



Research Paper

Current Status of HIV/AIDS: An Overview

Mousumi Halder¹ and Dr. Deb Prasad Sikdar²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Education, University of Kalyani, Pin-741235, India

²Professor, Department of Education, University of Kalyani, Pin-741235, India

*Corresponding Author: Dr. Deb Prasad Sikdar

Professor Department of Education

University of Kalyani

Pin: 741235

West Bengal, India

ABSTRACT:

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a disease that is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). The HIV virus affects the immune system and reduces the human body's defensive mechanism to protect against various infections. This type of virus is a threatening for the global epidemic. So, the peoples' awareness is very essential about the pernicious disease (HIV/AIDS) to prevent the epidemic. The researcher aimed to introduce the present status of HIV/AIDS in the perspectives of globally and nationally. In the present study the researcher has done a documentary review to achieve the mentioned aims of this study. The researcher explored the causes of transmission of the AIDS disease through the review technique. The major causes of transmission of HIV/AIDS disease are sexual transmission, transmission through blood, transmission through pregnancy. This study revealed that - the global epidemiological sequence of persons living with HIV/AIDS and the present status of the HIV/AIDS transmission in India. In this work, researcher tried to represent the initiatives about HIV/AIDS prevention taken by the Government. This study aims to focus an overview of the several programmes initiated by the Indian Government to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS infections. The researcher concluded that the HIV/AIDS infection was spreading for lack of knowledge, positive attitude towards HIV/AIDS and the risky practices about HIV/AIDS. By the improving of health education among the peoples the transmission graph of HIV/AIDS disease is presently downward. So the Government should take more initiatives to prevent/control the disease.

Keywords: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Epidemiological Status

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I. INTRODUCTION

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a unique type of retrovirus (1) responsible for failure of the immune system to protect the body adequately from infection, due to the absence or insufficiency of some component process or substances. This virus is going to be a threatening a global epidemic. Although HIV is preventable and manageable but never be curable. Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a disease caused by HIV (2). AIDS predisposed to multiple opportunistic infections leading to death. Inadequate knowledge and perilous activities are two of the most significant hurdles to preventing the spread of HIV (3). It has been suggested that preventative and awareness campaigns may prove to be a more efficient approach (4). The physical, psychological, social, and economic characteristics of adolescence rendered young people especially vulnerable to HIV infection (5). The increased number of sexually transmitted diseases, first sexual experiences, the addiction that usually begins at this age, and other factors all increase the risk of HIV infection in young individuals (6). In 2021, the United Nations organized a Special General Assembly where it was decided to accelerate up International efforts and mobilize resources to combat the epidemic (7). Globally 38.4 million people living with HIV with the 1.5 million people of estimated new annual HIV infections in 2021 (8). In 2021, around 6.5 lakhs people died from AIDS related illness worldwide (8). Research indicates that HIV originated in West-Central Africa at the beginning of the 20th century (9). South Asia has the second-highest

proportion of teenagers living with HIV after Sub-Saharan Africa, making up 6% of the worldwide burden of HIV among adolescents (10).

In India, prevalence of HIV is found to be higher in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka (11). The first case of HIV in India was detected in 1986 among female sex workers in Chennai (12). The prevalence among young population (15-24 years) at national level is estimated at 0.11 percent (13). The estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS in India was 24 lakh with the 62.9 thousand of estimated new annual HIV infections in 2021 (14). The epidemic of HIV/AIDS is now pressing at a rapid among people (15). In the present study the researcher aimed to introduce the current status of HIV/AIDS within respect of global and national epidemiological sequence of HIV/AIDS transmission.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study framed as follows-

- i. To find out the dynamic status of the persons living with HIV in the world.
- ii. To find out the present status of the HIV/AIDS transmission in India.
- iii. To explore the causes of transmission of the AIDS disease
- iv. To represent the initiatives about HIV/AIDS prevention taken by the Government.

III. METHOD

The researchers followed a documentary review method in this study. Methodology of the study is qualitative in nature (16). Documentary analysis is a systematic procedure for reviewing or evaluating documents both printed and electronic material (17). The researcher has gone through many empirical studies, policies and reports related to HIV/AIDS.

IV. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The Causes of Transmission of AIDS disease

Unprotected and close contact with a range of bodily fluids from those who have the disease, such as blood, breast milk, semen, and vaginal secretions, can result in the transmission of HIV/AIDS (18). Key demographics, such as sex workers and their customers, homosexual men and other men who have sex with males, people who inject drugs, transgender individuals and their sexual partners, and people who inject drugs, accounted for 70% of HIV infections globally in 2021 (8). The researcher explained the major causes of transmission of HIV/AIDS as follows-

Sexual Transmission

HIV most often spreads through unprotected sex with an infected person. More than one sexual partner, gay sex, unprotected sex, anal sex these various type of sex related issues are the major cause of transmission of HIV/AIDS among the people. Besides through direct contact, there is also a chance of getting infection by sharing sexual devices.

