The Socioeconomic Factors Contributing to the HIV Epidemic in India: observations from Jodhpur, India

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Purpose
To identify other factors contributing to the HIV epidemic in Jodhpur, India

Background
- 2.4 million people living with HIV (2009)
- Transmission rates
  1. 87% via heterosexual sex
  2. 5% Parent to child
  3. 2% injection drug use
- Traditional High Risk Groups/Bridge Population
  1. Female Sex Workers
  2. MSM
  3. Injection Drug Users
  4. Migrant Workers
  5. Truck Drivers

Methods
- ART Center, M.D.M Hospital, Jodhpur, India
  1. Population: PLHIV from surrounding towns and villages presenting for HIV treatment/checkup
  2. Data: • Patient Chart Review
     • Patient/Faculty Conversations
     • Observations of Clinic
- M.G.H. Hospital, Jodhpur, India
  1. Population: Hospitalized pts from surrounding towns and villages co-infected with HIV
  2. Data: • Patient/Faculty Conversations
     • Observations at hospital

Results
- Vast majority of patients presenting to clinic were poor, uneducated, unemployed/day laborers
- Vast majority of women contracted HIV from their husband
- Many women/children found HIV + were denied monetary/psychological support by family and community members.
- Patients reported being stigmatized by community members/ healthcare providers because of illness. This impeded disclosure of illness and proper treatment.
- Patients received better overall HIV management/treatment at ART designated centers
- Nationally reported statistics may not accurately reflect incidence of disease

Conclusion
- India is a patriarchal society
  - Increased prevalence among women with no risk factors besides heterosexual sex within context of marriage
  - High risk groups include unemployed, uneducated, lower caste status
  - More likely to engage in sex work/sexual bargaining for services
  - Less likely to be aware of modes of transmission

Future Initiatives must include:
- Educational improvements for targeted populations
  - Sex education in schools
  - Clients of female sex workers
  - Health care providers to reduce barriers to care secondary to stigma
- Continued efforts to improve condom distribution
- Improved access and quality control of ART therapy

Results
- Additional Risk Factors
  - Unemployment/Unskilled labor
  - Low Socioeconomic status
  - Lack of education

% of clients of female sex workers ever tested for HIV and knew the results, 2001 & 2006

% distribution of total HIV expenditures on prevention by service category, 2008 - 2009

Status of health facilities providing ART and number of adults and children received ART, 2008 and 2009