adolescent boys were a little better informed, but were misinformed on several aspects of reproductive physiology, STDs and AIDS.
- Families did not play an explicit role in educating their boys who depended on popular films and written material for information.
- The adolescents did not perceive AIDS to be a threat to their health or to the health of their communities.
- Parents denied preference to boys over girls with respect to food, clothing or access to medical treatment. However, respondents showed favouritism to boys on educational opportunities, household workload, freedom of movement and responsibility in family decision-making. More girls (80%), compared to boys (29%), were responsible for household chores.
- Girls preferred to be a boy in the next birth. The heavy workloads that girls have and the preferential treatment accorded to boys were cited as reasons for the preference.
- The girls experienced sexual harassment in their settlements. The boys reported strong feelings regarding the sexual harassment of girls in the settlements, and blamed outsiders for the problem.

- Though the adolescent girls denied sexual activity, medical practitioners in the area reported pre-marital pregnancy.
- Boys were more willing to talk and respond to questions about their lives than the girls. The adolescent girls seemed to be trapped in a "culture of silence" that did not permit them to speak about their opinions, feelings or concerns on any issue. With educational sessions the girls became more vocal and self-confident, freely voicing their opinions, suggestions and criticisms.
- A follow-up survey indicated a higher proportion of girls reported correct knowledge about menstruation, reproduction and HIV/AIDS than in the baseline survey.
- 25% of girls and 32% of boys had heard about HIV/AIDS from the television but had misconceptions on prevention, transmission, testing and treatment.

ABSTRACT NO. 31

- Author(s)** : Chandra, P.
- Title** : Development and Evaluation of a Module for HIV/AIDS Related Risk Reduction among Patients with Alcohol Dependence
- Source** : Paper presented at the Indo-U.S. Workshop on Behavioural Prevention Research to Stop the Further Spread of HIV/AIDS, New Delhi, January 1999
- Place of study** : Bangalore
- Aims and objectives** : To develop a module incorporating various aspects of risk reduction for patients with alcohol abuse and high-risk sexual behaviour and to evaluate the efficacy of the module.
- Study conducted by** : NIMHANS, Bangalore
- Nature of study** : Hospital-based

Methodology:

The sample was drawn from the de-addiction unit at NIMHANS. The patients with a diagnosis of alcohol abuse between the age group 20-25 were recruited. A sample size of 30 with an equal sized control group, matched with age, was drawn purposively for the study. HIV/AIDS related knowledge, schedules on sexual attitudes and risk assessment, personalising risk proforma, and sensation seeking scale by Zuikerman (1980) were used for data collection.

Findings:

- Most of the subjects reported the association of alcohol and high-risk behaviour (HRB).
- The common reasons given by subjects for engaging in high risk behaviour were seeking pleasure, sexual dissatisfaction with spouse, lack of sex partner, as a habit, to kill loneliness, stress and worries and family problems.
- The circumstances in which subjects engage in HRB were being away from home, with friends, in bars, pubs and at home.
- The difference in the sexual attitude of the person with risk behaviours and the person without the risk behaviours was noticed.

- Personality is the significant determinant in risk behaviours. High-risk behaviour subjects are more uninhibited than the subjects without high-risk behaviour.
- Subjects engaging in HRB showed significant increase in their HIV/AIDS related knowledge. There was no change in the sexual attitude of the subjects with high-risk behaviour after the risk reduction intervention programme.

ABSTRACT NO. 32

- Author(s)** : Gangakhedkar, R., M. Bentley, A. Divekar, D. Gadkari, S. Mehendale, M. Shepherd, R. Bollinger, and T. Quinn
- Title** : Spread of HIV Infection in Married Monogamous Women in India
- Source** : JAMA, 1997, 278(23): 2090-2092
- Place of study** : Pune, Maharashtra
- Period of study** : May 1993 - July 1996
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the current behaviour, practices and understanding of HIV/AIDS/STD among the selected groups and to identify the most effective approaches of communication to reach out to these target groups.
- Study conducted by** : National AIDS Research Institute, Pune; John Hopkins University, Baltimore; National Institute of Health, Baltimore
- Nature of study** : Prospective study

Methodology:

A qualitative methodology was used for data collection. Stakeholder's workshop, focus group discussions and key informants interviews were held. The data collection for IEC material was accessed through various governmental, non-governmental and individual agencies working in this field. Their different awareness campaigns, programmes and activities were reviewed.

Findings:

- There were several discernable variations in terms of class, gender and urban-rural characteristics among the target groups. The knowledge and perceived vulnerability about HIV/AIDS varied across different identified groups.
- The group of wage earning women showed very poor knowledge on HIV/AIDS and that their knowledge was restricted to the sexual mode of transmission of infection and use of condoms to prevent infection.
- The younger girls were embedded in a culture of silence and associated a lot of shame to open discussion about AIDS.
- The women attending antenatal clinics reported very poor knowledge on HIV/AIDS. Their perceived sense of vulnerability to AIDS was low and they believed it to be a foreign disease.
- The awareness of HIV/AIDS was high among the group of women in prostitution.
- The people living with AIDS were observed to have no in-depth information about their condition.
- Women reported experiencing discrimination and ostracism from private medical practitioners and their neighbourhood when their HIV positive status was disclosed.

ABSTRACT NO. 33

- Author(s)** : Bollinger, R., R. Brookmeyer, S. Mehendale, R. Paranjpe, M. Shepherd, D. Gadkari, T. Quinn
- Title** : Risk Factors and Clinical Presentation of Acute Primary HIV Infection in India
- Source** : JAMA, 1997, 278(23): 2085-2089
- Place of study** : Pune, Maharashtra
- Period of study** : May 13, 1993 - June 1, 1996
- Aims and objectives** : To apply a method based on measurement of prevalent HIV-1 p24 antigenemia for identification of risk factors for newly acquired HIV infection and to describe the signs and systems of acute HIV infection.
- Study conducted by** : Division of Infectious Diseases, Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, Baltimore; NARI, Pune
- Nature of study** : Case control study

Methodology:

The study was carried out in two STD clinics in Pune. With informed consent, all the patients of the clinic were screened for the identification of HIV-1 and HIV-2 status using ELISA tests. Interviews were carried out using pre-structured questionnaires focusing on demographic details, history of STD, clinical history, sexual behaviour and knowledge and practices regarding HIV/AIDS. Those who were sero-negative were tested for p24 antigen status. Thus subjects who were HIV antibody negative but p24 antigen positive were identified. Risk factors and symptoms of acute infection were identified by randomly selecting five controls. Univariate and bivariate analyses were carried out using the EGRET statistical programme.

Findings:

- The prevalence of sero-positivity was high in the sample (23%).
- Among those who were identified as sero-positive, 45% were CSWs, 21% were men STD patients and 14% were women STD patients who did not practice commercial sex work.

ABSTRACT NO. 34

- Author(s)** : Indian Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS (INP+)
- Title** : A Needs Assessment Study of People Living with HIV/AIDS
- Source** : Indian Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS (INP+)
- Place of study** : Mumbai, New Delhi, Imphal and Bangalore
- Period of study** : May - August 1999

Aims and objectives : To improve the quality of the lives of persons living with HIV by providing opportunities for such people to voice their opinions, by developing networks for care and support, by increasing the level of awareness in HIV subjects and the general public, by improving treatment facilities and lastly by making them aware of their rights to be exercised in society.

Study conducted by : Indian Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS (INP+)

Nature of study : Exploratory study

Methodology:

One hundred fifteen (115) respondents were contacted through the state level network of INP+ and NGOs in four cities. The structured questionnaires were administered to respondents who were mostly in the age bracket 20-52. In-depth interviews and focus group discussions were recorded with their consent and their confidentiality was maintained. A few respondents who were found to be inhibited in discussing about the topics of safer sex practices were approached by the local PWA networks, which enabled them to share intimate and sensitive information without hesitation.

Findings:

- Subjects sought testing when they fell ill, had opportunistic infections, were pressured by family members or a spouse for feared infection due to risk behaviour.
- Subjects had difficulty in procuring drugs because drugs were often not available at the government run clinics. There was an absence of laboratory or nutritional back-up for respondents on treatment. Moreover, seeking medical attention at hospitals was a tedious process that delayed treatment.
- Some respondents made use of alternate medicines such as "homeopathy" and "*siddha*."
- Respondents feared a "breach of confidentiality" and "discrimination." General indifference by doctors to HIV patients was reported. A shortage of trained doctors in HIV management was noted.
- People living with AIDS formed their own self-help groups where they felt comfortable and were able to share their problems with others.
- On family support to the HIV infected persons, contradictory reports were noted, but the respondents reported positive help and support from NGOs.
- The social acceptance for HIV affected people was low. They opined that the general community perceived AIDS as a fearful and moralistic disease. They perceived themselves to be marginalized by other groups.
- Experiences of violations of rights and rejection of the HIV infected persons in hospitals, households and the workplace were common. They were denied treatment by doctors, terminated from or refused jobs, to name a few.
- Awareness of human rights was very low among the respondents. The subjects had no idea about redressal systems for human rights violations. Human rights were not seen as an integral part of HIV related policies, hence HIV prevention and care programs were not sensitive to the needs of people living with AIDS.
- Those who attended counselling did not receive inputs on life after infection, clarification of myths and misconceptions and the art of positive living.

ABSTRACT NO. 35

Author(s) : Dutta, C.

Title : A Study on the Impact of Awareness Programme Imparted to In-service Nursing Staff on Their Knowledge Regarding AIDS

Source : Indian Journal of Public Health, 1993, 37(1): 23-25

Place of study : West Bengal

Period of study : Not specified

Aims and objectives : To know the existing level of knowledge of trained nurses regarding AIDS and assesses the impact of awareness programmes on their knowledge.

Study conducted by : Medical College Hospital

Nature of study : Intervention study

Methodology:

The study was carried out on 105 nursing personnel from two hospitals and one medical college in West Bengal. A two-day seminar on AIDS awareness was conducted through didactic lectures and group discussions, using various audio-visual aids including films. The programme comprised of learning objectives regarding various aspects of AIDS on causation, transmission, signs and symptoms, prevention and control. Assessment of knowledge of participants was done before and after the completion of the programme with the help of a pre-designed proforma containing 25 multiple-choice questions.

Findings:

- There was poor knowledge with a great need for the training programs. Only 8% could obtain 75% of the score.
- There was significant increase in knowledge and awareness in the subjects (increased from 8% to 51.4%) following post-test evaluation.

ABSTRACT NO. 36

Author(s) : Bansal, R.

Title : Truck Drivers and Risk of STDs including HIV

Source : Indian Journal of Community Medicine, 1995, (20): 1-4

Place of study : Indore

Period of study : 20 days

Aims and objectives : To explore the risk for contracting STDs/HIV and the health seeking behaviour to reduce the risk by studying their sexual attitude, substance abuse and social influences in long distance truck drivers.

Study conducted by : Department of Community Medicine, P. J. Medical College, Karamsad

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The study has been carried out on 410 long distance truck drivers for assessing their risks for STDs and HIV/AIDS. The group was classified into senior and junior drivers. Oral interviews were conducted with the drivers who parked their trucks consecutively at predetermined randomly selected areas.

Findings:

- Most of the truck drivers indulged in extra-marital sexual intercourse. Fourteen and thirty three percent of the senior and junior drivers, respectively, had past or present history of STDs.
- The majority of the respondents lack awareness on AIDS. The majority (96%) of the drivers were ignorant about AIDS and the remaining 4% had incomplete knowledge regarding AIDS.
- Doctors did not give drivers any counselling regarding safe sex practices. Only 2 truck drivers out of 410 were using condoms.
- Alcohol abuse was common, more among senior as compared to the junior drivers.
- Commercial sex and substance abuse were observed to be the reasons for a higher risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

ABSTRACT NO. 37

- Author(s)** : Bansal, R.
- Title** : Sexual Behaviour and Substance Use Patterns amongst Adolescent Truck Cleaners and Risk of HIV/AIDS
- Source** : Indian Journal of Maternal and Child Health ,1992, 3(4): 108-110
- Place of study** : Indore
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To examine the vulnerability of adolescent truck cleaners to contraction and transmission of HIV and AIDS and to explore and understand the reasons for the same.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Community Medicine, P.S. Medical College, Karamsad
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The sample of 210 adolescent truck cleaners was drawn from a popular place where all trucks are offloaded and repaired in Indore. A random sampling comprising of senior drivers, junior drivers and cleaners (who is usually an adolescent) were orally interviewed on a semi-structured proforma.

Findings:

- 11 adolescents out of 210, indulged in multiple sexual activities. Almost all (99%) had not heard about AIDS.
- 94% of the adolescents had indulged in unprotected sexual practices and remaining 5.7% had used condoms infrequently.
- Alcohol, smoking and substance abuse were common in the adolescent cleaners and senior truck drivers often met the expenditures for these activities.

ABSTRACT NO. 38

- Author(s)** : Grover, V., A. Kanhan, A. Indrayan
- Title** : Counselling: Effect of KAP against HIV/AIDS and STDS among a High-risk Group
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," O. P. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi, 1997.
- Place of study** : New Delhi
- Period of study** : August 1993 to September 1994
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the impact of counselling on knowledge, attitude and practices against HIV infection and AIDS among high-risk groups, especially the subjects attending a STD clinic.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, University College of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
- Nature of study** : Intervention study

Methodology:

The sample of 500 patients attending STD clinics was drawn from the hospital in New Delhi. A pre-tested structured schedule was used to collect information regarding the respondent's awareness about AIDS related issues. After two months, a short schedule was filled in to assess their knowledge and prevention practices against AIDS after the intervention programme. Analysis was carried out on the two assessments.

Findings:

- The awareness about AIDS increased from 60% to 97% following counselling.
- The increase in awareness was noted in both men and women but was found to be higher in women.
- At the pre-session evaluation, two-thirds of the men and one-third of the women had demonstrated awareness of some methods of protection from AIDS.
- The response of "avoiding multiple partners" before counselling was changed to "not going to CSW" after counselling.
- The awareness about "non-curability of AIDS" increased from 20% to 56% after counselling.

ABSTRACT NO. 39

- Author(s)** : Bansal, R., and R. Arya
- Title** : Tattooing Practices in Bhadbhut Pilgrimage and Risk of Transmission of Infections
- Source** : Medicine and Surgery, November/December 1993
- Place of study** : Bhadbhut, Bharuch

Period of study : August 1993 - September 1993

Aims and objectives : To study the tattooing practices in a pilgrimage centre in Gujarat and to examine the risk of transmission of various infections through the practice of tattooing.

Study conducted by : Department of Community Medicine, P. S. Medical College, Karamsad, Gujarat

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The present study was carried out on a sample of 14 tattooists, who use puncturing of skin and 280 of their clients.

Findings:

- Tattooing was predominantly an ancestral profession (86%) while the remaining had learned this art by observation.
- None of the tattooists were aware of the hazards in their activity and did not observe any aseptic precautions.
- Out of 280 tattooed persons studied, 63% were men and the rest women.
- The reasons for the tattooing were customary (56%), pleasure (10%), and demonstration of intimacy (10%). In 38% of cases, it had a religious motive.

ABSTRACT NO. 40

Author(s) : Singh, R., N. Atteq, J. John

Title : HIV/AIDS and Labour Rights: A Study of Vulnerability of the Workers in Wazirpur Industrial Area, Delhi

Source : Centre for Education and Communication

Place of study : Wazirpur Industrial Area, New Delhi

Period of study : February to March 1999

Aims and objectives : The study aimed to document the possible impact of the AIDS patients in the workplace with regard to labour wages, employment security, discrimination, labour productivity and the current HIV/AIDS control prevention programmes with a view to suggest policy development.

Study conducted by : Centre for Education and Communication

Nature of study : Exploratory

Methodology:

An exploratory study was conducted in Wazirpur Industrial Area (WPIA), New Delhi. Using a hypothetical approach and with the use of survey and questionnaires the understanding of the impact AIDS was gained by getting the respondents to visualise the impact of them being incapacitated due to prolonged illness. Five sets of questionnaires were developed for each group, namely, workers (147 respondents), housewives (25 respondents), doctors in ESI and STD clinics, and 4 local registered practitioners.

Findings:

- All the workers (147) interviewed were migrants. Only 12% were in permanent jobs. They were living in squalid surroundings and did not have access to any kind of insurance.
- Their working atmosphere was hazardous and their basic needs were not taken care of.
- Multiple partners including visits to commercial sex workers, homosexuality, alcohol consumption and drug use were found to be prevalent among the workers.
- Condom use was noted to be negligible, the main reason cited was the interference in pleasure seeking.
- Careless medical practices like not using disposable needles, using unsterilised needles and lack of blood safety were noted.
- Awareness did not translate into the practice of safe sex.
- Employers used moralistic attitudes for the cause of HIV/AIDS infection. No companies had policies related to HIV/AIDS.
- Trade unions were oblivious about the disease and 80% of the trade unionists did not consider HIV/AIDS as their concern. Discussion about sexual behaviour was considered a taboo.
- Mostly women in the eventuality of prolonged illness in the bread-earning members expressed their inability to work outside the home.
- Doctors responded that 60% of the patients preferred private health care to government hospitals due to the long drawn and tedious procedures to be followed in these settings.
- Doctors felt the need for an intervention programme on AIDS but highly stressful and socially impoverished environments inhibited efforts for prevention and education.
- Labour rights were much neglected.

ABSTRACT NO. 41

- Author(s)** : AIDS Control and Prevention Project, Voluntary Health Services
- Title** : HIV Risk Behaviour, Sentinel Surveillance Survey in Tamil Nadu: Report on Second Wave
- Source** : APAC, Voluntary Health Services, Chennai, 1997
- Place of study** : Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Period of study** : The study was conducted in two phases. The first wave was carried out from October - December 1996 and the second wave conducted during October - December 1997.
- Aims and objectives** : To provide repeated measurable indicators for observing trends in high-risk behaviour among selected population groups, namely, sex workers, truckers and their helpers, women and men factory workers and students.
- Study conducted by** : An APAC Project administered by Voluntary Health Services, Chennai with financial assistance from the United States Agency for International Development under a bilateral agreement with the Government of India.
- Nature of study** : Prospective study

Methodology:

The study, conducted in two phases from October - December 1996 and October - December 1997, was carried out using similar methodology for both phases. The survey obtained measures on knowledge and behaviour indicators, urethritis prevalence and health seeking behaviour indicators and appropriate perception of risk indicators. Data were collected on variables such as misconception about STD/HIV/AIDS, sources of information, condom use during paid sex and reasons for risk perception. The survey was conducted in 10 sample towns and in 6 sub-population groups covering 12,853 respondents.

