

# **HIV Prevalence in Major States of India: Critical Investigation of HIV/AIDS among Married Adolescent Women**

**By**

Uttam J. Sonkamble<sup>1</sup> & Balram Paswan<sup>2</sup>

In the Programme of Action (PoA) adopted at ICPD, the international community acknowledged for the first time that adolescent sexual and reproductive health involves a specific set of needs, which are distinct from adult needs. However India has seen a rapid increase in HIV/AIDS infections. An estimated 5.21 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. In the light of current prevalence trends, in the present study emphasis was given to study basic variables like knowledge and misconception of AIDS and stock of condom and use of condom. Data was taken in to consideration by various type of sample survey like Facility survey (2003), DLHS-RCH (2002-2004), and NACO (2004) used for this study. Data was analyzed by using simple cross tabulation and multiple logistic regression analysis. The study covered almost all major states in India and states divided in to two groups high and low HIV prevalence. The high prevalence states were Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and in the low prevalence states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, West Bengal.

The study reveals ANC women from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu showing high prevalence (1.25, 1.25, 1.25, 1.25, and 0.75 % respectively) and low HIV prevalence states showing 0.0 percent HIV, except Gujarat and West Bengal (0.38 and 0.5 % respectively).

The study reveals women from high prevalence states like Maharashtra (72%), Andhra Pradesh (71%), Tamil Nadu (93%) and Karnataka (57%) were aware about AIDS, where as Low HIV prevalence state like Orissa (46%) percent and Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal were showing below 30 per cent women aware about AIDS. The logistic regression carried out by using knowledge of AIDS as dependent variable with background characteristics results shows

that education of women and husband education SLI type of residence is showing highly significant at (  $p < 0.01$ ) percent significant. A source of information is an important aspect and more than (70%) percent of the women preferred electronic media.

Misconception of AIDS is a very important component at the programme point of view and as barrier to overcome from the extort situation of AIDS in India. India as a whole 48.0 percent of the adolescent women has any misconception (out of seven), where at least one misconception is (14.0%) , at least two misconception (7.0 %), at least three misconception ( 4.7%), at least four misconception (3.9%), at least five misconception (3.3%), and major amount of adolescent have all 7 misconception (11.8%). The logistic regression was carried out by using any misconception as a dependent variable with background characteristics. The result shows that education of women (odds ratio 1.663), husband education (odds ratio- 1.335), type of residence urban (odds ratio- 1.249), SLI (odds ratio-1.260) all this background characteristics were showing highly significant.

Among the noticeable source of HIV transmission in our country, heterosexual promiscuity constitutes the major route. The most triumphant and practical way to prevent the transmission is the use of condoms according to experience from all over the world and in India. Condoms are not only affordable but also user friendly and an effective possible way to keep the disease away. Availability of condom in high prevalence states is more; however the use of condom is very low in the high HIV prevalence state (except Maharashtra state).

The low HIV prevalence states are showing low proportion of condom availability and comparably high proportion of use condom and the situation is the reported symptoms of RTI/STI are also more or less same in the high HIV and low HIV prevalence states. The study strongly concludes that condom promotion strategy should have to give more emphasis so that reduce the increasing cases of HIV and RTI/STI.

## **Conclusion**

The developed states like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have very good situation of literacy, low child mortality and in case of health these states were good but they were in high HIV prevalence category and the knowledge (Just heard about AIDS) is cent percent but the misconception is quite high. And in low HIV prevalence states the knowledge of HIV/ AIDS is quite low compare to high HIV prevalence states and misconception also very few . The study tried to find out the critical situation of high HIV prevalence in the developed states as a proxy variable (condom use) suggest that among these states use of condom is very low level it may be one of the reason of high existence of HIV in these states.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Research Scholar, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai-88*  
*E-Mail- uttamiips@gmail.com*

<sup>2</sup> *Reader, Dept. of Population Policies and Programme, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai-88*  
*E-Mail- brpaswan@yahoo.com*