

The Nation

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Strategy to treat AIDS patients stressed

OUR STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR-Director General Health Services NWFP, Dr Jalur Rehman has underlined the need of chalking out a sustainable strategy for the treatment of HIV/AIDS patients within the national resources to reduce dependency on donor agencies.

He was addressing a meeting convened to establish coordination and collaboration among the treatment providers for HIV/AIDS patients working in public and private sectors in Peshawar on Monday morning.

The meeting arranged by National AIDS Control Programme with the collaboration of Provincial AIDS Control Programme and Global Funds was attended by the authorities of Provincial AIDS Control Programme and different NGOs working for providing treatment facilities to AIDS patients.

Main objectives of the meeting were to streamline treatment facilities being provided by public and private sectors to the HIV/AIDS patients in the province. Dr Muhammad Zafar, Provincial Manager, AIDS Control Programme, Dr Humayun Qureshi, Senior Project Manager Global Fund, Dr Yaseen, Dr Nadeem Ikram, Dr Tasneem and Dr Hidayat made presentations on

various aspects of the counseling and treatment of AIDS patients.

Dr Yaseen while highlighting services being provided by ARV Centre (HIV/AIDS Treatment Centre) at Hayatabad Medical Complex disclosed that 143 AIDS/HIV patients were registered in the centre while 62 of them were being provided proper treatment.

He went on to say that 24 patients were belonging to Kurram Agency, 11 to Kohat district while rest of the patients were hailing from different districts of the province.

The experts said that the patients were being provided treatment and counseling facilities in a friendly atmosphere. He informed that the attitude of discrimination against AIDS patients was reducing with the passage of time.

He underlined the need of proper strategy to provide social and material support to the AIDS patients. The participants expressed dissatisfaction over the laboratory services for the diagnoses of HIV/AIDS and stressed the need of streamlining the lab and referral services. Similarly, coordination, quality assurance and linkages among the services being provided to HIV/AIDS patients was underlined.