Findings:

- There was a considerable increase in knowledge on condom use as a protective measure against HIV/AIDS. The increase was significant in all the groups except men students. Among truckers and helpers, the knowledge level increased to 94% and 97%, respectively, and 90% in the rest of the study population.
- The respondents having sexual intercourse with non-regular sexual partners in the last 12 months had decreased in 4 of the 6 groups, and the change in behaviour was found to be significant.
- The condom use behaviour increased significantly only among CSWs. Amongst clients, condom use increased considerably among truckers, helpers and men in industrial work in paid sex.
- The reported urethritis incidence doubled significantly from 3% to 6% in the men students. A marginal improvement in health seeking was noted only among the men students from 18% to 21%.
- In spite of an increase in level of knowledge in all the groups the appropriate perception of risk of contracting HIV/AIDS remained constant. Only among the women factory workers, the appropriate perception of risk increased from 61% to 75%.

ABSTRACT NO. 42

- Author(s)** : Chandra, P., V. Ravi, A. Desai, and D. Subbkrishna
- Title** : Anxiety and Depression among HIV-infected Heterosexuals: A Report from India
- Source** : Journal of Psychosomatic Research, 1998, 45(5): 401-409
- Place of study** : Bangalore, South India
- Period of study** : 6 months
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the prevalence of psychological morbidity (anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation) in heterosexual HIV infected individuals within 4-6 weeks of being informed of their sero-status and to study the relationship between psycho-social and illness-related factors and psychiatric morbidity.
- Study conducted by** : Departments of Psychiatry and Neurovirology, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A sample of 51 HIV sero-positive heterosexual individuals from the HIV clinic of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore were selected with their informed consent. Detailed clinical interviews, sexual and risk-behaviours, anxiety and depression using the Hospital Anxiety and

Depression Scale, habitation and family relationship was assessed within 4-6 weeks of revelation of HIV status along with pre- and post-test counselling. The diagnosis of AIDS was based on the WHO criteria while an ICD-10 criterion was used for evaluation of psychiatric disorders including alcohol and substance use. Suicidal intent following revelation of sero-status was assessed on a 4-point scale. Two-way contingency tables and multiple regression analysis were used for statistical inferences.

Findings:

- Respondents were mostly men in the age range 20-40 years, married and from urban backgrounds.
- The only sexual contact for 23% of the women was with a spouse or partner.
- 46% of patients were asymptomatic, 29% had AIDS- related conditions and 25% fulfilled WHO criteria for AIDS.
- 31% reported severe pain while 5% had painful symptoms. Anxiety and depression scores were significantly higher in individuals with pain. 36% revealed anxiety disorder. 40% showed depressive disorder of which 9% met ICD-10 criteria for moderate depressive disorder or generalised anxiety disorder. Death wish was seen in 20%, occasional suicidal ideation in 12%, persistent suicidal ideation in 6% and suicidal attempts in 8%. Those who attempted suicide had a history of psychiatric illness.
- 51% had past alcohol abuse or dependence, 47% had current alcohol abuse or dependence and nearly 90% had a past history of alcohol dependence which made them more vulnerable to psychological morbidity.
- 24% of spouses with AIDS, and 43% of the spouses showed serological evidence of infection.
- Only 57% shared good relationships with their family members.
- Pain, current alcohol abuse and dependence, AIDS in the spouse and relationship with family were significant factors associated with anxiety and accounted for 57% of the total variance in multiple regression analysis.

ABSTRACT NO. 43

- Author(s)** : Chandra, P., V. Krishna, V. Ravi, A. Desai, and S. Puttaram
- Title** : HIV Related Admissions in a Psychiatric Hospital: A Five-year Profile
- Source** : Indian Journal of Psychiatry, 1999, 41(4): 320-324
- Place of study** : Bangalore, South India
- Period of study** : January 1993 to December 1997
- Aims and objectives** : To describe the HIV sero-prevalence patterns among psychiatric patients tested over a five-year period (between 1993 and 1997) and analyse the profile of HIV sero-positive cases admitted in a psychiatric in-patient setting.
- Study conducted by** : Departments of Psychiatry, Neurology and Neuropathology, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore
- Nature of study** : Hospital-based study

Methodology:

A prospective study of all the psychiatry in-patients detected HIV positive on the ELISA test was conducted. Forty-three (43) out of the 51 who were sero-positive were assessed along with their families

using in-depth interviews on risk factors. The variables studied were their perceived reasons and context (risk factors such as blood transfusion, sexual abuse and unprotected sexual exposures, IDU and needle sharing and substance use/abuse); neuro-psychiatric problems as per ICD-10 (with specific reference to substance use and judgement); and psycho-social stressors. Etiological association of HIV with psychiatric disorders was measured on first-time psychotic disturbances, neurological and organic brain conditions. Testing along with supervised pre- and post- counselling was carried out as per NACO guidelines.

Findings:

- Patients were in the age range 18-51 years with 86% being men.
- Sero-prevalence had gradually increased from 0.47% in 1993 to 5% in 1997.
- 19% had a psychiatric problem etiologically linked to HIV infection. Of the 43, 21% had a co-morbid personality disorder, predominantly antisocial personality disorder. Seventy percent had alcohol dependence. Forty four percent were admitted for treatment of substance abuse. Twenty six percent had a primary psychiatric diagnosis with co-morbid substance abuse, the major substance used being alcohol. Among HIV infected persons, those with alcohol dependence were noted to have higher possibility of psychiatric morbidity and neuro-psychiatric problems
- Multiple heterosexual contacts were the most common route of transmission and 65% had a history of sexually transmitted diseases. Twenty six percent of patients denied any risk behaviour.
- 44% of patients had indulged in risk behaviours under the influence of alcohol.

ABSTRACT NO. 44

- Author(s)** : Jana, S., and S. Singh
- Title** : Beyond Medical Model of STD Interventions: Lessons from Sonagachi
- Source** : Indian Journal of Public Health, 1995, 39(3): 125-131
- Place of study** : Sonagachi, Calcutta
- Period of study** : September 1992
- Aims and objectives** : To reduce the incidence of STD and HIV infections among sex workers and their clients through adequate provision of health services and to help furnish generic guidelines for interventions in other areas.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Epidemiology, All Indian Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta
- Nature of study** : Community-based intervention

Methodology:

Using a survey design, mapping of sex workers and madams in Songachi red light area was carried out with involvement of the community members at different levels. It was conveyed that the programme did not intend to disturb the existing structure. Liaison with the power lobbies was developed for opening dialogue and negotiation. Provision of health services for the community as a whole and immunisation programmes for their children were organised keeping the priority need of the community in perspective. Multipurpose co-operative stores were opened to help the sex workers economically. A centre for counselling and social support was initiated as a step to offer legal and paralegal advice to the needy.

Findings:

- There has been an increase in awareness of STDs (from 69% to 97%) and AIDS (from 31% to 96%) among sex workers.
- The percentage of sex workers using condoms increased from 70% in 1993 to 76% in 1995. This increase had a positive relation with years in the profession.
- Besides intervention programmes, peer pressure, improved status and self-organisation of the sex workers contributed to behavioural changes.
- Genital ulcers and other STDs showed a reduction, suggestive of increased condom usage.
- Gender inequalities emerged distinctly.
- There was a better perception of dignity and self-respect in the participants and the peer-educators. They were able to identify and articulate their needs.
- The study emphasised an integrated approach focusing on general well-being of the sex workers' community and responding to their concerns as more fruitful than providing mere medical services.

ABSTRACT NO. 45

- Author(s)** : Chandra, S.
- Title** : Sexual Control and Awareness of Sexually Transmitted Diseases among HIV Infected Women
- Source** : Proceedings of the Third Asia and Pacific Conference on the Social Sciences and Medicine, Perth 1996
- Place of study** : Bangalore
- Period of study** : September 1994 to December 1995
- Aims and objectives** : To study the knowledge and control of HIV infected women over the sexual behaviour of their spouses, its influence on their sexual lives, their awareness of STDs in their spouse and themselves and their health seeking.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore
- Nature of study** : Hospital-based study

Methodology:

Fifty women tested positive for HIV infection in the age range 22-30 years from rural and semi-urban areas from a major referral centre for HIV/AIDS were assessed on knowledge of their partner's sexual behaviour and knowledge regarding STDs. A detailed risk behaviour and STD history was elicited from the husband. After the disclosure of HIV status, the couples were counselled regarding safe sexual behaviour and follow-up was maintained.

Findings:

- Respondents were in the age range 22-30 with a large portion (40%) being illiterate, single women (44%) and predominantly from rural areas.
- 40% of the husbands visited commercial sex workers and 36% had a mistress or a second wife while 96% of respondents were largely faithful to their spouse.

- 76% of the women were aware of their spouse's sexual behaviour, while the rest denied any knowledge of risky behaviour in their spouses. Six women perceived it as an impossibility.
- 64% of the women expressed helplessness over spouse's sexual behaviour and accepted it as a culturally sanctioned behaviour, 44% were angry and hurt but were not able to do anything about it and 30% of them discussed sexual practices with their husbands. But, none of them was able to abstain from sex or use condoms. 91% of the women indulged in unprotected sexual activity. These women had knowledge of their own STDs.
- 80% were aware of sexually transmitted diseases. Thirty-four percent had no knowledge of their spouse's STD, 60 % of the women were aware of their husband's STD problems but were not able to identify them.
- 35 out of 70 women had a history suggestive of STDs while only five had sought medical help before coming to an HIV clinic for their STD.
- 15 women expressed embarrassment in reporting their STD problems and 10 women reported poor access to medical care.
- A change in sexual behaviour following knowledge of HIV status and counselling was noticed.
- 50% of the couples that were regularly counselled continue to practice safe sex although women report frequent anger and resentment from their husband on the issue of condom usage.

ABSTRACT NO. 46

Source : Voluntary Health Services, Chennai

Place of study : Tamil Nadu

Period of study : 1997-98

Aims and objectives : To determine the proportion of patients reporting complaints of STDs, ascertain the appropriateness of clinical management provided to them, provide advice on condom usage and enlist partner notification in order to accentuate health care facility support.

Study conducted by : A report on an APAC project administered by Voluntary Health Services, with financial assistance from the United States Agency for International Development

Nature of study : Prospective study

Methodology:

Three hundred and six (306) health care providers, comprising 153 allopathic medical practitioners and 153 Registered Indigenous Medical Practitioners (RIMPS), were administered structured questionnaires based on standardised data collection methods recommended by the global programme on AIDS. The health care providers (HCPs) were interviewed and the stimulated patients were selected to observe the treatment practice and report it to the trained interviewers. Data collection was done in all the selected towns simultaneously in seven weeks and the data were analysed.

Findings:

- More than half (52%) of the STD HCPs were general practitioners with the qualification of MBBS.
- Most of the women obstetricians treated STD cases.
- The clinical facilities provided in the clinics were noted to be satisfactory but only a smaller proportion of men HCPs used gloves during examination.

- 92% of the allopathic HCPs interviewed reported that they followed all steps of history taking from patients who reported STD symptoms and 93% reported following it in the physical examination of men STD patients. However, it was observed that only 43% practised it in their clinical work.
- Among all the HCPs who examined the men patients, only one examined the patient by touching/feeling the genital organ for lesions using gloves.
- The recommended treatment for individuals with STDs by the STD allopathic care providers was average by national standards.
- 91% of HCPs claimed to have advised their partners on condom usage when compared to women HCPs (88%), but the same was not observed in their actual practice.
- RIMPs practised various systems of medicine such as homeopathy (41%), siddha (27%), ayurveda (21%) and unani (11%).
- The RIMP STD health care providers were good in history taking as seen on both reported and observed behaviour and 25% of them prescribed allopathic drugs along with indigenous preparations.
- 45% of the men RIMPs and 46% of the women RIMPs advised on condom usage.

ABSTRACT NO. 47

- Author(s)** : Chopra, M., S. Eranti, and P. Chandra
- Title** : HIV-related Risk Behaviours among Psychiatric Inpatients in India
- Source** : Psychiatric Service, June 1998, 49(6): 823-825
- Place of study** : Bangalore
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the patterns of high-risk behaviour and knowledge of HIV/AIDS among psychiatric patients at an in-patient facility in Bangalore.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional hospital-based study

Methodology:

Thirty (30) men and women patients each admitted for psychiatric diagnoses were interviewed using a semi-structured questionnaire, consisting of 51 forced choice questions covering five broad areas of knowledge about HIV infection and 19 items covering details of high-risk activities over the past two years. Informed consent and confidentiality were ensured. After a pre-test counselling, ELISA blood test was carried out. An intra-group comparison of high-risk behaviour patients was carried out using chi-square test and Fisher's exact probability test.

Findings:

- Among the 59 studied, 59% with schizophrenia, 48% with affective disorder and 5% with personality disorder had a history of HIV-related high-risk behaviour.
- 51% (15 men and 15 women) had a history of high-risk behaviour.
- 2 in 5 of the women patients had contracted HIV from a spouse/partner who had multiple sexual contacts.
- 86% of the patients had inadequate knowledge about AIDS. Men were better informed.

- Unlike the West, homosexual (n=1) and unprotected coerced sex (n=2) did not figure significantly as a risk behaviour.
- Unprotected heterosexual intercourse with a commercial sex worker and the inability of women to ensure the use of a barrier during intercourse despite the knowledge of their partner's high-risk behaviour were important contributors for the infection.
- Cultural factors, the submissive role and powerlessness of women to negotiate for safe sex have been described as important reasons for contracting infection in women.

ABSTRACT NO. 48

- Author(s)** : AIDS Prevention and Control Project of Voluntary Health Services
- Title** : HIV Risk Behaviour Surveillance Survey in Tamil Nadu: A Report on the Third Wave-1998
- Source** : Voluntary Health Services, Chennai
- Place of study** : Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Period of study** : 1998
- Aims and objectives** : To provide repeated measures on behaviour for observing trends in high-risk behaviour among selected population groups (women sex workers, truckers and helpers, men patients attending STD clinics, men and women industrial workers) with the purpose of reducing the sexual mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS.
- Study conducted by** : An APAC project administered by Voluntary Health Services with financial assistance from the United States Agency for International Development and executed by Asian Information Marketing and Social Research
- Nature of study** : Prospective study

Methodology:

A standardised questionnaire was administered to select population groups by trained field investigators under supervision. Since the previous two waves of BSS had shown low-risk behaviour of women factory workers, a large sample consisting of CSWs (406), men with STDs (636), truckers and helpers (863) and men (1,956) and women (1,720) factory workers from nine towns was drawn to determine the behaviour change. Analysis was carried out in the same way as it was done in the earlier two waves.

Findings:

- In all the groups, except women factory workers, more than 95% had knowledge on STD and AIDS.
- In women factory workers, the knowledge level had dropped from 51% to 46%. The specific reason for the decline in knowledge on STD/AIDS among women factory workers did not emerge clearly from the study.
- Sexual intercourse with non-regular sexual partners had decreased among two population groups, namely truckers/helpers and men factory workers. It continued to remain low in women factory workers.
- Condom use with non-regular sex partners had gradually increased in all the groups except women factory workers. The condom use in paid sex had increased considerably among truckers and helpers (44% to 66%) and among men factory workers (17% to 50%). The voluntary condom procurement by CSWs had steadily increased.

- While treatment seeking for urethritis has increased among truckers and men factory workers, stigma and hesitation for seeking help from qualified medical practitioners continued.
- In the population groups indulging in high-risk behaviour, perception of risk of contracting HIV had increased in CSWs (3% to 49%), truckers and helpers (4% to 45%) and men factory workers (18% to 34%). There was no increase noticeable in women factory workers. The behaviour change programme had demonstrated a positive effect on the perceptions of these groups regarding the risk of contracting the infection.

ABSTRACT NO. 49

- Author(s)** : Krishna V., and P. Chandra
- Title** : Psychosocial and Health Related Concerns among HIV Infected Individuals
- Source** : NIMHANS Journal, October 1998, 253-360
- Place of study** : Bangalore
- Period of study** : Six months
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the nature and severity of concerns of HIV infected individuals and to study their relationship to socio-demographic, psychological and illness variables.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore
- Nature of study** : Hospital-based study

Methodology:

Thirty-four individuals with HIV/AIDS attending the HIV counselling clinic over a period of six months were administered a concerns checklist (developed for cancer patients, modified to include specific items related to HIV). This was followed by a detailed clinical psychiatric interview to assess the presence of lifetime and current psychiatric morbidity and past or current substance use. The data were analysed by using frequency distributions and chi-square test.

Findings:

- 27% had psychological problems prior to the diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, ranging from depression to personality disorder. 53% showed clinical depression at the time of assessment. 30% reported alcohol consumption.
- 50% reported high-risk sexual behaviour prior to the diagnosis of HIV while in the spouses it was 35%.
- 53% had physical symptoms of HIV infection and the rest were asymptomatic.
- Physical health and the future were the highest concerns (74%), followed by access to medical care (62%). Symptomatic individuals had more concerns about activities of daily living, physical health and dependency while asymptomatic individuals identified it as treatment methods and sleep.
- Women were concerned about their feelings of distress while men on aspects of treatment, physical health, pain, their job and worries about their dependence on others.
- Depression was mainly related to concerns associated with decrease in social activities and fears of infecting others.

ABSTRACT NO. 50

- Author(s)** : Mawar, N., S. Mehendale, S. Thilkavthi, M. Shepherd, J. Rodrigues, R. Bollinger, and M. Bently
- Title** : Awareness and Knowledge of AIDS and HIV Risk among Women Attending STD Clinics in Pune, India
- Source** : Indian Journal of Medical Research, September 1997, 106, pp. 212-222
- Place of study** : Pune, Maharashtra
- Period of study** : May 1993 - April 1995
- Aims and objectives** : To understand the awareness, knowledge and risk of contracting HIV/AIDS among two groups of women, namely sex work and those involved in other work, attending two STD clinics in Pune.
- Study conducted by** : National AIDS Research Institute, Pune and Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.
- Nature of study** : Hospital-based study

Methodology:

The study, in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins University, was a part of longitudinal study on men and women attending two STD clinics in Pune. The samples consisting of 711 women (409 sex workers and 302 in other works) were initially screened at the two STD clinics in Pune with informed consent. A structured questionnaire was administered for assessing their knowledge and awareness on HIV/AIDS along with a clinical evaluation and treatment. Chi-square tests and Fisher's exact tests were used for analysis.

Findings:

- Women sex workers were more likely to use condoms as compared to those in other work. Condom usage was reported by 60% of sex workers as compared to 7% in those in other works.
- The majority of the sex workers (60%) had a history of STD as compared to 33% of women in other work.
- 47% of sex workers and 14% of women in other work were HIV positive.
- 77% of the sex workers were aware that condom use was protective as compared to 48% of women in the other work.

ABSTRACT NO. 51

- Author(s)** : Ray, S., A. Mandal, B. Biswajit, S. Dasgupta, B. Biswas, and S. Kumar
- Title** : An Assessment of an AIDS Awareness Program - For ICDS Functionaries
- Source** : Indian Journal of Public Health, 1995, 39(3): 100-104
- Place of study** : Calcutta
- Period of study** : 1991-92

Aims and objectives : To assess the effect of an awareness programme in improving the knowledge of ICDS functionaries on different aspects of AIDS and its prevention.