Transmission through blood

It may also spread by sharing drug needles or through contact with the blood of an infected person. HIV is efficiently spread through the sharing of needles by intravenous drug users (19). The most common causes of HIV transmission in the human body is by sharing used syringes through blood transfusion activities.

Transmission through pregnancy

Women can give it to their babies during pregnancy or childbirth. Most of the infants infected HIV during pregnancy or breast feeding.

The Global status of HIV

Globally 38.4 million people living with HIV in 2021 and of these 36.7 million people are adult (above 15 years) aged and 1.7 million are children (below 15 years). 1.5 million People became newly infected with HIV in 2021 according to UNAIDS (8). The researcher represented the epidemiological sequence of growth- the number of people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide.

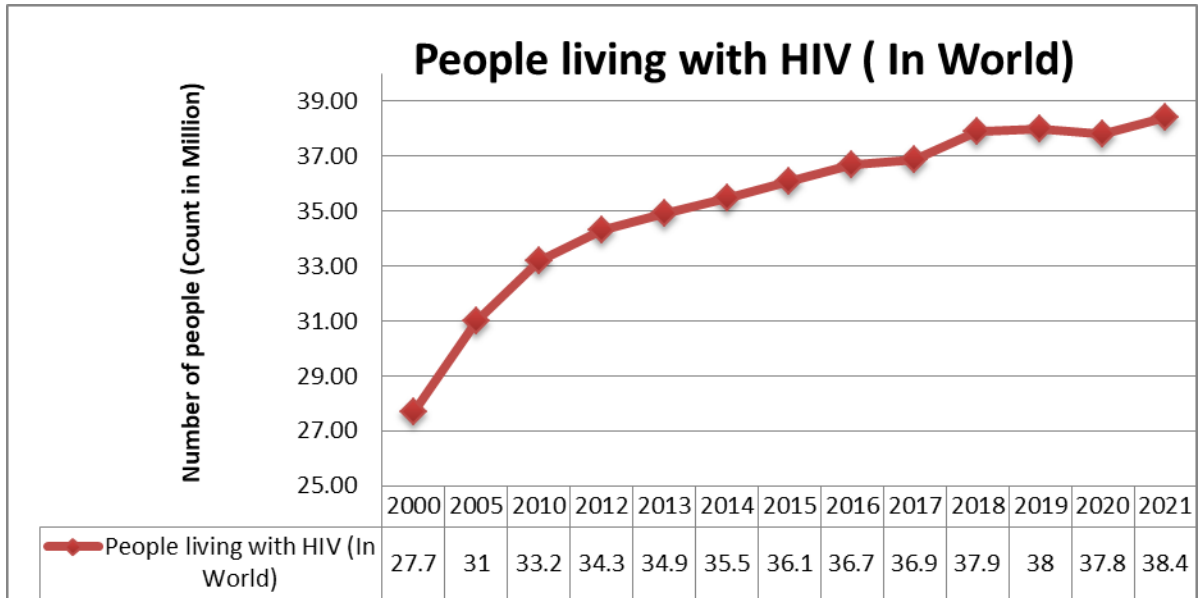


Fig 1: Globally epidemiological sequence in HIV/AIDS (8)

Present status of HIV in India

In India, 2401,284 people living with HIV in 2021 where 62,967 people were newly infected with HIV. The researcher represented the epidemiological sequence of growth - the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in India.

