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Sustainable strategy for AIDS a must

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: NWFP Health Services Director General Dr Jalilur Rehman has underlined the need for 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 to establish coordination and collaboration among the treatment providers for HIV/AIDS patients working in public and private sectors Monday.

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, AIDS Control Programme manager, Dr Huma Qureshi, Global Fund senior project manager, Dr Yaseen, Dr Nadeem Ikram, Dr Tasneem and Dr Hidayat made presentations on various aspects of the counselling 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 belonged to Kurram Agency, 11 to Kohat district while rest of the patients were hailing from different districts of the province. The expert said 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 for 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 were underlined. The experts also pinpointed the need of developing proper standards and evolution of a workable strategic plan for extending easy and affordable treatment services to the AIDS patients.