Study conducted by : Ray, S. and B. Biswajit, Department of Community Medicine, Medical College, Calcutta; Department of Community Medicine, Medical College; NRS Medical College; R.G. Kar Medical College, Calcutta; and UNICEF East India Office, Calcutta

Nature of study : Intervention study

Methodology:

One-day AIDS awareness programme through information giving and group discussions was organised for the grassroots-level ICDS functionaries in selected ICDS projects of Burdwan, 24 Parganas (S) and Calcutta district of West Bengal. The state government provided the study material for group discussion. A pre- and post-assessment was carried out using a structured questionnaire. The knowledge on different aspects of AIDS such as causation, transmission, salient signs and symptoms, prevention and referrals was explored. Anonymity was maintained to ensure correct elicitation of responses.

Findings:

- The scores on knowledge showed a rise following the information-giving exercise.
- The knowledge level was highest in Calcutta probably due to better access to media.
- Awareness on causation was comparatively better when compared to other items in all the three districts. Other aspects such as modes of transmission, signs and symptoms, prevention modalities and referral showed poor scores in all the three districts.
- All the components of knowledge assessment showed more than 80% score in all three districts.

ABSTRACT NO. 52

Author(s) : Kulshreshtha, R., and A. Mathur

Title : Rising Trend of AIDS Related Complex among High-risk Group Individuals in Lucknow

Source : "HIV/AIDS Research in India," O. P. Aggarwal, A. Sharma and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi, 1997

Place of study : Lucknow

Period of study : 1988 - 1997

Aims and objectives : To examine the rising trend of AIDS infection among high-risk group individuals in Lucknow.

Study conducted by : Department of Microbiology, K. G. Medical College

Nature of study : Epidemiological study

Methodology:

A total of 61,178 blood samples were screened for the presence of anti-HIV antibodies over a period of

nine years. ELISA test was used for screening samples and the ELISA reactive sera was confirmed on second EIA. The reactive samples on both these tests were confirmed by Western Blot assay and the rising trends in the infection were assessed.

Findings:

- Out of 61,178 blood samples, 253 were HIV positive and 75 were AIDS patients (64 men, 11 women) confirmed on Western Blot.
- All men who were HIV positive had a reported history of multiple sexual contacts and living away from home. The infection in women was reportedly acquired from their husbands.
- 61% of the HIV positive group were illiterates, either working as unskilled workers, housewives or sex workers.
- The findings suggest a steep rise in the number of patients (from 1% to 54%) over 9 years (1988-1997).

ABSTRACT NO. 53

Author(s) : Paranjpe R, Tripathy S., Menon P., Mehendale S., Khatavkar P., Joshi D., Patil V., Gadkari D and Rodrigues J.

Title : Increasing trend of HIV seroprevalence among pulmonary tuberculosis patients in Pune, India.

Source : Indian Journal of Medical Research, Sept 1997,106: 207-211

Place of study : Pune, Maharashtra.

Period of study : January to July, 1991-1992 & 1993-1996

Aims and objectives : To examine the trends in increase of HIV sero-prevalence among pulmonary tuberculosis patients in Pune, India.

Study conducted by : National AIDS Research Institute, B.J. Medical College & Sassoon General Hospitals Government of Maharashtra

Nature of study : Epidemiological study

Methodology:

The 4618 patients with pulmonary tuberculosis attending the tuberculosis clinic of the Sassoon General Hospital were screened by EIA for anti-HIV bodies. Western Blot was performed only on 340 of 694 sera reactive on EIA due to the limited supply of kits. The sera reacting with at least two of the three HIV-1 proteins (p24, gp41 and gp 120/gp 160) were considered positive for HIV-1. Sera reacting with two envelope bands and P26 in Western Blot were used for HIV-2. Chi-square test for linear trends for sero-prevalence of anti-HIV anti-bodies was used to statistically evaluate the data.

Findings:

- A six times increase in the prevalence of HIV in tuberculosis patients over six years (1991-1996) was noted.
- No HIV-2 sera reactivity was detected among tuberculosis patients during 1991 to 1993. One patient was sera reactive to HIV-2 alone in year 1995.
- The increase was noticed to be steeper during the last three years showing the odd ratios of 3.38 in 1994, 5.37 in 1995, and 7.65 in 1996

- Findings from other studies carried out in India also corroborate that there is an increasing trend in HIV infection amongst tuberculosis patients.

ABSTRACT NO. 54

- Author(s)** : AIDS Prevention and Control Project, Voluntary Health Services, Chennai
- Title** : HIV Risk Behaviour Sentinel Surveillance Survey in Tamil Nadu: A Report on the Baseline Wave
- Source** : AIDS Prevention and Control Project, Voluntary Health Services, Chennai
- Place of study** : Chennai, South India
- Period of study** : 1996
- Aims and objectives** : To provide repeated measures on behaviour indicators for observing trends in high-risk behaviour among selected sub-population groups and to measure the success of intervention programmes.
- Study conducted by** : AIDS Prevention and Control Project, Voluntary Health Services
- Nature of study** : Prospective study

Methodology:

A quantitative survey using a structured questionnaire was carried out in nine towns among selected sub-population groups (women commercial sex workers, men patients with STDs, truck drivers and helpers, men factory workers, women factory worker, men students and women students). An exploratory research was carried out through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to decide on the components of the questionnaire design. Data collection was carried out through interviews by trained interviewers or self-administered questionnaires (for students) developed specifically for each group on the following indicators: knowledge on sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, sexual behaviour, urethritis prevalence and health seeking behaviour indicators and appropriate perception of risk.

Findings:

- With the exception of women factory workers and men students, all other sub-groups showed a high level of knowledge of STI prevention indicators.
- Women students had much lower knowledge level than men students.
- Higher knowledge levels were observed on two acceptable ways of preventing AIDS than STDs.
- Women factory workers showed a much better knowledge level about AIDS prevention than STD prevention.
- Sexual intercourse with a non-regular partner in one year was reported by 82% of the men STD patients, 48% of truck drivers and helpers, 15% of men factory workers, 3% each among women factory workers and men students and 1% of women students.
- Condom use was noted to be highest among CSWs followed by truck drivers and helpers. Only 12% of the STD patients reported condom use during the last non-regular sex.
- Urethritis symptoms were reported by 2% of the men factory workers. 68% had taken treatment from qualified allopathic practitioners. 9% of the truck drivers and helpers had urethritis symptoms. 64% of them had taken treatment from qualified practitioners or from qualified sources.

- On the perception of risk indicators, CSWs (42%), women factory workers (61%) and women students (59%) had greater risk perception than truckers (36%), men students (33%), men factory workers (27%) and men STI patients (26%).
- Although knowledge on prevention methods of STD/HIV/AIDS was noted to be high, many misconceptions related to transmission prevailed among the respondents.
- Electronic media, print media followed by information from peers were largely responsible for high awareness levels on AIDS.

ABSTRACT NO. 55

- Author(s)** : Kumarswamy, N., S. Solomon, S. Paul, R. Venilla, and W. Amalraj
- Title** : Spectrum of Opportunistic Infections among AIDS Patients in Tamil Nadu, India
- Source** : International Journal of STD and AIDS, 1995, 6: 447-449
- Place of study** : Madras, Tamil Nadu
- Period of study** : 1987-93
- Aims and objectives** : To document the characteristics of and the spectrum of opportunistic infections among AIDS patients in Tamil Nadu, India.
- Study conducted by** : Government General Hospital; YRG CARE, Medical University, Chennai
- Nature of study** : Prospective study

Methodology:

100 symptomatic HIV positive patients admitted into the hospital between 1987 and 1993 were selected from the AIDS unit, Government General Hospital Madras using the WHO clinical criteria for the diagnosis of AIDS. Western Blot test was used for confirming sera positivity. Data on age, sex, occupation, sexual orientation and current infections were collected from the patients. The patients were examined and screened for opportunistic infections, which were confirmed through various tests.

Findings:

- The major mode of transmission was via multiple sex partners (94%) followed by blood transfusion (3%), intra-muscular injections (2%) and dialysis (1%).
- The history of multiple sexual partners and unprotected penetrative sex was reported by 81% of the patients.
- The most common presentation was tuberculosis (61%) and oral candidiasis (41%).
- The study has also focused on the problems in detecting AIDS cases in India due to difficulties in taking a sexual history, lack of laboratory facilities and workload of the doctors in the outpatient departments.

- Author(s)** : Kharpade, Puthram K., and A. Pansare
- Title** : To Develop a Programme for AIDS Prevention Education among Adolescent Boys and Girls from Urban Slums of Mumbai (India)
- Source** : Family Welfare Training and Research Centre, Mumbai
- Place of study** : Mumbai
- Period of study** : February 1997 - May1999
- Aims and objectives** : To develop a programme of preventive education on AIDS for adolescent boys and girls from urban slums of Mumbai.
- Study conducted by** : Family Welfare Training and Research Centre, Mumbai
- Nature of study** : Intervention study

Methodology:

The study was carried out in three phases on a homogeneous population of 8,763 subjects (4,557 men; 4,206 women) from the slum area of Tardeo, Mumbai. In the preparatory phase, the demographic details of each member of the household were collected. Through focus group discussions, the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviour regarding various aspects of sexuality, STDs and AIDS was obtained. A KABP study was then carried out on 815 boys and 731 girls between the age group of 12 to 19 years using a semi-structured questionnaire. Learning material developed based on the survey conducted was provided in five educational sessions in one week to 90 girls and 110 boys. The educational sessions included themes on growing up, reproductive health, human sexuality and responsible sexual behaviour, STD, HIV/AIDS and preparation for marriage and responsible parenthood. Post-intervention evaluation was carried out using the same questionnaire.

Findings:

- The knowledge about changes during puberty, reproduction, methods of contraception, sexuality and marriage, STD and HIV/AIDS was poor.
- The girls were more likely to be protected by their parents especially by their mothers. They were expected to perform several household activities as well as attend school.
- Discussion on sensitive issues regarding menstruation, reproduction, sexual behaviour and harassment from the opposite sex did not take place between mother and daughter.
- Boys had more knowledge than girls did about growing up, reproduction and methods of family planning. Opinions, perceptions and values regarding love marriage, future partner, and family life were no longer traditional. Definite expectations with regards to the choice of the marriage partner and family size were observed. However, the desire for having at least one male child was reported.
- Social interaction between adolescent girls and boys from the same area is not prevalent except on religious occasions. High-risk sexual behaviour among adolescent boys was common; many boys reported exposure to pornographic films.
- Visits to sex workers were also prevalent among some boys.
- Intervention brought about increases in knowledge on reproduction, HIV/AIDS and STDs.
- Acceptance of condoms in premarital sex increased after the intervention.

ABSTRACT NO. 57

- Author(s)** : Thilakavathi, S., K. Barucha, R. Manelkar, and D. Gadkari
- Title** : Sexual Behaviour in Unmarried Pregnant Females Attending MTP/ANC Clinic of a Government Hospital
- Source** : Indian Journal Preventive Social Medicine, 1998, 29 (1 and 2)
- Place of study** : Pune, Maharashtra
- Period of study** : May 1995 - Feb 1996
- Aims and objectives** : To study the sexual behaviour patterns, perceptions and reactions towards HIV/AIDS and HIV seroprevalence of unmarried women attending MTP/ANC clinic.
- Study conducted by** : National AIDS Research Institute, ICMR and Sassoon General Hospital, Pune
- Nature of study** : Hospital-based study

Methodology:

A sample of 100 unmarried girls attending MTP clinics was drawn from Sassoon General Hospital after obtaining their informed consent. Pre-tested, semi-structured interviews were used. Pre-test and post-test counselling was carried out with respondents who were tested for anti-HIV antibodies.

Findings:

- 34 were minors, with a mean age of 17.7 years. A large section had lost one or both parents (22 women had no father and 17 had no mother while 6 had neither of them).
- A third of the women did not have basic information about their sexual partners. Most of the participants reflected lack of awareness on condom use.
- Only 28 girls, who were mostly literate, had heard about HIV. They had dismal information on transmission of the infection and the availability of AIDS vaccine.
- These girls were reactive for HIV antibodies.
- 92 women had a sexual relationship with a single partner and 6 had more than one partner.
- Curiosity or pleasure, money, love failure, need for variety or desolated by the partner led to premarital sex.
- 49 women had regular sexual contacts with their partners while four women were victims of sexual abuse, 85 women viewed pre-marital sex as not acceptable.

ABSTRACT NO. 58

- Author(s)** : Gupta, I.
- Title** : Planning for the Socio-economic Impact of the Epidemic: The Costs of Being Ill
- Source** : In "The Economics of HIV and AIDS: The Case of South and South East Asia," D. E. Bloom and P. Godwin (eds.), Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1997

Place of study : Different States of India
Period of study : 1997
Aims and objectives : To assess the socio-economic impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and to analyse the magnitude of the impact on the individuals.
Study conducted by : All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi
Nature of study : Exploratory study

Methodology:

167 infected individuals were interviewed from different states of India depending upon the accessibility and availability of the respondents. The majority of the subjects were from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. In order to assess the socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS on individuals, information such as income, number or type of illness experienced by them and various health and non-health related expenditures was collected through questionnaires.

Findings:

- 37% reported one or more illnesses since contracting the infection. The common illness reported was TB.
- Highest expenditure (54%) was incurred on medicines.
- The treatment costs of illness had a vitiating effect. The longer the infection, the higher was the economic impact of the treatment. 10% to 30% of the annual income of an individual was spent on treatment alone.
- Younger individuals, men, individuals with lower incomes, those with at least one child and with a minimum of one illness were most vulnerable to the impact.
- The occurrence of at least one illness increased the probability of impact by 37%.
- Income correlated significantly and negatively to economic impact. The higher the income, the lower the impact. Education did not seem to emerge as a significant contribution for economic impact.

ABSTRACT NO. 59

Author(s) : Thilakavathi, S., A. Divekar, and S. Mehendale
Title : Attitude towards Sex Education among College Lecturers
Source : Trends in Social Science Research, December 1997, 4(2): 103-107
Place of study : Pune, Maharashtra
Period of study : August 1994 to March 1995
Aims and objectives : To find out the understanding and attitudes of college lecturers towards sex education and their willingness to impart sex education.
Study conducted by : National AIDS Research Institute, ICMR, Pune
Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A questionnaire was self-administered to 212 lecturers from 10 colleges from Pune. Areas such as the meaning of sex education, various areas of sex education and the reason for imparting sex education were explored.

Findings:

- 73% agreed about the importance of the role played by the lecturers in imparting sex education.
- 69% emphasised the necessity to alleviate misconceptions about sex and to impart scientific knowledge on sexuality.
- 24% of the lecturers understood sex education in the context of heterosexual relationships. 61% of the lecturers felt the need to introduce sex education at the age of 12-15 years while 19% opined after 16 years.
- 91% acknowledged the role of sex education in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and 28% the need to spread STD/AIDS awareness.
- Women lecturers opined that the responsibility of imparting sex education was vested in the parents and teachers.
- With respect to their openness to impart sex education, 65% were willing and 34% expressed their unwillingness due to lack of training or embarrassment in teaching sexuality.
- Women in the sample were more willing to impart sex education.

ABSTRACT NO. 60

- Author(s)** : Garg, P., T. Behl, and S. Mahajan
- Title** : A Study of "AIDS" Awareness in Health Workers Working in PHC, Gharauan, Gistrict Ropar
- Source** : Health and Population: Perspectives and Issues, 1993, 16(324): 104-112
- Place of study** : Gharauan, District Ropar.
- Period of study** : Not Specified
- Aims and objectives** : To ascertain "AIDS" awareness among workers of PHC, Gharauan, District Ropar, and to assess the feasibility of health education programme.
- Study conducted by** : State Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Kharar, Punjab.
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The study was carried out on health workers in PHC, Gharauan, District Ropar. Interview technique was used and a pre-tested proforma in Punjabi was administered to health care workers. The participants were assured of the confidentiality of records.

Findings:

- The level of knowledge of workers regarding STDs and AIDS was low.
- 23% gave no reply on STD/AIDS and 10% did not mention AIDS though they named syphilis and gonorrhoea and only 3% could give the full form of AIDS.

- Workers were not clear about the transmission of AIDS. With regard to the source of infection, 49% were unaware and only 10% named both blood and semen as the media of infection.
- 67% of workers were not aware of high-risk groups.
- 47% were unaware, while 43% suggested restriction of extra-marital relations as means of prevention.
- 71% were imparting health education regarding AIDS but they were unable to discuss the points that could be attributed to the inadequacy of knowledge.

ABSTRACT NO. 61

- Author(s)** : AIDS Prevention and Control Project, Voluntary Health Services.
- Title** : Realities of Sexual Behaviour in Tamil Nadu
- Source** : AIDS Prevention and Control Project, Voluntary Health Services, Chennai
- Place of study** : Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Period of study** : 1997-98
- Aims and objectives** : To assess sexual risk behaviours and their determinants in urban locations of Tamil Nadu.
- Study conducted by** : The AIDS Prevention and Control Project is administered by the Voluntary Health Services, Chennai with financial assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The NGO partners of APAC conducted a situational assessment. Women in commercial sex work, pimps and brokers were selected using purposive and snowball sampling. Both quantitative and qualitative research techniques were used. The qualitative research was carried out through ethnographic study, focus group discussions, key informant and peer educators interviews and mapping exercises. The ethnographic study included participant and non-participant observation. Separate structured, pre-tested, and standardised questionnaires were also used.

Findings:

- Poverty was the main reasons for entering the sex trade by CSWs.
- The average monthly income of the CSWs worked out to Rs. 143 and the monthly income of the pimps and brokers was almost two and a half times that of CSWs.
- The living conditions of CSWs were appalling. Poor housing, unhealthy environment and unhygienic food habits were noted.
- CSWs wanted to provide a better life to their children through education and protect them from entering the same trade.
- Problems due to anti-social elements and harassment by customers were reported by 15% of the CSWs.
- The CSWs indulged in various types of sexual activities such as oral, anal and group sex to satisfy their customers.
- Health consciousness was lacking among CSWs. Common health problems related to genital organs and infections were reported.

- 83% were aware of STDs, which was high.
- Treatment seeking behaviour was good (83% among pimps and brokers and 75% among women in sex work).
- General awareness on HIV/AIDS and knowledge about modes of transmission and prevention was also found to be high.
- Certain misconceptions in using medicines, cleaning genitals with Dettol, avoiding use of public latrines and avoiding use of the clothes of infected persons prevailed.
- Self-risk perception was not adequate as seen in 42% of CSWs and 44% of pimps and brokers.
- Knowledge about use of condoms as a protective device, their different brands and place of availability was high in both the groups.
- 38% of the CSWs were consistent condom users and 85% of pimps and brokers had knowledge of condom use. Only 14% of the CSWs could successfully negotiate condom usage.
- Condom usage among pimps and brokers was not consistent, as 50% of them do not use condoms with their regular partners who are mostly CSWs.
- Since carrying condoms with them and buying them posed problems, the majority of the CSWs desired to get them from the NGOs.
- 75% of the pimps and brokers were willing to distribute condoms to both the CSWs and customers.

