

Appendix 4

EXPERT OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE Understanding HIV/AIDS Status in the Kerala Context Department of Futures Studies, University of Kerala

AIDS is an outcome of infection with HIV. In this infection, mankind faces a pandemic of challenging proportions especially in a developing scenario like ours. In this context we in the Department of Futures Studies, University of Kerala, are conducting an expert opinion survey on the future impact of HIV/AIDS in Kerala. So please read each statement given below and place a corresponding number of **1 through 7** in the blank space provided at the left of each item, using the following scale.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1.Strongly Agree. | 5.Moderately Disagree. |
| 2.Agree. | 6.Disagree. |
| 3.Moderately Agree. | 7.Strongly Disagree. |
| 4.Undecided. | |

Statements :

1. Kerala now has a satisfactory health environment.
2. Bureaucrats and political leaders determine the governmental health activities.
3. Kerala's socio-cultural environment is the most suitable one for HIV transmission.
4. Reports about HIV/AIDS cases in Kerala are not true.
5. Keralites are aware of dreadful diseases and are keen to take precautions.
6. The higher labour mobility deteriorates health environment in the state.
7. 1 lakh 20 thousand Keralites are currently infected with HIV.
8. One out of every 200th Keralite is an HIV positive.
9. Keralites may include in the significant section of transmitters of HIV in future.
10. If the present rate of HIV transmission sustains (8 fold increase from 1993 to 1994); all 3 crore Keralites will be HIV by 33 years from now.
11. A drastic socio-economic-cultural change will happen.
12. People will learn to live with than fight HIV.
13. Even in an HIV stricken environment, the belief that, "I will not get HIV" will exist.
14. Ayurveda can provide the best preventive medicine against HIV.
15. Insufficient health facilities will aggravate the HIV incidence in future.
16. Periodical HIV testing should be legadly enforced to all.
17. HIV test report should be a criterion for marriage and or immigration eligibility.
18. Its no longer the survival of the fittest; but the survival of the well-informed.
19. Primary and secondary prevention strategies should be given priority than the tertiary.
20. Psychologically based methods such as counselling, personality assessment etc., should be implemented as the prime prevention strategy against HIV/AIDS.
21. Proper sex-education is needed in all walks of life to change people's life-style.
22. Make everyone to use condoms during the penetrative sexual activities.
23. Extensive prevention strategies against HIV are yet to be implemented in Kerala.

24. Results of recent surveys indicate, 36% of village women have multiple sexual partners and 20% of the medically terminated pregnancies are among unmarried college girls, Kerala's deteriorating cultural values and ideology.
25. People having monogamous relationships or celibacy life-style are at no risk.
26. Skin-piercing activities with unsterilised tools may result in HIV transmission.
27. HIV is a danger for all; Humanity must unite to defeat it.

Kindly give your suggestions/remarks:

Name:

Professional Address:

Self-rating of expertise in this area :

> 80% 80% -70% 70% -60% 60% -50% < 50%

Thank you !

Appendix 5

EXPERT OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE : ROUND II Understanding HIV/AIDS Status in the Kerala Context Department of Futures Studies, University of Kerala

We express our happiness for your magnanimity in responding to our first round expert opinion study (Delphi) promptly; expect your kind cooperation in this second round of the same also. Here we have given the results of first round of the study followed by the statements for your second round responses.

The experts have agreed upon the following statements:

- a). Primary and secondary prevention strategies should be given priority than the tertiary.
- b). Proper sex-education is needed in all walks of life to change people's life-style.
- b). Kerala's socio-cultural environment is the most suitable one for HIV transmission.
- d). A drastic socio-economic-cultural change will happen.
- e). Even in an HIV stricken environment, the belief that, "I will not get HIV" will exist.
- j). Extensive prevention strategies against HIV are yet to be implemented in Kerala.

Undecided on:

- a). It is estimated that 1 lakh 20 thousand Keralites are currently infected with HIV.

Disagreed on

- a). Ayurveda can provide the best preventive medicine against HIV.
- b). Periodical HIV testing should be legally enforced to all.

The statements on which consensus have not been reached are reformulated and given below for your response. Besides, we have some new statements developed, based on the remarks of experts obtained from the first round.

