

Living as a HIV positive person: A Human Rights Perspective (Experiences from Madurai District)

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Objectives:

1. To assess the knowledge, attitude and practices among PLHIV on STI, HIV and AIDS
2. To assess the sexual and reproductive health needs among PLHIV
3. To assess the stigma and discrimination and its impact on accessing health care services

Sources of data:

Baseline survey of comprehensive HIV and AIDS management project in Madurai was conducted by FPAIndia in 2007.

Methodology:

Univariate, Bi-variate, Correlation and regression analysis would be applied to understand the association between the background variables and the KAP indicators

Findings:

The total of 249 PLHIV in seven blocks of Madurai district was interviewed. Overall more than one-third were tested positive in the year 2003-04. Findings show that awareness on HIV and AIDS is universal (99.6%) and knowledge on HIV prevention is as high as 94 percent. Among PLHIV who ever had STIs, only one in ten did not seek STI treatment. More than half of the respondents (60.5% men and 63% women) have experienced feelings of shame and guilt after knowing their status. More than half the men and women stated that they would prefer to undergo MTP in case of unwanted pregnancy. Twenty six percent of them faced discrimination from their own house. Apart from PLHIV, their children or family members (10%) faced discrimination at school or work, in the neighborhood and in using public utilities. Considerable percentage of PLHIV (46%) faced discrimination while accessing health services that symbolizes the breach out of human rights. Hence, more sensitization is needed among HCP towards PLHIV. A positive prevention strategy needs to be implemented within an ethical framework that respects the rights and needs of PLHIV to enjoy sexual relationships, have reproductive choices and live a full and healthy life.

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