ABSTRACT NO. 62

- Author(s)** : Gupta, I., and A. Mitra
- Title** : Knowledge of HIV/AIDS among Migrants in Delhi Slums
- Source** : Unpublished manuscript
- Place of study** : Delhi
- Period of study** : 1996
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS among slum dwellers in Delhi and to examine factors affecting knowledge.
- Study conducted by** : Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
- Nature of study** : Community study

Methodology:

Using cluster sampling and a three stage stratified random sampling, 150 slum households from different parts of Delhi were surveyed. The total sample of 361 adults from these households were interviewed on their socio-economic and migrant status, health, knowledge of HIV/AIDS, current sexual practices of men and women and condom use. The analysis of factors influencing knowledge on HIV/AIDS was carried out in two parts. The first part consisted of summary statistics on knowledge about the disease and its mode of transmission, and in the second part, a probit analysis was done to distinguish the factors that affect the probability of knowledge.

Findings:

- 44% had heard about HIV/AIDS.
- 69% reported sexual practices while 56% opined blood transfusion as the major source of transmission.

- Certain misconceptions about the modes of transmission such as kissing, sharing vessels and touching prevailed. Age and primary education were significantly and negatively related to knowledge.
- Knowledge and gender were not related to each other.
- Owning a television rather than a radio had greater impact on knowledge of HIV/AIDS.
- Income and occupation did not have a significant relationship with the knowledge and awareness of AIDS.

ABSTRACT NO. 63

- Author(s)** : Sachdev, P.
- Title** : AIDS/HIV and University Students in Delhi, India: Knowledge, Beliefs, Attitudes and Behaviours
- Source** : Social Work in Health Care, 1998, 26(4): 37-57
- Place of study** : Delhi
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS among social work and nursing students and to determine their attitudes towards people with AIDS and homosexuals. The study also aimed to assess their perceptions of personal risk of contracting AIDS.
- Study conducted by** : School of Social Work, Indiana University, U.S.A.
- Nature of study** : Community survey

Methodology:

A sample of 887 students in social work, nursing and humanities from two major universities in Delhi were drawn for comparisons on knowledge about HIV/AIDS and attitudes towards PLWHA and homosexuals. A structured questionnaire containing 45 items including a 20-item knowledge test and 5 Likert type response scales, pre-tested and validated for content were administered following rapport building and assurance of anonymity. Analysis of variance was used to determine significant differences in attitude across gender, age, marital status and religious affiliations.

Findings:

- Overall, students demonstrated a fair degree of knowledge about AIDS. 56% had poor knowledge on AIDS but information on prevention of AIDS was inadequate.
- However, information on 79% held a stereotypical view that AIDS is a disease of bisexual men and 29% believed it to be a gay disease.
- Women and older students showed a higher mean knowledge score than men.
- Married subjects (52.4%) had poor knowledge on AIDS.
- Nursing students obtained significantly higher mean knowledge scores (14), followed by social work students (13).
- Only 12 students were supportive in their attitudes toward people with AIDS while 44% held negative attitudes or were uncertain.
- 62% of the students were willing to work alongside with someone they knew had AIDS while 54% indicated that they did not want their children to have a classmate with AIDS.

- No significant differences were found between men and women students with respect to their attitudes toward AIDS victims.
- Social work students were significantly positive (67%) as compared to humanities (53%) and nursing students (48%). Nursing students were consistently more negative on all five attitudinal questions when compared to students.
- More women students than men students rejected homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle.
- Married students were found to be less knowledgeable and concerned compared to unmarried students in perception of personal risk of contracting the infection.

ABSTRACT NO. 64

- Author(s)** : Surender, S., M. Guruswamy, and R. Verma
- Title** : Knowledge and Attitude of School Children about HIV/AIDS: Evidence from Rural Maharashtra
- Source** : The Indian Journal of Social Work, October 1997, 58(4): 599-615
- Place of study** : Maharashtra
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the effectiveness of an intervention programme on HIV/AIDS by comparing knowledge and attitudes of school-going children before and after interventions.
- Study conducted by** : The International Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai
- Nature of study** : Intervention study

Methodology:

An AIDS prevention education programme was developed for the school-going youth of Maharashtra by the AIDS cell of the Directorate of Health Services. Students studying in 9th and 11th standards were selected from different types of schools and residential arrangements. Before administering the education programme, the respondents were interviewed on knowledge about various issues on HIV/AIDS using a structured questionnaire. The intervention programme was then carried out in batches of 50 students in two randomly selected schools each in 29 districts. A cadre of peer communicators (teachers and students) was created to disperse knowledge. Film shows, display of charts, essay competitions and debates were carried out for generating awareness. Questions posted in an anonymous box were later discussed in the classroom to provide clarifications. Out of the 14,500 selected, 13,898 and 12,972 students were evaluated for pre- and post-intervention programmes. To assess the level of knowledge and the attitudes of students on various issues of HIV/AIDS, the correct response for each of the statements before and after the intervention was analysed.

Findings:

- The overall knowledge and attitudes of the students to AIDS related issues were poor.
- There was a marginal increase in knowledge score from 6/15 to 7/15 due to the intervention.
- The intervention did not have any impact on the knowledge on the role of condoms and misconception regarding HIV transmission.

- The knowledge about the use of condoms in protecting against HIV transmission was low before the intervention and did not show much increase after the intervention.
- 57% of the students agreed that AIDS patients should not be isolated. Though there was an improvement in the attitudes of the students towards various issues of HIV and AIDS, the intervention programme could not change the misconceptions regarding STDs and homosexual behaviour.
- The intervention programme had a definite impact on knowledge of students irrespective of the type of school and sex.
- Students of *ashrams* and residential schools were less positive as compared to government or private schools and non-residential schools.
- The students from the boys' schools were less knowledgeable and had lesser positive attitudes than those from girls and co-educational schools.
- Students of literate parents had higher knowledge than those whose parents were illiterate prior to intervention.

ABSTRACT NO. 65

- Author(s)** : Ponnuraj, S., and Sankarapandian
- Title** : Analysis and Assessment of Knowledge about AIDS among Students of Gandhigram Rural University
- Source** : Health and Population: Perspectives and Issues, 1994, 17(1& 2): 45-55
- Place of study** : Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu
- Period of study** : Academic Year 1993-1994
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the level of knowledge about AIDS among the university level students from different socio-economic backgrounds and to suggest a methodology to impart knowledge about AIDS to students.
- Study conducted by** : Gandhigram Rural University and Gandhigram Institute for Rural Health and Family Welfare, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The study was carried out in the Gandhigram Rural University in Tamil Nadu in the beginning of the academic year 1993-1994. 50% (599 students: 307 men and 292 women) of the total students studying across different departments were interviewed.

Findings:

- 50% (40% men and 49% women) of the students were not aware of the mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS.
- Regarding different modes of transmission, sexual practices were mentioned by 36%, blood transfusions by 1%, and 5% had no idea.
- 15% of women students had a high score as compared to only 6.6% of the men students.
- A significant difference in knowledge on AIDS was noted between students of biology (70%) as compared to the non-biology students (54%).

ABSTRACT NO. 66

- Author(s)** : Rajeev, Prabhu, S. Mohanan, and Mutha
- Title** : An Insight into Knowledge and Attitudes about "AIDS" among Merchants of Mangalore
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi
- Place of study** : Mangalore, Karnataka
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To explore the knowledge of and attitudes towards HIV among merchants in Mangalore.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Community Medicine, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore, Karnataka
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional

Methodology:

The interns of Kasturba Medical College in Mangalore carried out the study. Two hundred ninety-one individuals were interviewed from seventeen clusters of 10-15 shops in different wards of Mangalore Corporation. A pre-tested questionnaire was used for data collection.

Findings:

- 53% considered AIDS as incurable while 38% opined it as a rare disease, 54% were scared of the disease and 63% recognised its prevalence in Mangalore.
- On the vital question of isolation of AIDS patients, 35% answered affirmatively whereas 26% opined against it.
- On the control and prevention of AIDS, 59% opined safe sex, 54% suggested condoms for prevention and 47% favoured disposable syringes.
- Though 60% of the merchants agreed on condoms for prevention, there was an absence of volunteers to promote the sale of condoms.

ABSTRACT NO. 67

- Author(s)** : Suryawanshi, S., R. Ankushe, and R. Wavare
- Title** : HIV/AIDS-AKAP Study among Autorickshaw Drivers in Aurangabad City
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi
- Place of study** : Aurangabad
- Period of study** : Not specified

Aims and objectives : To find the awareness of HIV/AIDS among autorickshaw drivers (ARDS) and to understand preventive practices related to HIV/AIDS among these people.

Study conducted by : Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Government Medical College, Aurangabad

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The study was carried out in Aurangabad. For the selection of autorickshaw drivers, four main points were fixed and every rickshaw reporting at that point was included. Out of a total of 8,361 autorickshaw drivers in Aurangabad, 129 men drivers were interviewed. A pre-tested questionnaire regarding knowledge, attitudes and practices with respect to HIV/AIDS was used.

Findings:

- 86% of the autorickshaw drivers were from the most vulnerable age group (i.e., 20 to 49 years). 74% were literate and 5% had a degree or professional qualification.
- About 88% had heard about HIV/AIDS.
- Regarding the knowledge of HIV transmission, 100% identified sexual contact, 39% sharing of needles, 34% infected blood and 7% infected mother to child as the main modes of transmission.
- There was good knowledge regarding signs and symptoms of HIV/AIDS.
- 84% had correct knowledge about the high-risk groups, and 78% were knowledgeable about its seriousness.
- Almost all stated avoidance of sharing of needles as a strategy for prevention of HIV/AIDS.
- Despite awareness in the group, they were exposed to risky behaviour such as commercial sex workers (12%), transfusions (13%) and contaminated needles and syringes (7%).

ABSTRACT NO. 68

Author(s) : Singh, B., Y. Bedi, S. Singh, and S. Sehgal

Title : AIDS Awareness among Truck Drivers in Punjab

Source : Annual National Academic Medical Science (India), 1994, 30(2): 129-132

Place of study : Patiala district, Punjab

Period of study : April and May 1993

Aims and objectives : To assess AIDS awareness and the degree of high-risk behaviour among truck drivers in Patiala district of Punjab to formulate intervention strategies.

Study conducted by : Yuva Maitri Society, Patiala, Department of Immunopathology, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh

Nature of study : Cross-sectional community study

Methodology:

Two hundred and thirty-two truck drivers were interviewed and blood samples were obtained on filter paper. These samples were subjected to ELISA for HIV 1 and HIV 2. Samples found to be positive were rechecked on Western Blot test using the WHO criteria for testing.

Findings:

- The majority of the respondents were ignorant about AIDS.
- Only 4% were aware of sexual transmission of HIV.
- 58% had a history of genital ulcer, which indicates that spread could be further facilitated by rampant sexually transmitted diseases that exist alongside HIV.

ABSTRACT NO. 69

- Author(s)** : Wanjpe, A., and S. Akarte
- Title** : Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) Study of Barbers about HIV Transmission at Bombay
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi, pp. 257-260
- Place of study** : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To understand the knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) on HIV transmission among barbers' practices of re-using blades in saloons and the need for training them on prevention of HIV transmission.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Grant Medical College, Mumbai
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A stratified random sample of 78 barbers working in saloons for men in Mumbai was drawn. The survey was carried out by a structured questionnaire covering knowledge of, attitude towards and practices of their day-to-day work towards people with HIV/AIDS. Information on re-use of blades was collected. Interns/postgraduate students and other doctors of the Grant Medical College carried out the data collection.

Findings:

- AIDS awareness was high in the group with 67% being informed about the risk to self and customers.
- 69% were aware of the risk of using contaminated instruments. 84% were aware of transmission of HIV through unclean instruments. This overall awareness could be attributed to a higher literacy rate among them.
- 70% were not willing to work with HIV positive persons.
- 21% were using the same blade for three or more customers. Barbers found it expensive to use disposable blades each time.
- Reports of injuries due to the use of the same blade to two or more customers per day were common with 52% experiencing it.

ABSTRACT NO. 70

- Author(s)** : Grover, V., A. Kannan, and A. Indrayan
- Title** : Counselling: Effect on KAP against HIV/AIDS and STDS among a High-risk Group
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi
- Place of study** : Delhi
- Period of study** : August 1993 to September 1994
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the impact of counselling on knowledge, attitudes and practices of HIV infection and AIDS among the STD clinic users.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi
- Nature of study** : Intervention study

Methodology:

An intervention study was carried out with the patients attending an STD clinic at Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital situated in East Delhi. A sample of 500 subjects attending the STD clinics irrespective of age, sex and religion was drawn. A pre-tested Schedule-I was developed based on the Global Programme on AIDS (GPA) of WHO and pilot tested for modification. The health education programme was conducted. After two months, a short Schedule-II was administered to assess their knowledge and preventive practice adopted after educational programme. Data were analysed using SPSS.

Findings:

- 81% of the subjects attending the STD clinic belonged to age group of 15-34 years.
- Women formed only 1/5 of the study sample and were significantly older than the men.
- Counselling significantly increased the awareness on AIDS from 60% to 97%.
- Avoiding sex with commercial sex workers was mentioned as a method of protection against AIDS prior to counselling (28%) and this increased to 81% after the intervention.

ABSTRACT NO. 71

- Author(s)** : Benjamin, A., and P. Zachirah
- Title** : KABP Study on Prevention of AIDS among Health Professionals
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi
- Place of study** : Ludhiana, Punjab
- Period of study** : Not specified

Aims and objectives : To find out the level of knowledge of attitudes to and work related preventive practices in relation to AIDS among doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, paramedical staff, ward and OPD attendants and sweepers in the hospital.

Study conducted by : Department Social and Preventive Medicine, Christian Medical College, Ludhiana

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A sample of 282 employees coming into contact professionally with patients in CMC Hospital Ludhiana was drawn for the survey. There were 98 doctors, 84 nurses, 17 lab technicians, 21 paramedics, 29 ward/OPD attendants and 33 sweepers. A structured questionnaire was administered to the respondents to assess their knowledge, attitudes and practices with respect to HIV prevention in their professional areas. The data were analysed through software package Epi Info Version 5.

Findings:

- Doctors (89%), lab technicians (61%), paramedical professionals (52%), attendants (28%) and sweepers (9%) had the knowledge that AIDS is a fatal infection caused by a virus spread through body fluids.
- The knowledge about the HIV-transmission through contamination of blood was the maximum among nurses (99%) and lab technicians (94%).
- The knowledge about vertical transmission of AIDS was prevalent among all the categories.
- There were misconceptions regarding the transmission of AIDS such as AIDS could be spread through mosquito bites and use of common toilets.
- The ignorance on the part of doctors and lab technicians is serious since they are often instrumental in giving not only symptomatic treatment but also counselling patients.
- Almost 94% of doctors, 83% of nurses, 71% of lab technicians, 62% of paramedical staff, 55% of attendants and 6% of sweepers had sufficient knowledge on precaution in disposing wastes.
- It was reported that 49% doctors and 49% nurses used disposable syringes.
- The most prevalent practice among all groups was disposal of syringes in a dustbin after use. Due to inadequate facilities, 51% of doctors, 71% of nurses, and 12% of lab technicians reported improper destroying of syringes. They admitted re-use of syringes and needles after re-sterilisation (15% doctors, 22% nurses, 18% lab technicians, 10% paramedical staff, 7% attendants and only 3% sweepers).

ABSTRACT NO. 72

Author(s) : Pandey, V., N. Bhargara, and V. Tewari

Title : AIDS Awareness and Knowledge among STD Patients

Source : Swasth Hind, December 1989

Place of study : New Delhi

Period of study : Not specified

Aims and objectives : To study the level of awareness and knowledge with regard to AIDS among the patients with sexually transmitted diseases (STD).

Study conducted by : Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

An exploratory study was carried out at the STD clinic in Safdarjang Hospital of New Delhi. The patients visiting this clinic or undergoing treatment for STD were selected. Seventy-five men STD patients were interviewed using pre-tested schedules.

Findings:

- 79% of STD patients were aware of the disease named AIDS, but not its symptoms and signs.
- Taking narcotics orally were reported as a cause for transmission of AIDS.
- With respect to the different modes of transmission of AIDS, three-fourths were aware of the sexual mode of transmission and 19% reported transmission through sharing of contaminated needles.
- More than 50% were aware that there is no cure available for HIV/AIDS.
- More than half of them stated avoiding multiple sexual contact as a method or prevention of AIDS. One-third showed ignorance in this area.
- The patients were not aware (69 out of 76) of the surveillance centres functioning for the detection of HIV infection.

ABSTRACT NO. 73

Author(s) : Srivastara, V., S. Nirupam, and R. Chandra

Title : AIDS Awareness amongst School Teachers

Source : CARC Calling, 5992 5(3): 22-23

Place of study : Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Period of study : Not specified

Aims and objectives : To assess the AIDS awareness among the school teachers of a rural area.

Study conducted by : Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, K. C. Medical College, Lucknow

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The study was carried out in the development block of Sarojini Nagar having a population of 169,000. Fifteen schools were randomly selected out of 150 schools in that area. A sample of 182 teachers was drawn. A questionnaire was administered to elicit information about AIDS awareness. The respondents were assured anonymity.

Findings:

- 80% were found to be aware of AIDS.
- Academic qualification had a positive relation with AIDS awareness.
- Graduates teachers (90%) as compared to undergraduates (60%) had better awareness.

- The source of knowledge of AIDS was predominantly newspapers (60%) and television (30%).
- 23% of those who were aware could not give reasons for its spread, 68% reported it could spread through sexual contact, 25.5% stated blood transfusion, 2% reported casual contact and 0.2% reportedly stated mosquito bites as a mode of spread.
- Safe sex (69% of respondents) meant having sex with only one's own spouse.

ABSTRACT NO. 74

- Author(s)** : Choudhury, N., P. Singh, and H. Chandra
- Title** : AIDS Awareness in Blood Donors in North India
- Source** : Transfusion Medicine, 1995, 5: 267-271
- Place of study** : Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To explore the level of awareness on AIDS including risks to HIV infections acquired through transfusion among Indian blood donors from various socio-economic groups.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Transfusion Medicine, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Science, Lucknow
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A total of 1,012 consecutive blood donors were selected for the study. A questionnaire was given to all screened blood donors visiting the blood centre for donations. The questionnaire comprised of 20 items related to various aspects of AIDS and HIV infections. Further questions were asked on preferred source and type of blood in the events of donors themselves requiring a transfusion. The level of awareness was based on the score values for the number of correct responses. The responses were categorised as "good," "average" and "poor" to the number of correct responses.

