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"Study on Extent, Pattern & Trends of Harm Reduction Developments for IDUs in Delhi"

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Abstract

The number of people living with HIV worldwide continued to grow, reaching an estimated 33.4 million [31.1 million–35.8 million]. The total number of people living with the virus in 2008 was more than 20% higher than the number in 2000, and the prevalence was roughly threefold higher than in 1990. In 2008, 4.7 million [3.8 million 5.5 million] people in Asia were living with HIV, including 350 000 [270 000–410 000] who became newly infected last year. Asia's epidemic peaked in the mid-1990s, and annual HIV incidence has subsequently declined by more than half. Regionally, the epidemic has remained somewhat stable since 2000.

The spread of HIV/AIDS in India has come to represent a grave danger to the country's future economic development and social stability. India had an estimated 1.8 – 2.9 million HIV positive persons in 2007, with an estimated adult HIV prevalence of 0.34% (0.25%–0.43%). As the HIV Prevalence among the high risk groups (HRG) is very high compared to that among the general population, India continues to be in the category of concentrated epidemic.

The overall HIV prevalence among different population groups continues to portray the concentrated epidemic in India, with a very high prevalence among High Risk Groups – , MSM (7.4%), IDU (7.2%), FSW (5.1%) & STD (3.6%) and low prevalence among ANC clinic attendees. Injecting drug use is an important cause in the continuing epidemics of HIV. IDUs become infected with HIV in two ways:

(a) Through high risk drug use (the sharing of contaminated injection equipment)

(b) Through high risk sex (unprotected sex, sex with many partners, failure to treat STIs).

Annual report of NACO 2008-09 revealed that there us an increase in HIV prevalence among IDUs in Delhi. Thus, this study will focus on the developments regarding harm reduction specific for IDUs in Delhi.

Table of Contents

	Page No
Acknowledgement	i
Abstract	ii
Table of Contents	iii
List of Figures	iv
List of Tables	v
List of Appendices	vi
List of Abbreviations	vii
1. Introduction Extent of the problem Drugs injected Harm Reductions for IDUs Outline of the report	1-9
2. Research Methodology	10-11
3. Results & Findings Role of Organizations Harm Reduction Approaches Problems and Issues identified	12-38
4. Conclusions and approaches for way ahead	39-41
5. Limitations of the study	42
6. References	43-44

List of Figures

	Page No.
Figure1: Graph showing the percent positivity amongst high risk groups, INDIA. (NACO, 2007)	2
Figure 2: Risk Rings-UNODC	4
Figure 3: Campaign Logo of UNODC	15
Figure 4: Proposed framework under Round 9-India CCM-GFATM	17

List of Tables

	Page No.
Table 1: HIV Prevalence among IDUs in Delhi	3
Table 2: Respondents for the Study	10
Table 3: Role Matrix for India CCM-GFATM	18
Table 4: Ways of Harm Reduction	32

List of Appendices

	Page No.
Interview Guideline: Provider of Harm Reduction Activities for IDUs	45

Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	Ante Natal Care
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
CBO	Community Based Organizations
DAMS	Drug Abuse Management System
DSACS	Delhi State AIDS Control Society
EHA	Emmanuel Hospital Association
FIDU	Female Injecting Drug User
FSW	Female Sexual Worker
IDU	Injecting Drug User
IHRN	Indian Harm Reduction Network
India-CCM	India- Country Coordinating Mechanism
HCV	Hepatitis C Virus
HIV	Human Immune Virus
HRG	High Risk Group
MoSJE	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
MSM	Man Sex with Man
NACO	National AIDS Control Organization
NACP	National AIDS Control Program
NCDAP	National Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NHS	National Health Survey
NISD	National Institute for Social Defense
NSEP	Needle Syringe Exchange Program
OST	Oral Substitution Therapy
RAS	Rapid Assessment Survey
RCSHA	Resource Centre for Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS
RRTC	Regional Resource and Training Centers
SACS	State AIDS Control Society
SPYM	Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses

STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
STRC	Stare Training & Resource Centre
TI	Target Intervention
UN	United Nations
UNODC	United Nations Office for Drug & Crime
WHO	World Health Organization