First considering the reformulated statements of the first round - the average opinion of the experts and your opinion on each statement is also given for your information. Considering this, if you have any change in opinion, please indicate your response SA through SD in the blank space provided in the left hand side of each question. Otherwise please give your remarks in the space provided.

- SA** denotes Strongly Agree;
A denotes Agree;
MA denotes Moderately Agree;
U denotes Undecided;
MD denotes Moderately Disagree;
D denotes Disagree &
SD denotes Strongly Disagree.

Statements:

- ___ 1. HIV/AIDS is a threat to Kerala's present health status.
Group opinion **MA**; Your opinion ___ ; Remarks _____
- ___ 2. HIV/AIDS cases are officially under reported.
Group opinion **D**; Your opinion ___ ; Remarks _____
- ___ 3. Higher labour mobility facilitates HIV/AIDS transmission.
Group opinion **MA**; Your opinion ___ ; Remarks _____
- ___ 4. The estimated rate is that, one out of every 200th Keralite is an HIV positive.

- Group opinion **U**; Your opinion ___ ; Remarks _____
- __ 5. HIV test report can be a criterion for marriage eligibility.
Group opinion **D**; Your opinion ___ ; Remarks _____
- __ 6. People having monogamous relationships are at low risk.
Group opinion **MA**; Your opinion ___ ; Remarks _____

Newly added statements :

- __ 7. HIV phobia is increasing.
- __ 8. Sex-education should be given to adolescents as a preventive measure.
- __ 9. The use of condoms for safer sex practices must be given the prior importance in prevention strategy for HIV/AIDS.
- __ 10. Sex-education introduced before adolescence period can bring more healthy social-life style.

Kindly give your suggestions / remarks:

Name:

Professional Address:

Thank you !

Appendix 6**LIST OF EXPERTS**

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|-----|--|-----|--|
| 1. | Mrs.N.Novma Money, MSW.,DPSW.,
Psychiatric Social Worker,
Government General Hospital,
Thiruvananthapuram | 2. | Dr.A.M.Fazil,
Assistant Director,
State AIDS Cell,
Thiruvananthapuram |
| 3. | Dr.P.A.Nirmala Bai,
Additional Director of Health Services (P.H),
DHS Office,
Thiruvananthapuram. | 4. | Dr.Prathap Chandran, C.
Assitant Surgeon,
Government General Hospital,
Thiruvananthapuram |
| 5. | Dr.P.Priyadharshini,
Asst. Director,
P.H. Lab.,
Thiruvananthapuram | 6. | Dr.K. Vijayambika,
Civil Surgeon,
Government General Hospital,
Thiruvananthapuram. |
| 7. | Dr. Maya Vincent,
Blood Bank M.O.,
Government General Hospital,
Thiruvananthapuram. | 8. | Dr.G.Haridas,
DMO(H),
Thiruvananthapuram |
| 9. | Mr. M.K. Devidas Warriar,
Consultant, State AIDS Cell,
Thiruvananthapuram | 10. | Dr.AK.Radhakrishnan Nair,
Deputy Director of Health Services,
State AIDS Cell, Thiruvananthapuram. |
| 11. | Dr.Maybel Lagori,
HOD, AIDS Surveillance Centre,
Medical Collge, Thiruvananthapuram | 12. | Dr.Krishnaprasad Sreedhar,
Prof., Psychology Deparment,
Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram. |
| 13. | Dr.Lali Jose,
Asst. Prof., AIDS Surveillance Center,
Medical Collge, Thiruvananthapuram | 14. | Dr.Velayudhan Nair,
Chief Counsellor, Abhaya,
Thiruvananthapuram |
| 15. | Dr.AK.Jayasree,
M.O., Suicide Prevention Clinic,
Government General Hospital,
Thiruvananthapuram | 16. | Dr.Amar,S Fettle,
Pediatician,
Government General Hospital, Peroorkada,
Thiruvananthapuram. |
| 17. | Dr.C.Sadasivan Pillai,
Prof. Community Medicine,
Medical Collge, Thiruvananthapuram | 18. | Mrs.Radha Venkitaraman,
Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan,
Kallai Road, Kerala-673 002. |
| 19. | Mr.Gokul Das, NN.,
Lecturer in Zoology,
Sreekrishna College,
Guruvayoor | 20. | Dr.Cynthia Pappali,
HOD., Dermatology Department,
Medical Collge,
Thiruvananthapuram |