Findings:

- 20% had "good," 61% had "average" and 19% had "poor" knowledge scores.
- The knowledge on AIDS differed significantly across income, educational and occupational groups.
- 65% expressed preference for tested blood from a blood bank, and 81% preferred avoiding purchased blood.
- 98% of the educated people and white-collar government workers did not wish to receive blood from high-risk donors.

ABSTRACT NO. 75

- Author(s)** : Amalraj, E., Chandrasekaran, S. Solomon, Ganapathy, and R. Sambandan
- Title** : First Year Medical Students' AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes
- Source** : Indian Journal of Community Medicine, 1995, 20(1-4)
- Place of study** : Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the knowledge, sexual practices and attitudes of medical students towards HIV/AIDS.
- Study conducted by** : Madras Medical College, Madras
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A cross-sectional study was carried out with 409 (204 men and 195 women) first-year medical students from three Government Medical Colleges of Madras. The students were given a self-administered questionnaire consisting of information and misconceptions on transmission, individual's attitude towards HIV infected person and prevention, safe sex practice, knowledge on clinical signs and symptoms, diagnostic methods and specific medicines used for HIV infected persons.

Findings:

- Magazines and newspapers (92%), television and friends (75%) were major sources of information.
- Sexual mode of transmission was known to most students (99% men, 99% women).
- Women as compared to men frequently reported misconceptions such as transmission through mosquito bites, hugging an infected person and sharing toilets.
- Information on prevention strategies for AIDS was high with 89% suggesting sex with only one partner, and 92% men and 72% women opining condom use.
- The students had a negative attitude towards HIV infected persons. One-third of the students showed unwillingness to have an HIV infected person as a friend. 60% of the students opined that physicians with AIDS should not be allowed to work.
- Three-fourths of the men and half of the women had heard about safe sex. More men (36%) in comparison to women (9%) reported practising safe sex.

ABSTRACT NO. 76

- Author(s)** : Bansal, R.
- Title** : HIV/AIDS and Barber Shop
- Source** : Indian Medical Gazette, 1994, C 28(1): 71-73
- Place of study** : Indore and Ujjan, Madhya Pradesh

Period of study : 1992

Aims and objectives : To examine the various practices of the barbers that pose a risk of transmission of HIV/AIDS.

Study conducted by : Department of Community Medicine, P. S. Medical College, Karamsad, Gujarat

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A sample of 100 barbers was drawn from the city of Indore and Ujjain. The barbers of all categories were selected in order to have a representative sample. A purposive sample was selected. Face-to-face interview technique was used and on-site inspection of various procedures was carried out.

Findings:

- Different categories of barbers followed different patterns.
- The bigger and costlier establishments used safer practices like using fresh blades for each shave compared to smaller establishments. This could be attributed to higher service charges and higher literacy levels.
- The lowest standards of practices were observed in road-side barbers.
- None of the barbers had sufficient knowledge of HIV transmission and modes of contracting HIV and only 8% of them had partial knowledge about AIDS transmission by sex and blood transfusion.
- They did not adopt hygienic procedures of washing and cleaning instruments and none of them were aware of the risk of HIV transmission through instruments.

ABSTRACT NO. 77

Author(s) : Bhattacharya, M.

Title : AIDS Awareness among Anganwadi Workers and Labourers

Source : CARC Calling, April-June 1994, 7(2): 32

Place of study : Allahabad

Period of study : Not Specified.

Aims and objectives : To assess the knowledge regarding AIDS amongst village level *anganwadi* workers imparting primary health care and health information to the rural masses.

Study conducted by : Department of S.P.M., M.L.N. Medical College, Allahabad

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The study was carried out with *anganwadi* workers and a comparative group of labourers working in a factory on the outskirts of the city and living in slums. A total of 120 *anganwadi* workers and labourers were interviewed.

Findings:

- 84 % of the *anganwadi* workers and 50 % of the labourers were aware of the name of the disease AIDS.
- Only 70% of the *anganwadi* workers and 50% of the labourers had some knowledge on mode of transmission that was largely inadequate.
- A majority of them were aware of sexual transmission but only 10% were aware of other modes of transmission, such as, infected blood transfusion and contaminated needle pricks.
- Both the groups did not know about vertical transmission.
- Condom awareness was very low in both the groups. Only 30% of *anganwadi* workers and 10% of the workers suggested the use of condoms.
- Knowledge about AIDS testing and AIDS control programme was present only in 22% of the *anganwadi* workers and totally absent among labourers.
- The source of information for a majority in both the groups was television and radio, followed by spouse, colleagues or neighbours.
- Being illiterate or educated up to eighth standard, the *anganwadi* workers and labourers were not interested and/or had no access to print media.
- The *anganwadi* workers were themselves in a state of confusion with inadequate knowledge on AIDS.

ABSTRACT NO. 78

- Author(s)** : Mukhopadhyay, B. B., A. B. Biswas, and B. Mukherjee
- Title** : Knowledge and Attitude about AIDS among the Newly Admitted College Students in Burdwan Municipal Area
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi
- Place of study** : Burdwan, West Bengal
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To critically assess the level of knowledge on AIDS and HIV infection among newly admitted college students and find the source of their knowledge.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Community Medicine, Burdwan Medical College and R. G. Kar Medical College, Calcutta
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A sample of 500 first-year students (256 men and 244 women) was drawn from five different colleges in Burdwan town. Data collection was done by administering a pre-tested close-ended questionnaire consisting of questions about the causation of AIDS, mode of spread, curability and preventive aspects. Attitudes of students about AIDS were assessed on a seven-point scale.

Findings:

- The majority (64%) of the students hailed from urban areas as compared to one-third (33%) who were from the rural areas. Most of the students (97%) were married.
- Women (61%) had satisfactory levels of knowledge as compared to men (52%).

- 58% of students showed a satisfactory level of knowledge on modes of transmission, yet 71% opined that HIV/AIDS infection might spread through mosquito bites.
- The students were aware of the sexual route as one of the major ways of transmission of HIV/ AIDS.
- Regarding social acceptance of AIDS patients, 51% expressed in favour. 46% were not ready to personally undertake service and care for the AIDS patients.
- On the knowledge of prevention, 63% of students belonged to the category "satisfactory or above level." In this category, women students (64.5%) out numbered men.

ABSTRACT NO. 79

- Author(s)** : Aggarwal K., A. Kannan, V. Grover, P. Kumar, and A. Puri
- Title** : Knowledge and Attitude towards AIDS amongst College Youth of East Delhi
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi
- Place of study** : New Delhi
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To examine the level of knowledge and attitudes on AIDS prevention among the college youth of East Delhi.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, University College of Medical Sciences and G.T.B. Hospital, Delhi
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A sample of 378 students (181 men and 191 women) aged between 17 and 21 years was drawn from three colleges of East Delhi. Rapport was established with the students by the investigators and the objectives of the study were explained to the teachers and principals. A pre-tested structured questionnaire was administered. The results were presented in relation to knowledge, mode of transmission, and source of knowledge, tests available, risk behaviour and prevention.

Findings:

- 89% had heard of AIDS.
- Television (65%) and newspaper (56%) were cited as the main sources of information.
- 74% of the students were aware of blood transfusion as a risk factor for spread of disease.
- Visiting commercial sex workers (35%) was perceived to be the most common risk factor, followed by commercial blood donors (35%), homosexuality (17%) and STI (9%).
- Information on prevention was poor.
- Respondents lacked knowledge about available diagnostic tests for and the concept of risk behaviour related to AIDS.

ABSTRACT NO. 80

- Author(s)** : Vasundhra, M.
- Title** : AIDS Related Knowledge and Attitude of Medical Students and In-service Doctors
- Source** : CARC Calling, Jan-Mar 1993, 6(1): 38
- Place of study** : Bangalore, South India
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To examine the knowledge and attitudes of health professionals to elicit their training needs on HIV/AIDS.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Community Medicine, Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

Two hundred thirty-two (232) respondents including 175 final year MBBS students and 57 in-service doctors being deputed for ICDS training were given a pre-tested self-administered questionnaire consisting of 40 questions with multiple choice items. Their knowledge on HIV/AIDS and attitudes towards AIDS were measured.

Findings:

- 40% of in-service doctors were ignorant about the cause of AIDS as compared to 26% of medical students.
- Misconceptions existed among them regarding the spread of HIV infection.
- The sexual, blood-borne and peri-natal transmission of HIV infection were known to 96%.
- The other possible modes of spread of HIV infection were identified as casual contact (11%), through mosquito bites (20%), through coughing (12.5%), and through hair cutting (23%).
- The attitude towards AIDS patients was negative as 41% of medical personnel suggested isolation of AIDS patients while 20% of them suggested denial of first-aid to HIV infected persons.
- Doctors (54%) and medical students (51%) feared that they were at a high risk of contracting HIV infection during their routine professional work.
- The respondents were aware of the preventive measures like safe sex and use of disposable syringes and needles.
- The knowledge regarding the disinfection procedures was extremely poor among both medical students and in-service doctors. However, the medical students were better informed than in-service doctors were.

ABSTRACT NO. 81

- Author(s)** : Lal, P., A. Kumar, G. Ingle, and N. Gulati
- Title** : Knowledge and Attitudes of University Students Regarding HIV/AIDS: An Urban-rural Difference
- Source** : Journal of Communicable Disease, 1994, 26(4): 186-191

Place of study : New Delhi
Period of study : January-February 1993
Aims and objectives : To assess and compare the knowledge and attitudes of urban students relating to HIV/AIDS with their rural counterparts.
Study conducted by : Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi
Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The survey was conducted in two colleges of Delhi University (one located in a rural area and one in a urban area). A sample of 322 students (222 men and 100 women) in the age group of 16-21 years was drawn. A pre-tested questionnaire was administered and chi-square test was used for analysis.

Findings:

- Newspapers were the main source of information.
- Significant association between AIDS awareness and factors such as location of the college, subject they study and gender was observed.
- Urban students and science students were more aware compared to their rural counterparts and non-science students.
- The different modes of HIV transmission that were reported were sexual contacts (87.97%), blood transfusion (81.1%), sharing of unsterilised needles (63.4%), and infected mother to child (70.8%).
- Regarding the attitude of the students towards AIDS patients, 30-40% of students were supportive and 45.3% of students opined the need for isolation of patients.

ABSTRACT NO. 82

Author(s) : AIDS Awareness amongst Rural Junior College Students
Title : Rahate, N. P., S. P. Zodpey, and P. R. Bhalkule
Source : Indian Journal of Sexual Transmission of Disease, 1995, 16: 30-31
Place of study : Saoner District, Nagpur
Period of study : Not specified
Aims and objectives : To explore the knowledge of adolescents from rural areas regarding their awareness about AIDS and its associated risk factors.
Study conducted by : Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Government Medical College, Nagpur
Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A sample of 261 students (70% men, 30% women inclusive of 107 commerce students, 82 science and 72 arts students) was interviewed using a pre-tested schedule.

Findings:

- The study showed that 50% of the students were unaware of the causes of AIDS and only less than half of the sample reported correct modes of prevention of AIDS through various measures.
- Awareness on screening test to detect AIDS was reported by 60% of the students and incubation period was known to 48% and 25%, respectively.
- Only 45% of students answered correctly the absence of a cure for AIDS.
- Generally science students were more aware of AIDS related issues as compared to non-science students.

ABSTRACT NO. 83

- Author(s)** : Wadhva, S., S. Wahab, S. Gupta, G. Tibdewal, and J. Deshmukh
- Title** : Knowledge and Attitude of Secondary Students towards HIV/AIDS.
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi
- Place of study** : Nagpur
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the basic level of knowledge and attitudes of secondary school students towards HIV/AIDS.
- Study conducted by** : Department of P.S.M., Government Medical College and Hospital, Nagpur
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A cross-sectional study was carried out. A sample of 718 students was drawn from classes 8, 9 and 10 from two randomly selected colleges in Nagpur having students from all socio-economic strata. The students were administered a questionnaire with a pre-designed proforma on knowledge and attitude towards AIDS.

Findings:

- A majority of the students (86%) had knowledge on AIDS but only 25.5% had knowledge on HIV.
- Only 21% were aware that there is no treatment for AIDS.
- 56% were aware about the transmission of HIV through sexual contact.
- The subjects were less knowledgeable regarding the preventive measures for HIV/AIDS.
- Subjects in large number were misinformed on the availability of a vaccine for prevention.
- 30% and 32% held non-sympathetic and supportive attitudes, respectively.

ABSTRACT NO. 84

- Author(s)** : Verma, S., and K. Pavri
- Title** : A Rapid Survey to Assess AIDS Awareness among College Students in Bombay and Pune
- Source** : CARC Calling, October 1988, 228-232
- Place of study** : Bombay and Pune
- Period of study** : October 1988
- Aims and objectives** : To assess and compare AIDS awareness among students of a metropolitan city of Mumbai and a smaller city, Pune.
- Study conducted by** : National Institute of Virology, and CARC, Pune
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A survey was carried out with students from St. Xavier's college, Mumbai and students from Symbiosis Society of Pune. A questionnaire was prepared by CARE in order to assess the extent of awareness of AIDS among them. A total of 93 and 43 filled questionnaires were returned from Mumbai and Pune, respectively.

Findings:

- In Mumbai, a significantly greater proportion of students (65%) learned about AIDS from foreign magazines, whereas in Pune students obtained information through newspapers.
- No difference was noted in the awareness on major modes of transmission and prevention of AIDS. The majority (91%) of the students from both the colleges agreed on the spread of AIDS through sexual contact.
- As prevention, most students from Pune (77%) and Mumbai (78%) preferred a single sex partner.
- With respect to condom usage, students in Mumbai were observed to be more aware as compared to their counterparts in Pune.
- The willingness to join the campaign against AIDS was noted to be more in Pune (67%) as compared to Mumbai (55%).

ABSTRACT NO. 85

- Author(s)** : Sundar, M., J. Kavitha, L. Mathai, and C. Manjunath
- Title** : Knowledge of AIDS among Student Population in Bangalore City
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi
- Place of study** : Bangalore
- Period of study** : Not specified

Aims and objectives : To explore the knowledge on AIDS transmission and prevention among college and high school students in Bangalore city.

Study conducted by : Department of Community Medicine, Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences, Bangalore

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A sample of 1,128 students (567 men and 561 women) was drawn from seven professional colleges, two non-professional colleges and a high school in Bangalore. A survey was carried out using a pre-tested questionnaire. Associations between variables were evaluated by Chi-square test and Fishers exact test.

Findings:

- The study shows that a majority of the respondents (81%) were relatively well aware of sexual mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS.
- It was observed that less than half of them cited transmission of AIDS via intravenous drugs, breast milk, tattooing and common shaving razors in saloons.
- Gender differences, with respect to the awareness on transmission of AIDS and its prevention, have emerged in the study.
- It was found that 19% of men and 33% of women had misconceptions about AIDS transmission such as mosquito bites could spread the AIDS disease.
- Regarding the prevention of AIDS, 75% of men and 55% of women were reportedly aware of some prevention measures.
- Misconceptions regarding various modes of transmission of AIDS via hugging (70%) and masturbation (90%) do exist.

ABSTRACT NO. 86

Author(s) : Nair, R., L. Samaranayake, M. Bhat, and S. Anil

Title : Attitude and Knowledge of Indian Dental Professionals about HIV Infection and AIDS

Source : Community Dental Oral Epidemiology, 1995, 23: 187-8

Place of study : Manipal, Karnataka and Trivandrum, Kerala

Period of study : April - May 1993

Aims and objectives : To assess the knowledge and attitudes towards HIV/AIDS infection among a group of dental professionals in India who work in an academic environment.

Study conducted by : Oral Biology Unit, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong; Department of Periodontics, Dental College of Dental Surgery, Manipal; Department of Periodontics, Dental College, Trivandrum

Nature of study : Cross-sectional

Methodology:

The sample consists of 200 dentists and 100 students from two dental colleges of India. A pre-tested questionnaire was administered for data collection. The questionnaire had three main categories: one on knowledge regarding AIDS, its transmission and prevention, a second on the seriousness of AIDS, and a final one on employee relationship with respect to HIV infected persons.

Findings:

- The results reveal that the possibility of HIV transmission in dental clinics was reported by 40%.
- The subjects showed poor knowledge in the areas of infection of HIV. Only 12% were found to be aware of simple disinfection.
- It was observed that 80% of the respondents were aware of their risk of contracting AIDS.
- Regarding the seriousness of AIDS, 68% believed it to be a serious threat.
- With respect to treatment of AIDS patients, the majority (87%) opined that AIDS patients should be reported to the government hospitals for identification.
- With respect to making use of sufficient protective measures, only 54% were observed to be using health history forms for their patients.
- With reference to employer-employee relationship, 93% stated that HIV positive status is not an acceptable basis for dismissal.

ABSTRACT NO. 87

- Author(s)** : Aggarwal, A., and R. Kumar
- Title** : Awareness of AIDS among School Children in Haryana
- Source** : Indian Journal Of Public Health, April-June 1996, 40(2)
- Place of study** : Ambala District, Haryana
- Period of study** : March 1993
- Aims and objectives** : To evaluate the existing level of knowledge and awareness about AIDS in school children of 9th and 10th classes from rural and urban areas.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Community Medicine, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The study was carried out in six high schools (three rural, three urban) in Ambala district, Haryana. A sample of 336 students with mean age of 15 years was drawn from 9th and 10th classes. A pre-tested questionnaire was administered for data collection, and Epi info computer package was used for analysis.

Findings:

- The results reveal that transmission of HIV via sexual contact was reported by 56%.
- Regarding prevention of AIDS, 49% reported that by restricting sex to single partners, and 44% mentioned condom use.

- Boys, particularly in urban areas, were better informed as compared to the girls, with respect to knowledge of transmission and prevention of AIDS.
- Misconceptions regarding transmission of AIDS through mosquito bites (38%) and by drinking from same glass (23%) were noticed. But it was found less in urban boys and girls due to their wider exposure to different sources of information.
- The transmission of disease through sexual contact was known to a significantly higher proportion of rural girls as compared to urban girls.
- With regard to the prevention of AIDS by restricting sex to a single partner was known to significantly higher number of urban girls as compared to rural girls.

ABSTRACT NO. 88

- Author(s)** : Pandit, K., S. Bhasin, K. Dubey, and O. P. Aggarwal
- Title** : AIDS Awareness, Knowledge and Attitude amongst the Senior Secondary School Teachers in East Delhi Schools
- Source** : The Indian Journal of Community Health, May-August 1997, 9(2)
- Place of study** : East Delhi
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To study the level of awareness, knowledge and attitudes regarding HIV/AIDS among senior secondary schools.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, University College of Medical Sciences and G.T.B. Hospital, Delhi
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

Two schools were randomly selected from East Delhi. The sample consisted of 74 teachers. A structured pre-tested questionnaire was administered. Respondents were asked to give suggestions regarding family life style education and suitability of the person to conduct this programme. The session was followed by the exhibition of posters, distribution of pamphlets on AIDS, screening of visual tapes, group discussion and so on. After a period of 10 days for post-IEC evaluation, the same questionnaire was given once again.

