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The current scenario of HIV/AIDS and the National AIDS Control Programme in India

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The last decade has seen a 50% decline in the number of new HIV infections in India. Despite being home to the world's third-largest population suffering from HIV/AIDS (with South Africa and Nigeria having more), the AIDS prevalence rate in India is lower than in many other countries. In 2014, India's AIDS prevalence rate stood at approximately 0.26% — the 90th highest in the world. The spread of HIV in India is primarily restricted to the southern and north-eastern regions of the country and India has also been praised for its extensive anti-AIDS campaign. The main factors which have contributed to India's large HIV-infected population are extensive labor migration and low literacy levels in certain rural areas resulting in lack of awareness and gender disparity. The Government of India has also raised concerns about the role of intravenous drug use and prostitution in spreading AIDS, especially in north-east India and certain urban pockets. To control the spread of the virus, the Indian government set up the National AIDS Control Programme in 1987 to co-ordinate national responses such as blood screening and health education. On February 12, 2014 Government of India launched the fourth phase of its anti-AIDS/HIV strategy, the National AIDS Control Programme, NACP IV, under the banner of National AIDS Control Organization (NACO). The highlights of the programme are Reversal of AIDS epidemic through a participative/inclusive approach, Targeting High Risk Groups (HRG) – truckers, migrants, pregnant women, etc., strengthening the response in India through a cautious and well defined integration process (testing and counseling), discussion with stakeholders, promotion of female condoms, up scaling the antiretroviral therapy, social protection and prevention of parent to child transmission etc.

Biography

Shibani Datta is a Professor of Public Health in All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health. Previously, she was a Professor of Calcutta Medical College which is a very renowned College in West Bengal India. She was the Team Leader of Central Surveillance team of India. She acted as a resource person of various Training Programmes. Many of her research works have been published in national and international journals.

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