

**P4.7. Prevention Education On HIV Disease Among Adolescents In Brothel - Sumita Mitra**, North East Calcutta Social Welfare Organisation; **Aparajita Ghosh**; North East Calcutta Social Welfare Organisation

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**Background/Significance:** HIV/AIDS has compounded the worsening socio-economic situation in Red-Light districts. Children of sex workers are woefully neglected and marginalised between one and half months to fifteen years, who are infected mostly due to lack of awareness.

**Objective:** a) To assess awareness and source of knowledge about sex, sexual health and HIV/AIDS among children of sex workers in BROTHEL. b) To assess the sexual behaviour of the children of sex workers. c) To identify barriers and constraints, provide prevention education on sexual health/HIV diseases to these deprived children and adolescents.

**Methodology:** Two hundred children in six Redlight areas in Kolkata were targeted to carry out the study between the ages of 10-19 during the pre-sexually active years, empowering them with decision making skills that can very literally save their lives. The variety of methods used during the disclosure of HIV sessions helped in generating both quantitative and qualitative data. The specific methods were a) one to one discussions, b) focus group discussions, c) questionnaire survey, d) children's own works/interactive sessions and e) interview with stakeholders.

**Findings:** The outcome of our study reveals that the children of sex workers are deprived a lot. The society in general treats them as outcasts. Treatment seeking is very low amongst these children neither do they have access to clinics. On rare occasions they receive treatment from quacks. They are discouraged to visit clinics set up by intervention projects for fear of exposures/chastisement.

Absence of structured health education system.

Negative attitude in accepting adolescent

No access to condoms

Lack of counselling

Legal barriers

Instead of all the barriers at the end of the programme the attitudes and behaviours of 62% have been changed. The hopeless have been made hopeful, powerless have been empowered to make their own decisions for the future of their lives thus solidifying their individual worth.

**Knowledge Contribution:** The children of sex workers got the HIV virus from their parents and the scenario is worsening gradually. Each children is ostracised due to lack of awareness. Very often their basic rights viz health, shelter, education and nutrition are denied. It is imperative to address the sexual health needs of these children in the context of HIV epidemic which is fast transforming India especially its urban areas into the epicenter of STD/HIV/AIDS in Asia. We truly empower them to seize the day, take hold of their futures and lives.