Findings:

- The pre-intervention level of awareness about HIV/AIDS was relatively high among the senior secondary teachers.
- Aspects such as condom use for prevention, the role of homosexuality in transmission and misconceptions of the curability of AIDS were better understood after IEC intervention.
- The need for creation of awareness about AIDS in school children increased from 93% to 100%.
- It was reported that 77% of the teachers agreed to initiate family life style education and 47% of the respondents suggested doctors as suitable persons to impart family life style education.

ABSTRACT NO. 89

- Author(s)** : Kubde S. S., S. D. Zodpey, and N. D. Vasudeo
- Title** : AIDS Awareness among Nursing Students
- Source** : Indian Journal of Public Health, Jul-Sep 1996, 39
- Place of study** : Nagpur, Maharashtra
- Period of study** : 1994
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the awareness of nursing students regarding AIDS and to identify the areas of confusion which can serve as an important target for educational intervention.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Government Medical College, Nagpur
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The study was carried out with 204 nursing students of Government Medical of Nagpur. A questionnaire was administered to the sample after taking their informed consent and their anonymity was assured.

Findings:

- 32% of the nurses did not consider AIDS to be a serious problem.
- They were aware of transmission through sexual contact (64%) and via vertical transmission (88%).
- 62% of the nursing students had knowledge about the use of condoms for preventing AIDS.
- Misconceptions like the availability of a vaccine for AIDS were expressed by 39%.
- Negative attitudes were noticed in 43% of the nursing students, and 93% were afraid of contracting AIDS because of the nature of their job.
- Only 11% of the students scored more than 75% in the knowledge score, indicating awareness about AIDS is not very high among nursing students.

ABSTRACT NO. 90

- Author(s)** : Francis, P., J. S. Gill, and S. Chowdhury
- Title** : Knowledge, Beliefs and Attitudes regarding AIDS, STDs and Human Sexuality among Senior Secondary Students in Delhi
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi
- Place of study** : South Delhi
- Period of study** : 1992

Aims and objectives : To determine the level of knowledge and attitudes of senior school children regarding AIDS, STDs and human sexuality.

Study conducted by : All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The study was carried out with the 12th class students in four public schools and government schools in South Delhi. A sample of 716 (303 women, 413 men) students, aged between 15-18 was drawn, with equal representation from science and arts. A pre-tested questionnaire with a one-point scale was adopted and modified using WHO guidelines. This was followed by five group discussions.

Findings:

- There was reasonably high awareness on AIDS in the study group.
- Having sex with an infected person (94%) and multiple partners (89%) were identified as modes of transmission.
- Condom use for prevention of AIDS was known to 70% of the students.
- Public schoolboys were more aware of the protection offered by condoms than their counterparts from government schools.
- Girl students were more inhibited in talking about condoms.
- Many students did not show a positive attitude towards AIDS patients.

ABSTRACT NO. 91

Author(s) : Jacob, K. S., H. Jayakumari, J. K. John, and T. J. John

Title : Awareness of AIDS in India: Effect of Public Education through the Mass Media

Source : British Medical Journal, September 16, 1989, 299(6701): 721

Place of study : Vellore

Period of study : Not specified

Aims and objectives : To assess the awareness level of AIDS among patients attending a medical out-patient department and a clinic for sexually transmitted diseases and also among commercial sex workers.

Study conducted by : Christian Medical College, Vellore supported by Indian Council of Medical Research

Nature of study : Cross-sectional

Methodology:

All the commercial sex workers attending the custodial care institution for sex workers and all patients attending the STD clinic were interviewed after taking their informed consent. 231 patients were also interviewed attending the medical out-patient department at the district hospital. Socio-economic and demographic details were collected.

Findings:

- Most of the subjects were ignorant about AIDS. Approximately 58% of the patients attending the out-patient department, 77% of patients attending STD clinics and 96% of the commercial sex workers were unaware of AIDS.
- The lack of awareness about AIDS among the subjects was associated with factors like illiteracy, lower socio-economic class and living in rural areas.
- Newspaper and radio emerged as important sources of information, but the subjects could hardly avail them, since they belong to lower socio-economic class.

ABSTRACT NO. 92

- Author(s)** : Pandit, K., and O. P. Aggarwal
- Title** : Awareness, Knowledge and Attitude towards AIDS amongst the Spouses of Paramedics Living in a Medical College cum Hospital Complex
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi
- Place of study** : Delhi
- Period of study** : January 1994
- Aims and objectives** : To study the dissemination of awareness, knowledge and attitude towards AIDS among the spouses of paramedics living in a medical college cum hospital complex.
- Study conducted by** : University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi
- Nature of study** : Community-based

Methodology:

A survey was conducted in the college cum hospital complex. A sample of 206 subjects (104 men, 102 women) was interviewed using a pre-tested questionnaire covering 381 households.

Findings:

- The study brought out the differences on AIDS awareness between men and women with men (90%) being more aware than their counterparts.
- A positive correlation was noticed between education and awareness about AIDS. Persons with educational status up to 8th standard reported awareness on AIDS, but the increase in educational status up to 12th standard or above, reflected positive attitudes towards HIV infected persons.
- Women (88%) were more positive and supportive as compared to the men (79%).
- Men were more willing to talk about AIDS than women (69%).

ABSTRACT NO. 93

- Author(s)** : Tikoo, M., S. R. Bollman, and M. B. Bergen
- Title** : Knowledge Level of Youth in India Regarding Human Sexuality and AIDS
- Source** : Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy, 1995, 21(4): 247-254
- Place of study** : Delhi
- Period of study** : July 1994
- Aims and objectives** : To explore the level of knowledge among adolescent boys and girls regarding human sexuality and AIDS.
- Study conducted by** : School of Family Studies and Human Services, Kansas State University
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A sample of 893 persons (397 women, 493 men) aged between 10-17 years was drawn from a public school in Delhi. Data were collected through a questionnaire. The knowledge scale contained two sub-scales, one on reproductive health knowledge and another on AIDS. Data analysis was done by using frequencies, Chi-squares and t-tests.

Findings:

- The results reveal that the Indian adolescent has limited knowledge about human sexuality and AIDS.
- Few students had scored full points on the AIDS scale, but none of the students scored full points on the reproductive health scales.
- Differences were noted between boys (5%) and girls (4%), on the impact of relationship with parents and knowledge on AIDS. Boys who got along with the parents rarely scored the higher on knowledge scale (6%), which could be attributed to independence and possibility of their wide exposure to the outside world.

ABSTRACT NO. 94

- Author(s)** : Bhasin, S. K., K. Pandit, A. T. Kannan, and K. K. Dubey
- Title** : Knowledge and Attitudes amongst School Children Regarding AIDS in East Delhi
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi
- Place of study** : Delhi
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the existing knowledge and awareness regarding HIV/AIDS among school children and to find out the impact of IEC on their subsequent knowledge.

Study conducted by : Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, UCMS and GTB Hospital, Delhi

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

Four schools (2 boys schools and 2 girls schools) were selected randomly by sampling technique from East Delhi. A total of 294 boys and 333 girls of class XI and XII participated in the study. A pre-tested questionnaire was administered, followed by an intervention programme. Exhibition of posters, printed materials on HIV/AIDS and videotapes were shown to the subjects followed by an open discussion on HIV/AIDS with the group. The same questionnaire was administered post intervention.

Findings:

- The majority of the subjects (98%) were showed awareness about AIDS including non-availability of vaccine for AIDS (81%).
- Girls (59%) were less aware of condom use as compared to the boys (87%).
- Girls (97%) had greater awareness on the fatal nature of the disease as compared to boys (47%).
- The IEC intervention increased the knowledge level on AIDS significantly.

ABSTRACT NO. 95

Author(s) : Dobe, M.

Title : Awareness on AIDS among Health Care Professionals

Source : Journal of Public Health, July-September 1995, 39(3)

Place of study : Calcutta, West Bengal

Period of study : Not specified

Aims and objectives : To assess the knowledge of health personnel regarding HIV infections and to identify areas of knowledge gaps to be emphasised in formulating training programs for health personnel.

Study conducted by : Department of Health Education, All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta

Nature of study : Hospital-based study

Methodology:

A sample of 400 respondents was drawn from a medical college and hospital in Calcutta. The sample included nurses, technicians, fresh graduates, clinical students and pre-clinical students. A pre-tested questionnaire was administered to the respondents.

Findings:

- Poor knowledge of pre-clinical students prevailed on the natural history of disease and testing procedure.
- Students (60-70%) had wrongly associated a positive result on HIV test as synonymous with AIDS.
- Misconceptions regarding AIDS transmission, such as sharing a toilet, were reported by 50-60% of the paramedical personnel.

- With respect to the precautionary measures against exposure to contaminated blood, 80-90% of the health personnel lacked knowledge.

ABSTRACT NO. 96

- Author(s)** : Ghosh, S., S. Chowdhury, and S. Gill
- Title** : Knowledge of HIV/AIDS/STDs and High Risk Sexual Practices in Two Slums in South Delhi
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi
- Place of study** : New Delhi
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To study the knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of slum dwellers regarding HIV/AIDS/STD and to identify the prevalence of high-risk sexual practices.
- Study conducted by** : NGO AIDS Cell, Centre for Community Medicine, AIIMS, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi
- Nature of study** : Community-based study

Methodology:

A sample of 228 slum dwellers was drawn (159 men and 69 women) from two slums of South Delhi. A semi-structured and pre-tested interview schedule comprising 32 questions was administered. The questions were related to four areas: general baseline information, knowledge about STDs, knowledge about HIV/AIDS and sexual behaviour.

Findings:

- There was poor knowledge of AIDS among the slum dwellers.
- Knowledge about AIDS was higher in men (59%) than women (22%).
- 60% of men and 70% of women were unaware of the modes of transmission of HIV.
- 52% of men and 68% of women were unaware of preventive measures against AIDS transmission. Though the majority of them had heard about condoms, only 3% of men and 19% of women used condoms.
- 58% of men and 67% of women reported STDs as curable and preferred allopathic treatment.
- A larger proportion of men (55%) had knowledge about sex prior to marriage while the majority of women (82%) were largely uninformed.
- A small group of men (5%) and women (3%) had homosexual experience.

ABSTRACT NO. 97

- Author(s)** : Poddar, A. K., D. S. Poddar, and R. N. Mandal
- Title** : Perception about AIDS among Residents of a Calcutta Slum
- Source** : Indian Journal of Public Health, January-March, 1996, 40(1)
- Place of study** : Calcutta
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the impact of the current mass education programme against AIDS on the slum dwellers of South Calcutta.
- Study conducted by** : Department of Health Education, A.I.I.H. and P.H. and Department of Community Medicine, N.R.S. Medical College, Calcutta
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The study was carried out in Chetla area of South Calcutta, which has many slum pockets. Two hundred and six (206) residents of both sexes, aged between 18 to 60 years, mainly from lower middle class were selected by systematic random sampling and interviewed using a structured pre-tested schedule.

Findings:

- Two and a half hours was the reported average time for watching television or listening to radio for gaining information. Television has emerged to be the main source of knowledge (50%) on AIDS.
- Although the respondents were aware of AIDS, their knowledge about its prevention and cure and a willingness to mix with AIDS patients remained low (27% to 42%) despite exposure to information through these channels.
- The knowledge about the mode of infection, vulnerability of infection and its prevention measures varied from 54% to 61%.
- 57% showed knowledge on different vulnerable groups.
- The knowledge of the persons had a direct relationship with the literacy level of the respondents.
- While 54% were aware of preventive measures, it was associated with avoiding unfamiliar (outside) sex partners or sex workers.
- The awareness of condom use was less than 3%.

ABSTRACT NO. 98

- Author(s)** : Mittal, S., S. Garg, K. Sehgal and R. D. Bansal
- Title** : A Study of KABP Regarding STD and HIV/AIDS amongst Women of an Urban Slum
- Source** : Health Issues in Delhi, 1995, 81-88
- Place of study** : New Delhi

Period of study : September 1994 to February 1995

Aims and objectives : To ascertain knowledge, attitude and practices related to STDs and AIDS among women in a community setting of an urban slum.

Study conducted by : Department of P. S. M., Maulana Azad Medical College and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A sample of 210 married women, aged between 15 and 45 years was drawn from a hutment with an approximate population of 1,500. The women were interviewed using a pre-tested proforma.

Findings:

- Only 34% and 6% had heard about STIs and AIDS respectively.
- Among the informed women, 74% had heard about STIs through friends or relatives.
- Television largely contributed to increasing awareness of AIDS but not on STDs.
- There were misconceptions regarding the mode of transmission of STIs, such as urinating at bad places and eating hot things. This could be a generalised perception acquired through peers.
- Only 43% knew that having sex with infected partner led to STDs. Only 7% of women were aware about condom usage as protective against STDs as compared to 34% men.
- Overall, there was a higher knowledge on STDs as compared to AIDS.

ABSTRACT NO. 99

Author(s) : Posushali, R., and S. Chowdhury

Title : Knowledge and Attitude Regarding HIV/AIDS of General Medical Practitioners from Delhi

Source : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi

Place of study : Delhi

Period of study : January-March 1996

Aims and objectives : To assess the level of knowledge of the general practitioners (GPs) towards various issues related to HIV/AIDS and their attitudes towards HIV/AIDS infected and affected persons.

Study conducted by : NGO AIDS Cell, Centre for Community Medicines, AIIMS, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A sample of 100 general practitioners with a MBBS degree, with 10 to 15 years of experience from

different zones of Delhi and registered with the Delhi Medical Association were administered a pre-tested questionnaire for assessment of knowledge on modes of transmission, aetiology, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and epidemiological information and attitudes towards HIV infected persons.

Findings:

- Approximately 23% of the general practitioners were unable to say what the acronym AIDS stood for.
- A wrong diagnosis was made by 35% of doctors.
- 43% of the general practitioners were not able to describe the symptoms of HIV infection and STD symptoms. They could not explain the increased risk of HIV infection due to STD symptoms in an individual.
- The general practitioners also showed very poor knowledge on epidemiological information, mode of transmission, treatment and prevention measures against HIV/AIDS. A majority (77.5%) were not aware of the spread of infection through sexual contact or from mother to child.
- 63% were not aware of the factors for social and biological vulnerability of women to HIV infection.
- General practitioners had a negative attitude towards HIV infected persons. They (44%) opined that sero-positive persons should not be allowed to continue their jobs. 32% were moralistic and looked at the infection as a punishment for doing something wrong.

ABSTRACT NO. 100

- Author(s)** : Bansal, R. K., R. K. Srivastava, and D. M. Sexena
- Title** : An Exploratory 'KABP' Study of AIDS in Indigenous Medical Practitioners and RMPs in Central India
- Source** : Journal of Dermatology, Venerology and Leprology, 1994, 60
- Place of study** : Gujarat, Central India
- Period of study** : Not specified
- Aims and objectives** : To explore the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practices on HIV/AIDS among indigenous and Registered Medical Practitioners in Central India
- Study conducted by** : The Department of Community Medicine, P. S. Medical College, Karamsad, State AIDS Cell, (Government of Gujarat), Civil Hospital, Gandinagar
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

The medical practitioners from two industrial cities were administered a pre-tested structured questionnaire to evaluate attitudes, behaviour and practices on HIV/AIDS.

Findings:

- The study group lacked knowledge on HIV/AIDS.
- Knowledge on various routes of transmission of AIDS was found to be low, especially with regard to vertical transmission.
- Importance of condom usage for prevention was known only to 58%.
- The attitude of these medical practitioners and RMPs towards HIV infected persons was negative.

- Use of gloves was dismally low (1%), so were other effective means of avoiding HIV contraction and transmission.
- Overall medical practitioners (94%) were uncomfortable about sexual counselling.

ABSTRACT NO. 101

- Author(s)** : Rao, K. S., R. D. Pilli, and B. R. Rao
- Title** : Awareness of AIDS/HIV among Voluntary Organizations in Andhra Pradesh
- Source** : Indian Journal of Sexual Transmission of Disease, 1006(17): 19-21
- Place of study** : Andhra Pradesh
- Period of study** : February 1988-April 1991
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the knowledge about transmission of AIDS, misconceptions and safe sexual behaviour among voluntary organisations.
- Study conducted by** : Sri Surya Clinic, AIDS Prevention Division; Child Foundation of India; Department of Microbiology, ICMR AIDS Surveillance Centre, Andhra Medical College, Vishakapatnam
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A structured questionnaire was administered to different voluntary organisations in Andhra Pradesh after conducting 27 AIDS/HIV health educational programmes for them. The questionnaire consisted of questions on AIDS awareness, the mode of transmission, seriousness of the disease, misconceptions and safer sex behaviour.

Findings:

- The majority of the participants were aware of HIV/AIDS and the associated aspects.
- Ignorance (61%) was reportedly higher among the rural youth even after the health education session.
- A post-intervention had a significant impact on knowledge gains.

ABSTRACT NO. 102

- Author(s)** : Balanganesh, G., V. Chandrasekar, T. S. R. Sai, and V. B. Sudhakar
- Title** : Survey on Public Awareness on AIDS in a Rural South Indian Community
- Source** : Indian Journal of Community Research, 1994, 19(1)
- Place of study** : Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

Period of study : 15 days

Aims and objectives : To study public awareness on AIDS in a rural community and to examine the role of governmental agencies currently engaged in creating awareness.

Study conducted by : Departments of Community Medicine and STD and Venereology, S.V. Medical College and S.V.R.R. Government General Hospital, Tirupati, A.P.

Nature of study : Community-based study

Methodology:

A cross-sectional study was carried out on a sample of 200 randomly selected men and women aged between 15-45 years. A semi-structured pre-tested schedule was administered to the subjects.

Findings:

- Subjects had a poor understanding of AIDS, especially regarding modes of transmission.
- Of the 67% who were aware of the term AIDS, 51.5% only knew of AIDS as a disease, 30% were not aware of the mode of spread and 57% opined that physical contact (kissing, hugging) with a patient could spread the infection.
- Sex workers as a group were identified as the cause for spread of infection by 49% of respondents.
- Prevention of the spread of AIDS through condom use was largely unknown except by 19% of the literate.
- Only 30% of the respondents were aware of the diagnostic facilities available at the Medical College.
- 47% opined that AIDS could be cured.
- Media, both news and Doordarshan, played a positive role in disseminating information and creating awareness on AIDS.

ABSTRACT NO. 103

Author(s) : Balanganesh, G., Y. Ramakrishnan, Y. S. Rao, and V.S. Babu

Title : A Study of the Awareness about AIDS/STD in Indian Communities

Source : Journal of Sexual Transmission of Diseases, 1993, (14): 33-43.