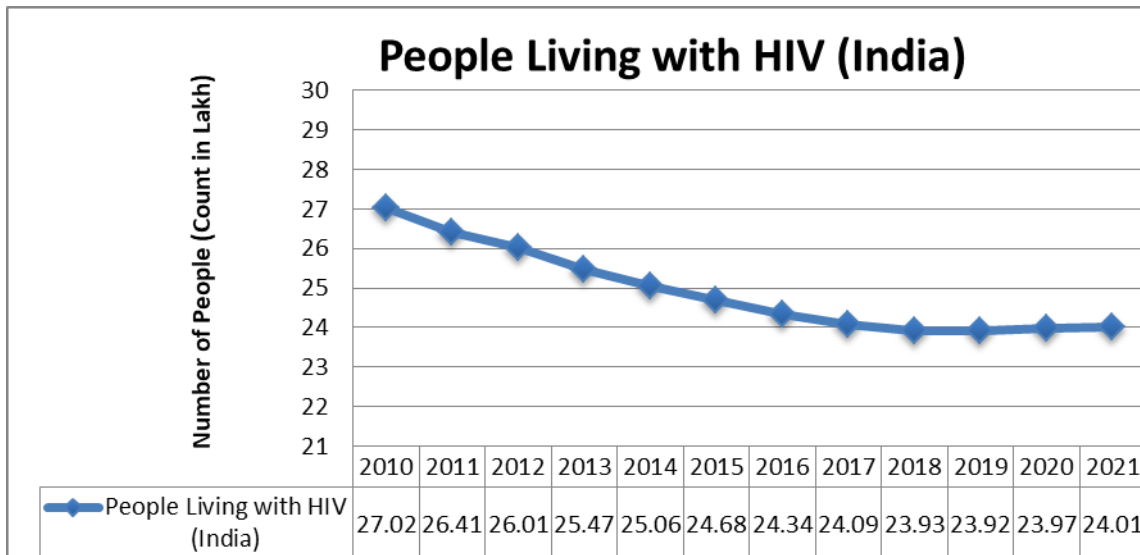


Fig 2: Epidemiological sequence of HIV/AIDS in India (14)

There were 1.53 thousand new cases of HIV in West Bengal in 2021, when there were 69,199 persons living with the virus. The researcher represented the epidemiological sequence of growth- the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in West Bengal.

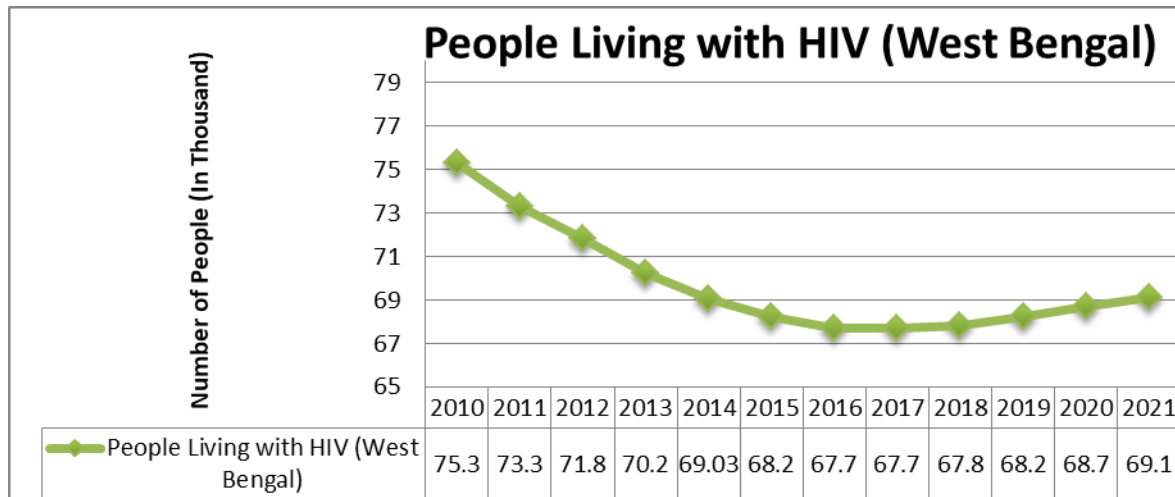


Fig 3: Epidemiological sequence of HIV/AIDS in West Bengal (14)

The initiatives about HIV/AIDS taken by the Government of India

The Government is taking various initiatives to check/control the spread of HIV/AIDS transmission. Government of India launched a program named National AIDS Control Program (NACP) in the year 1992 to control the disease. A National AIDS Control Board (NACB) and National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) were established to carry out the said initiative. The researcher described the activities which were taken by the NACP as follows-

NACP - I (1992):

The first National AIDS Control Program (NACP-I) was introduced by the Indian Government in 1992. The primary goal of this program is to slow down HIV/AIDS transmission in order to lessen morbidity, mortality, and the effects of AIDS in the nation. This initiative concentrated on raising awareness, building up surveillance systems to track the HIV pandemic, ensuring access to clean blood, and providing preventative interventions to persons in high-risk groups.

NACP - II (1999):

The second National AIDS Control Project (NACP-II) was introduced in November 1999. The goals of this program are to slow down HIV infection rates in India and improve the Nation's capacity to combat HIV/AIDS in the long run.

NACP - III (2007):

In order to stop and reverse the epidemic by the conclusion of the project time, the third phase of the National AIDS Control Project (NACP-III) was initiated in July 2007. The implementation of the core NACP-III activities at the National, State, and District levels requires technical, managerial, and administrative assistance, which is provided via institutional strengthening and strategic information management initiatives.

V. CONCLUSION

The first signs of HIV infection may be swollen glands and flu like symptoms. These may last for a month or two after infection. Severe symptoms may not appear until months or year later. Blood test is essential for detection of HIV infection. There is no cure, but preventive measure should be taken to reduce the infectivity of HIV. People can live with the disease for many years.

After through study, the researcher has no doubt that HIV/AIDS create a big epidemic in near future. So, the government should take more initiatives to prevent such epidemic and awareness program should be organize among the mass for development of positive attitude regarding HIV/AIDS also people should aware about the disease.

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