Place of study : Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

Period of study : Not specified

Aims and objectives : To study the extent of awareness on AIDS/STDs in the rural and urban communities of India in order to strengthen preventive measures and strategies in the future.

Study conducted by : Department of Community Medicine, S.V. Medical College / S.V.R.R. Government General Hospital

Nature of study : Cross-sectional study

Methodology:

A sample of 400 urban and rural men (200) and women (200) aged between 14 to 45 years were administered a pre-tested questionnaire to assess the extent of awareness on AIDS/STD.

Findings:

- Urban (92%) compared to rural (67%) respondents were better aware of AIDS. Awareness of sexually transmitted diseases followed similar trends (urban: 87%, rural: 42%).
- Urban and literate men were more informed than rural counterparts.
- A very small proportion of the respondents (14% rural and 20% urban) knew about HIV transmission through unsafe sex.
- Although 49% of urban and 26% of rural respondents were aware of condom usage for prevention of STDs, only 42% of urban and 17% of rural respondents used condoms regularly.
- Men respondents were resorting to self-medication after unsafe sex (40% rural and 38% urban).
- Only 30% of rural and 40% of urban respondents were aware of the available diagnostic facilities.
- News media and/or Doordarshan, due to its easy reach, was the main source of information in 31% of rural and 35 % of urban respondents.

ABSTRACT NO. 104

Author(s) : Goyal, R. C., A. T. Kulkarni, and K. V. Somasundaram

Title : AIDS Awareness among Rural Community: A Study

Source : Jai Hind 18, (11:12): 262-266

Place of study : Loni, Ahmednagar

Period of study : Not specified

Aims and objectives : To find out the level of AIDS awareness in a rural community in order to provide guidelines for health education in the future.

Study conducted by : Pravara Medical Trust, Loni, Ahmedabad

Nature of study : Community study

Methodology:

A sample of randomly selected persons (712 men and 288 women) drawn from 20 villages was interviewed for AIDS awareness in local language on a pre-designed proforma. The strength of women was less in the sample due to their unwillingness to participate in the study.

Findings:

- There was significant positive association between education and awareness of AIDS. Awareness was only 17% among illiterates and 5% among literates.
- Television and radio (30%) were the main sources of information. Doctors (7%) and nurses (4%) played a very small part in information dissemination.
- The knowledge on the mode of transmission and prevention was poor.
- To prevent transmission avoiding multiple sexual partners (13%) and use of condoms was suggested (6%).

ABSTRACT NO. 105

- Author(s)** : Kumar, A., P. Lal, G. K. Ingle, and N. Gulati
- Title** : Does Knowledge Influence Practices Related to HIV Transmission.
- Source** : Indian Journal of Sexual Transmission of Disease, 1996, (17): 73-75
- Place of study** : Delhi
- Period of study** : January-February 1993
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the level of knowledge of AIDS amongst university students and to examine whether this knowledge in any way affects the students' risk behaviour related to HIV transmission.
- Study conducted by** : Information not given.
- Nature of study** : Community study

Methodology:

A total of 329 students between 16 and 21 years of age from urban and rural colleges of Delhi were interviewed using a pre-tested questionnaire (Hindi or English version) covering information on HIV transmission, prevention and practices related to high risk behaviour.

Findings:

- 63-87% of the students were aware of the routes of HIV transmission, namely, through sexual intercourse, blood transfusion, sharing of unsterilised needles and vertical transmission.
- Four-fifth of the students were informed about avoiding sex with strangers and use of condoms (60%) for prevention of AIDS.
- No significant gender difference on awareness was observed, except on information on the use of condoms, safe blood and where the difference was statistically significant.

ABSTRACT NO. 106

- Author(s)** : Porter, S. B.
- Title** : Public Knowledge and Attitude about AIDS among Adults in Calcutta, India
- Source** : AIDS Care, 1993, 5(2)
- Place of study** : Calcutta
- Period of study** : April-May 1990
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the level of knowledge about and the associated attitudes towards those infected with AIDS among Indians in Calcutta.
- Study conducted by** : Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, Havard Hughes Medical Institute and Stanford University of Medicine, U.S.

Nature of study : Community study

Methodology:

A sample of 153 English-speaking adults (75 men and 78 women) was interviewed on the routes of transmission and symptoms of HIV infection. They were also assessed on their attitudes towards persons with AIDS.

Findings:

- A majority of the respondents had heard about AIDS and were aware of the sexual mode of transmission. No gender significant differential on information was found.
- Only 5% considered condoms an effective means of preventing HIV transmission.
- Especially women considered kissing and blood donation in addition to other modes as routes for acquiring the infection.
- Specific knowledge regarding the symptoms of AIDS was observed to be limited in both men and women. Sex, age, marital status, religion or residence did not contribute to knowledge differentials.
- Education emerged as the only independent predictor of knowledge about HIV, with those with university education being better aware of the possibility of healthy appearing persons being infected. The level of education correlated highly with the knowledge of HIV transmission and symptoms.
- The attitude towards people infected with AIDS was also associated with their knowledge level, with those with lesser knowledge being unwilling to socialise or work with AIDS patients. 50% of the respondents suggested quarantine for AIDS patients.
- The most common source of information was the newspaper and television for 8% of men and 54% of women.

ABSTRACT NO. 107

Author(s) : Sehgal, P. N. and S. Kuber

Title : Knowledge, Attitude, Beliefs (KABP) Study Related to AIDS in Manipur State, India and Intervention (Executive Summary)

Source : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi

Place of study : Manipur

Period of study : March-June 1992

Aims and objectives : To assess KABP related to drug abuse, sexuality, HIV infection and AIDS among general population and high-risk behaviour group. The study also compares the KABP among general population and IDUs and aims to suggest appropriate intervention strategies for interrupting the transmission of HIV infection.

Study conducted by : Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi

Nature of study : Community study

Methodology:

A stratified random survey using interviews was carried out with 1,020 persons of which 515 persons were

from the general population, 505 from the high-risk behaviour group, 498 IDUs, 30 HIV sero-positives and 13 commercial sex workers.

Findings:

- Unhygienic practices were noticed among 40% of the IDUs. 50% of them washed the needles with any water available and 73% shared it with others.
- All HIV sero-positive cases were IDUs. A small proportion of both unmarried (men 17% and women 4%) and married (men 15% and women 12%) persons reported STDs.
- 50% of them had more than one sexual partner and 20% had a history of homosexuality. Commercial sex work was practised regularly by 46%. The cause for the increased rate of infection was lack of condom usage.
- The need to treat heroin addicts to prevent the spread of disease was suggested by 68% of the respondents.
- The IDUs group (68%) was aware of the spread of HIV through sharing of needles. They (60%) desired to be off drugs and 21% had reportedly consulted some agency for de-addiction.
- The knowledge on modes of transmission and prevention about AIDS was lacking among IDUs compared to the general population.
- The attitude of the general population was noted to be negative towards drug users and the infected. A section of respondents favoured social isolation (34%) of the infected and punishment for drug addicts, which was in contrast with the opinion of IDUs who advocated treatment.

ABSTRACT NO. 108

- Author(s)** : Sehgal, P. N.
- Title** : Knowledge, Attitude, Beliefs and Practices (KABP) Study Related to AIDS in Tamil Nadu State, India and Intervention Strategies
- Source** : In "HIV/AIDS Research in India," 1997, O. Aggarwal, A. Sharma, and A. Indrayan (eds.), National AIDS Control Organisation, New Delhi
- Place of study** : Tamil Nadu
- Period of study** : March-June 1993
- Aims and objectives** : To assess the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practices (KABP) in relation to HIV infection and AIDS among the general population and high-risk behaviour groups and suggest appropriate intervention strategies.
- Study conducted by** : Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi
- Nature of study** : Community study

Methodology:

The study was carried out in two areas of Tamil Nadu, the Madras City and Dindigul District. A purposive sample of 1,547 persons from both sexes from the general population and from six high-risk behaviour groups namely, commercial sex workers (CSWs), STD patients, lorry/truck drivers, blood donors, drug users and HIV sero-positive cases was given a pre-tested interview schedule.

Findings:

- No statistically significant difference was observed on average/correct percentages between the general population and specific risk groups.
- A small group of CSWs (20%) had poor knowledge on the causative factors as against general public (36%).
- A general open-minded attitude towards HIV testing was noted. A willingness to be examined for HIV was expressed by 24% of the respondents.
- 47% believed that AIDS patients should be isolated and 78% opined testing for AIDS be made compulsory for people coming from abroad.
- The awareness on condom use was noted in 70% of the subjects, however 82% had never used condoms with CSWs.
- A preparedness to buy condoms if easily available was noted.
- Out of 322 and 207 unmarried men and women, respectively, 51% had sex, of these 82% had more than one sexual partner.
- More than half of the men (51%) had sex with CSWs, 31% had STDs and in 18% their women partners become pregnant.
- Condom usage was very low in CSWs. 78% had never used condoms. A history of STD was noted in 6% of CSWs.
- In the group of 143 truck and lorry drivers, 39 used condoms.
- Out of the total 57 blood donors interviewed, 34 were professional blood donors and 23 were voluntary blood donors.
- 93% of the blood donors were aware of HIV/STDs transmission through infected blood transfusion, but continued the activity for the need of money.
- 19 drug users were sharing their needles and syringes and did not adopt appropriate methods for cleaning their needles and syringes.
- HIV positive respondents had good knowledge about the mode of transmission but had not received any counselling.
- The overall results showed that there is a high risk of transmission of HIV/AIDS in Tamil Nadu.
- Knowledge on AIDS was mainly acquired through newspapers (52%), friends (45%) and only 10% from health personnel.

ABSTRACT NO. 109

- Author(s)** : Joseph, E. B.
- Title** : A Study on Knowledge, Coping Patterns and Problems of HIV Seropositive Wives of Men with HIV/AIDS
- Source** : M.Phil (PSW) Dissertation (unpublished manuscript), Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS, Bangalore, 1999
- Place of study** : Bangalore
- Period of study** : 1998-99
- Aims and objectives** : To study the knowledge about HIV/AIDS, the coping patterns adopted and the problems encountered in living after infection by HIV sero-positive wives of men with HIV/AIDS.
- Study conducted by** : Pre-doctoral student research, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore

Nature of study : Hospital study

Methodology:

A sample of 30 HIV positive wives, whose husbands were also diagnosed with HIV/AIDS was selected through an inclusion/exclusion criteria from Freedom Foundation and Snehasadan at NIMHANS, Bangalore. The respondents were administered a structured questionnaire followed by an interview schedule.

Findings:

- The source of transmission in the women was mostly through heterosexual relationship with their partners.
- The knowledge levels about HIV/AIDS and its transmission were high.
- Education and urban background showed positive association with the knowledge level.
- Respondents used escape and avoidance as coping approaches while urban subjects used confrontative strategies.
- With a longer period of affliction, better coping strategies and planned problem solving were noticed.
- High knowledge levels correlated positively with active coping strategies of seeking social support, planned problem solving and positive reappraisal.
- The problem stated was mainly financial crisis, concerns about parenting efficacy, inadequate social support and failing health.
- The role of care giving was reported as strenuous and they expressed receiving inadequate and discriminatory care.
- Multiple intermittent opportunistic infections further increased their fears and disruption in their lives.

ABSTRACT NO. 110

Author(s) : Kavi, A. R.

Title : HIV/AIDS Awareness in a Self-Identified Gay Community and Its Implications

Source : Paper presented at the Workshop on Sexual Aspects of AIDS/STD Prevention in India, November 1993

Place of study : Mumbai

Period of study : 1987-89

Aims and objectives : To study the HIV/AIDS awareness in the self-identified gay community and to understand its implications for interventions.

Study conducted by : Bombay Dost

Nature of study : Exploratory

Methodology:

The sample was drawn by mapping the homosexual networks to select self-identified gay men consisting of men who have sex with men (MSM), *hijras*, behaviourally active bisexual men, gay men and male sex workers such as bar boys, masseurs, rickshaw and taxi drivers. The Iowa University questionnaire measuring the awareness of HIV/AIDS in the Asian student population was modified to Indian standards.

A pre-intervention session was carried out with 41 subjects. Though the post-intervention sample size was small, it was minimally adequate for analysis.

Findings:

- A noticeable proportion of men were coupled to both men and women.
- A sizeable proportion of men were unsure of their HIV status. The perceived knowledge of AIDS was high. Print and mass media were cited as the most common source of getting information on AIDS. Doctors, health workers and government sources did not form as important sources of information.
- An increase in knowledge on different aspects of AIDS was noted in the respondents from 37% to 59%.

ABSTRACT NO. 111

- Author(s)** : Mawar, N., and S. Tripathy
- Title** : Understanding Sexuality among College Youth in Context of HIV/AIDS for Behaviour Change Intervention
- Source** : A reported submitted to National Service Scheme, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Western Region, Pune, 1998
- Place of study** : Pune
- Period of study** : September 1996-December 1997
- Aims and objectives** : To understand youth sexual behaviour and possible risks to HIV/AIDS by understanding their perception related to responsible behaviour towards themselves and the opposite sex. It aims to develop and plan intervention programmes for harm-reduction related to HIV/AIDS for meaningful impact on a long-term basis.
- Study conducted by** : National Service Scheme, Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Western Region, Pune and National AIDS Research Institute
- Nature of study** : Exploratory

Methodology:

Undergraduate youth were drawn from co-educational colleges from urban, rural, semi-urban and rural areas of Pune. Data collection was carried out in two phases. In the first phase qualitative data were gathered through focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, through friendship networks and key informant interviews. In the second phase quantitative data were collected by undertaking a survey on 1,821 subjects out of which 996 were girls and 825 were boys. The dissemination workshop was carried out in all colleges.

Findings:

- There was a high level of awareness on AIDS but limited on STDs.
- The age of first sexual experience was noted to be quite similar in girls and boys (girls: 16 years \pm 2.9; boys: 16.9 years \pm 2.3).

- 37% of the boys and 12% of the girls reported heterosexual experience ranging from non-penetrative sex to penetrative sex. Oral sex was noted only in boys. 15% of boys reported homosexual experience as compared to 5% of girls reporting lesbian encounters.
- Only one-third (79/213) indulging in sex used condoms and a fifth (42/111) reported consistent condom use.
- 90% of girls and 86% of boys were concerned about choosing an infected partner. However, perceived vulnerability to HIV infection was low.

ABSTRACT NO. 112

Author(s)	: UNESCO
Title	: Catch' Em Young
Source	: A report by UNAIDS on different studies and preventive education programmes carried out in Maharashtra, India; UNESCO, New Delhi, 1998
Place of study	: Maharastra
Period of study	: Not given
Aims and objectives	: To highlight the findings and lessons learned from three different on-going school-based AIDS preventive education programmes in Maharashtra, India.
Study conducted by	: UNESCO
Nature of study	: Intervention

Methodology:

Three school-based education programmes were carried out as follows:

- The Sevadham Trust carried out an education program by training the teachers to interact, exchange ideas and network with other schoolteachers.
- The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) carried out a project of training Assistant Medical Officers (AMOs) already working in schools with support to impart HIV/AIDS/STD related information.
- The Directorate of Health Services (DHS) undertook an AIS prevention education program for IX and XI classes students. A two-day orientation workshop was conducted with district level and circle level officers. Nodal teachers and peers were selected and trained for the implementation of the program. All the medical officers conducting the program were provided with an information kit consisting of a booklet on basic facts, pre- and post-session questionnaires, training modules, an exhibition set, film and video spots. Events like competitions and street plays were also organized.

Findings:

- Overall, the Sevadham model proved to be most effective in terms of impact. The education program has been successfully institutionalised within the formal school system.
- The intentions and objectives of the DHS model were realized to some extent but a greater effort is required to create a cadre of peer educators and nodal teachers. It also requires further training of doctors in communication and presentation skills.
- The MCGM model has achieved its planned objectives and completed its target. The capsule is "top down" and tightly packed. A need to improve communication between the Department of Health and Education was realised.

ABSTRACT NO. 113

- Author(s)** : TALEEM Research Foundation
- Title** : Communication Needs Assessment Study for Developing IEC Strategy for HIV/AIDS Awareness and Control in Gujarat
- Source** : State AIDS Cell, Orissa
- Place of study** : Gujarat
- Period of study** : 1999-2000
- Aims and objectives** : To analyse the existing materials, existing approaches, new materials and approaches, training requirement and existing human resources / institutions for providing IEC support to the State AIDS Control Society.
- Study conducted by** : TALEEM Research Foundation
- Nature of study** : Evaluative study

Methodology:

Stratified Random Sampling Method was used for the purpose of the study. The universe was stratified into two strata - primary target group comprising of IDUs (42 in the rural and 233 in the urban area), commercial sex workers (10 in the rural and 51 in the urban areas) and secondary target group comprising the lay population such as forces (57 in rural and 55 in urban areas), teachers (84 in rural and 76 in urban areas), peers (22 in rural and 32 in urban areas), students (378 in rural and 724 in urban areas), hotel owners (31 in rural and 724 in urban areas), parents (89 in rural and 30 in urban areas), community leaders (45 in rural and 31 in urban areas) and drivers (14 in rural and 30 in urban areas). Both qualitative and quantitative methodology inclusive of questionnaire, focus group discussion and personal interviews were used.

Findings:

- The majority of the urban IDUs had access to existing communication materials on HIV/AIDS, as compared to 36% of rural IDUs.
- The knowledge gained from the existing materials and sources was not developed and utilised in a facilitative and encouraging manner.
- Knowledge on HIV/AIDS was inadequate among the CSWs (urban - 48%, rural - 41%) and only 30% of rural CSWs were aware that HIV could be transmitted through the sexual route.
- Sex was considered taboo, especially in the secondary target group, comprised of both rural and urban respondents. They consider STDs a stigmatised condition, which was a deterrent to seeking treatment.

ABSTRACT NO. 114

- Author(s)** : Aggleton, P.
- Title** : HIV and AIDS Related Stigmatization, Discrimination and Denial: Forms, Contents and Determinants, Research Studies from Uganda and India

Source : Report by UNAIDS, 2000

Place of study : Uganda and India

Period of study : 1994-95

Aims and objectives : To identify the forms of expression contexts, socio-economic and cultural factors and outcome of HIV/AIDS related stigmatisation, discrimination and denial in India and the variations across different city locations and response from varied sectors.

Study conducted by : Joint United National Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Nature of study : Qualitative

Methodology:

The data and results that are given here are only specific to India. Key informant interviews, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, case studies, observation and "dummy" patient interviews were used. A total of 31 key informant interviews took place in Mumbai and a further 54 in Bangalore. They included voluntary sector workers active in HIV/AIDS prevention and care, deans and heads of hospitals, medical professionals from a range of specialities, the heads of personnel and social welfare departments in selected industries and companies, and experts from the fields of insurance, law and consumer rights.

Findings:

- HIV/AIDS related stigmatisation, discrimination and denial exist in both overt and covert forms.
- The majority of the study participants had learned about their sero-status either during an illness, surgery or pregnancy. Differential treatment was reported as occurring immediately after (and sometimes even before) disclosure was made.
- HIV-positive interviewees reported experiencing strong pressures to keep their sero-status secret within the workplace.
- The fear of HIV/AIDS existed among both the general public and professionally qualified health care workers.
- The causes of stigma and discrimination have their origins deep within Indian culture and the manner in which "sexual wrongdoing" is popularly understood. Other reasons appear to relate both to the lack of knowledge about HIV/AIDS, its routes of transmission and means of protection.
- Long-standing ideologies of gender exist that result in women being blamed for the transmission of sexually transmitted infections.

ABSTRACT NO. 115

Author(s) : Chandran, S.

Title : Coping Strategies of HIV Positive Mothers of Infants

Source : Unpublished master's dissertation submitted to Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, 2000

Place of study : Mumbai

Period of study : 1999-2000

Aims and objectives : To explore the conditions of disclosure of sero-status response and coping strategies of HIV positive pregnant women.

Study conducted by : Pre-doctoral student research, Department of Medical and Psychiatric Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Nature of study : Hospital study

Methodology:

A total number of 10 women within the age of 20-29 years were selected for the study. A pre-formulated interview guide was used and the cross-case analysis was carried out. The data analysis involved the use of different types of matrices - checklist matrix, conceptually clustered matrix and causal network matrix. The study was based on qualitative research methodology.

Findings:

- Marriage emerges as a risk factor for transmission of virus.
- Ineffectiveness of HIV information dissemination in the public arena was revealed.
- The factors that were found to be significant for coping were socio-economic stressors, content of communication, perception of the infection, co-existence of other stressors, perception of support system accessibility, accessibility of on-going counselling services and behaviour patterns adopted by women to cope with the HIV infection.

ABSTRACT NO. 116

Author(s) : Bharat, S., A. Singhanetra-Renar, and P. Aggleton

Title : Household and Community Response to HIV/AIDS in Asia: The Case of Thailand and India

Source : AIDS, 1998, Lippincott-Raven Publishers, 12(Suppl B): S117-S122

Place of study : Thailand and India

Period of study : 1994-95

Aims and objectives : To identify the ways, factors and mechanisms influencing households and communities in responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic with particular focus on care and support issues.

Study conducted by : Joint United National Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Nature of study : Community-based

Methodology:

The study was carried out in Mumbai. Twenty-six people with HIV/AIDS, four couples (both partners infected) and 25 household members of people with HIV/AIDS participated in this study. They belonged mainly to lower income groups and were drawn from three public hospitals. In addition, 18 focus group discussions were held with younger and older men and women residing in lower income communities.

Findings:

- Findings have been discussed at two levels (i.e., household responses and community responses).
- Overall, household responses to PLWHA were found to be supportive and positive. On the whole, they were concerned more about the potential loss of a member than about "immoral" behaviour.

ABSTRACT NO. 117

- Author(s)** : D'Cruz, P.
- Title** : Family Care in HIV/AIDS and Its Interface with Support Systems
- Source** : Unpublished doctoral thesis submitted to Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, 2000
- Place of study** : Mumbai
- Period of study** : 1997-99
- Aims and objectives** : To examine family caregiving and receiving, support experiences, organisation of care, changes in care following disclosure and their experiences, as a function of the gender and class of the infected person and the mode of infection.
- Study conducted by** : Tata Institute of Social Sciences
- Nature of study** : Qualitative

Methodology:

A total number of 27 sero-positive individuals (18 HIV positive care receivers and 9 sero-positive caregivers) were selected for in-depth interviews. A purposive sample was chosen, where both male and female sero-positive individuals, across income groups, who were infected either through the sexual or parental modes of HIV transmission, were included in the study. The selected positive people must have had at least one opportunistic infection, and shared their sero-status with a family member. The units of inquiry were caregivers and care receivers. Data were also collected from professional caregivers.

Findings:

- The sero-positive respondents were not completely denied care within the context of the family, as a result of and in spite of, the family's knowledge of their sero-positivity.
- In some instances, the presence of multiple caregivers did not imply equal distribution of caregiving tasks, where, as in others, partnership in caregiving meant sharing of roles almost equally between two caregivers.
- Women were the mainstay of most of the caregiving families, undertaking the bulk of responsibilities.
- Women were discriminated on care and were uncertain about their position as care receivers.
- Caregiver and family responses were determined by the perception of the positive person as innocent or guilty, and these perceptions in turn were found to impinge on the receipt of care in some cases.
- Child caregivers were not found to be conscious of any objective burden, though they described subjective burden, especially in relation to their uncertainty about the future.
- Sero-positive caregivers in the symptomatic phase, being unwell and in need if caregiver found it difficult to provide care.

- Author(s)** : D'Cruz, P.
- Title** : The Family Content of a Terminal Illness - The Case of HIV/AIDS
- Source** : Unpublished M. Phil dissertation submitted to Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, 1998
- Place of study** : Mumbai
- Period of study** : 1996-98
- Aims and objectives** : To ascertain the family's psycho-emotional environment, social support, impact, demands and coping mechanisms, experience of the family caregiver and family's relationship and experiences of the health care system in the context of HIV/AIDS.
- Study conducted by** : Tata Institute of Social Sciences
- Nature of study** : Qualitative

Methodology:

The study was undertaken following a qualitative approach, comprising seven households. The method of in-depth interview, using an interview guide, was the primary method of data collection. The purposive sample was chosen where the index patient, either male/female, was a married individual, living in a nuclear household. The other variables selected were concordance/discordance of infection between the partners; and the presence/absence of children in the marriage. Data were also collected from professional caregivers.

Findings:

- Both individual and family life cycles were irrevocably altered by the progression of the infection and by eventual death.
- Past relationship with the spouse did not necessarily affect current relationship.
- Children were found to sense the changed atmosphere of the household, especially when there were more severe impacts that affected them directly. Older children comprehend the situation better and responded in more responsible ways.
- Knowledge of the diagnosis altered the perception of the future, impressing on the couples the urgent need to plan for the family.
- The baseline economic condition of the family significantly influenced the resource drain that HIV related illness brought with it.
- There were differences in the experiences of concordant and discordant couples.
- The stigmatising nature of HIV/AIDS was its most stressful feature, burdening the family's coping system and accessing support.
- Respondents experienced discrimination within the health care system.

ABSTRACT NO. 119

- Author(s)** : Indian Institute of Mass Communication
- Title** : Communication Needs Assessment (CNA) Study on AIDS Awareness and Prevention for State AIDS Cell, Orissa
- Source** : Orissa State AIDS Cell, Orissa, 2000
- Place of study** : Orissa
- Period of study** : 1999-2000
- Aims and objectives** : To assess and evaluate the existing publicity strategy and material in HIV/AIDS for prevention and awareness in the state of Orissa.
- Study conducted by** : Indian Institute of Mass Communication
- Nature of study** : Evaluative study

Methodology:

A committee comprising experts from media, academics and administration met for several sessions to study the HIV/AIDS publicity materials made available from government and non-government organisations in Orissa. Separate questionnaires framed for the purpose of evaluation were given to senior administrators, policy-makers, opinion leaders and professionals on the use, efficacy and effectiveness of the existing information and publicity strategy and materials. FGDs and workshops were also conducted during the study. Audio programmes and video productions were played during such meetings and observations and suggestions of participants were recorded.

Findings:

- There was a perception of inadequacy of volume and especially with specific risk groups and synergistic campaign activity on the subject during the year under the survey.
- Communication intervention for medicos and para-medicos also was almost non-existent.
- TV enjoyed the prime place as the information source regarding HIV/AIDS. Cable and satellite TV spread phenomenally yet these channels do not programme messages on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention.
- Radio was cited as the third most popular source of information on HIV/AIDS and is losing out to the glamorous media of TV even in the rural and tribal areas of the state.
- Newspapers have been mentioned by 28% of the people as the source of information.
- All Indian Radio (AIR), Cuttack had showed that only 21 programmes relating to HIV/AIDS were broadcast during the year under study. Out of this nine were music-based programmes, three plays, nine discussions, quiz and question-answer programmes.

ABSTRACT NO. 120

- Author(s)** : Sawhney, R. C., and W. Selvamurthy
- Title** : Awareness of HIV Problem in Armed Forces
- Source** : Paper presented at the Indo-U.S. Workshop on Behavioural Prevention Research to Stop the Further Spread of HIV/AIDS, New Delhi, January 1999

Place of study : Delhi
Period of study : Not given
Aims and objectives : To find out the socio-demographic profile, psychiatric morbidity and circadian rhythmicity of cortisol and testosterone among the asymptomatic defence personnel.
Study conducted by : Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences.
Nature of study : Hospital-based

Methodology:

The study was conducted on 172 HIV positive asymptomatic defence personnel in a large service hospital using both qualitative and quantitative methodology. The majority of the respondents were from rural backgrounds and most of them were unmarried, within the age group of 20-40.

Findings:

- Army personnel of all trades were affected, with combatants followed by drivers having the highest incidence.
- Heterosexual promiscuity was found to be the predominant mode of HIV infection transmission.
- In 72% of cases HIV infection was chance detected during their visit to the hospital, which signifies that if an epidemiological survey is conducted many more cases may come to light.
- Overall psychiatric morbidity was found in about 50% of the patients. The depressive episodes (22%) of the patients, had anxiety disorders (10%), alcohol dependence syndrome (6.4%), delirium (1.16%) and cognitive impairment (10.47%).
- Use of modality like vibronic therapy, accupressure and transcendental meditation was found to improve markedly the psychological health of these patients especially in the creation of a sense of well-being and attitudinal changes among patients.

ABSTRACT NO. 121

Author(s) : Bharat, S.
Title : Perception of AIDS in Mumbai: A Study of Low Income Communities
Source : Psychology and Developing Societies, New Delhi: Sage
Place of study : Mumbai
Period of study : 1994-95
Aims and objectives : To examine the nature and dynamics of household and community responses to HIV/AIDS and its cultural, social, economic and demographic correlates.
Study conducted by : Tata Institute of Social Sciences sponsored by Joint United National Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
Nature of study : Cross-sectional

Methodology:

Data reported here are drawn from a larger qualitative research that examined the household and community responses and coping patterns for HIV/AIDS in Mumbai. 18 focus group discussions were held with young and adult men and women in lower and lower middle income groups in Mumbai. A question guideline was developed in the local language for the purpose of the FGDs.

Findings:

- AIDS was perceived as an alien, dreadful, incurable and dirty disease. A majority of the participants, both men and women, had heard about AIDS, "the new disease" that was imported to India by people from abroad, which can be contagious and polluting.
- AIDS was seen as a disease of the promiscuous. Multi-partner sex, entertaining clients, engaging in sexual perversity and those without morals were considered as risk factors and hence an invited disease.
- AIDS was generally not personalised or perceived as a problem for their own community members, rather it was seen as a disease of the less virtuous, of those who practised sexual excesses and sexual misadventures.

ABSTRACT NO. 122

- Author(s)** : Balk, D., and S. Lahiri
- Title** : Awareness and Knowledge of AIDS among Indian Women: Evidence from 13 states
- Source** : East-West Center Working papers, Population Series, 83
- Place of study** : 13 Indian States
- Period of study** : April 1992 to September 1993
- Aims and objectives** : To identify women's knowledge about transmission and prevention, and sources of information; and to review estimates of HIV prevalence in India, as well as government's response and the related literature on AIDS awareness and knowledge in India.
- Study conducted by** : East -West Center
- Nature of study** : Survey

Methodology:

The data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), the first large-scale, representatively sampled national health and demographic survey in India, were used for the purpose of the study. To identify what AIDS-aware women know about AIDS, a multivariate analysis was conducted, predicting the quality of their knowledge about it. Over 30,000 were married women in 13 (out of 25) Indian states where HIV is thought to be highly prevalent - Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and 10 other less populous states - were surveyed about their awareness of knowledge of AIDS.

Findings:

- Only one in six ever-married women had heard of AIDS. The multivariate analysis revealed that educated, wealthier and urban women were much more likely than other women to be aware about AIDS.

- Women exposed to any form of mass media (TV, radio, film) were also much more likely to be aware of AIDS, other things being equal.
- Women in northeastern states, except Assam and Tripura, were more likely to be aware of AIDS, other things being equal.
- Among women who were aware of AIDS, the level of knowledge was low. Only 30% of women who were aware of AIDS gave correct answers to more than half of the possible answers, and only 1% could answer 75% correctly.

ABSTRACT NO. 123

- Author(s)** : Row, K. A.
- Title** : HIV/AIDS Awareness in the Self-identified Gay Community and Its Implications
- Source** : Paper presented at the Workshop on Sexual Aspects of AIDS/STD Prevention in India, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
- Place of study** : Mumbai
- Period of study** : Not given
- Aims and objectives** : To gain knowledge on HIV/AIDS awareness among the MSM (men who have sex with men) sector and to have more access to work within the community of self-identified gay (homosexual) men.
- Study conducted by** : DOST
- Nature of study** : Exploratory

Methodology:

Questionnaires were used to determine HIV/AIDS awareness, knowledge, attitudes and behaviour. A convenient sample of young men in the age range 20-40 was selected. Both single and coupled men were included. Among those coupled, half were coupled with another male and about half with a female, usually in a formal marriage.

Findings:

- A small proportion of men were certain that they were HIV positive, which was a sizeable proportion who were unsure of their serostatus.
- Perceived knowledge of preventive sexual activities appears to have decreased between the pre-intervention survey and the post-intervention survey, a result counter to what might be intuitively expected from an educational and counselling intervention.
- Print and other mass media were most often cited as a source with gay friends / gay literature being second.
- At post-intervention, higher percentages of respondents reported latency and symptomatic periods wherein transmission could be possible.
- There is a trend towards increased knowledge of social and environmental transmission among post-intervention respondents.
- Fewer post-intervention respondents thought that children in households with a person with AIDS were at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

- There was an increase between pre- and post-intervention in the percentage of respondents who knew that sexual transmission of HIV is preventable if appropriate precautions are taken.

ABSTRACT NO. 124

- Author** : Nadkarni, V. V., R. H. Bhatt, M. Asnani
- Title** : Monitoring and Evaluation Study of the AIDS Prevention Programme in the Secondary Schools of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay
- Source** : Report developed by the Cell for AIDS Research, Action and Training
- Place of study** : Mumbai
- Period of study** : 1993
- Aims and objectives** : To increase awareness, develop skills to act on their knowledge and develop appropriate and healthy attitudes and behaviour towards sexuality during adolescence.
- Study conducted by** : Cell for AIDS Research, Action and Training, Tata Institute of Social Sciences.
- Nature of study** : Intervention

Methodology:

The survey design used pre- and post-intervention questionnaires, case studies and interview schedules provided for analysis of the quantitative components of the study.

Findings:

- Ninety-nine percent of the students had heard about AIDS, the major source of information being television. For less than 25%, the sources were the newspaper, radio and the teacher.
- On the whole, there was no different in the student responses on the basis of gender in the pre- and post-intervention survey (PIS and POS).
- About 60% of teachers were aware of the full forms of HIV and AIDS. A high percentage was aware of all four routes of transmission of HIV and similarities and differences with STDs. There was very low awareness of the symptoms of AIDS and names of STDs.
- The Medical Officers opined that the workshop was a source of access to the most recent statistics and advanced scientific knowledge on the topic of AIDS. It helped them to get over their inhibitions to discuss topics like sex, AIDS, STDs and enhanced their communication skills.

ABSTRACT NO. 125

- Author(s)** : Bharat, S., and P. Aggleton
- Title** : Facing the Challenge: Household Responses to HIV/AIDS in Mumbai, India
- Source** : AIDS Care, 11(1), 31-44, 1999
- Place of study** : Mumbai
- Period of study** : 1994-95
- Aims and objectives** : To gain insight into the socio-cultural mechanisms influencing the positive as well as the negative household and community responses to HIV/AIDS. To identify programmes and interventions that might lead to more effective management of the epidemic.
- Study conducted by** : WHO's Former Global Programme on AIDS and Tata Institute of Social Sciences
- Nature of study** : Cross-sectional

Methodology:

Study participants were recruited from the out-patient departments of two public hospitals and from the homeopathic AIDS research centre. They included 26 people living with HIV/AIDS (25 men, 1 woman) and four couples in which both partners were infected. Twenty-four other members of infected people's households were also involved in the study. Of these, a further five were HIV positive women who, at the time of the study, were the primary caretakers for sick husbands. The majority of respondents with HIV were under 30 years of age (n=29) and educated to 16 or 17 years of age (n=23). Qualitative data were collected on positive as well as negative household and community responses to the epidemic. Data were collected via in-depth individual and couple interviews.

Findings:

- Among men with HIV/AIDS, a major concern was about damaging their image, and the shame of having to admit to socially disapproved sexual behavior.
- Initial reactions of shock and disbelief were slowly replaced by more pragmatic responses in the households.
- For infected women, the condition of the spouse generally warranted their undivided attention and so there was little time to worry about their own problems.
- For most people with HIV, concern about physical health was paramount. All men (but not women) were worried about their growing dependence on others and physical decline.
- The need for couples to support each other emotionally or to talk about feelings was often overlooked, especially in extended families.

ABSTRACT NO. 126

- Author(s)** : Lalthansangi
- Title** : Communication Needs Assessment on HIV/AIDS/STD

Source : Mizoram State AIDS Control Society, Report of the study conducted by Government Aizawl College for Mizoram State AIDS Cell, 2000

Place of study : Mizoram

Period of study : 2000

Aims and objectives : To study the existing needs, resources, the existing scenarios and the appropriateness of existing material for communication of HIV/AIDS/STD messages.

Study conducted by : Government Aizawl College, Mizoram

Nature of study : Evaluative

Methodology:

The primary group comprising IDUs and CSWs and the secondary target group comprising lay population such as parents, community leaders, students, forces, hotel owners and previously at risk groups were administered the specifically developed questionnaire. Focus group discussions were also organised with stakeholders. In-depth interviews were conducted with key informants. Workshop-based discussions were conducted with select stakeholders. Information was analysed on knowledge, behaviour and analysis of existing communication material.

Findings:

- The communication material had not reached the groups at risk to a large extent. Among those who had received it, they did not take much heed of it. The stakeholders in both urban and rural areas were better informed. The existing information was reportedly vague and ambiguous. Suggestions such as more personalised information, community action, promoting condom usage and banning opiates were offered. Information, community action, promoting condom usage and banning opiates were suggested.

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The Gender and Reproductive Health Research Initiative

Annotated Bibliographies (1990-2000):

Abortion

Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action

HIV/AIDS

Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Reproductive Health Services

Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes

Sexuality and Sexual Behaviour

Women's Health Training Research and Advocacy Centre

Women's Morbidity

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Women's Reproductive Health

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