

Dear ALL

It is an accepted fact that HIV & AIDS is not just a health issue. It is a very complex issue with social ,cultural ,religious and economic dimensions, but no detailed focused discussions have been taken place so far to analyze in detail. PNAC has launched a resource centre to provide a platform for organizing and conducting such activities. Keeping in view the need of updating the knowledge regarding HIV&AIDS Resource Centre will provide his knowledgeable services to members of PNAC staff, PNAC partner ,implementing staff, research workers ,other organizations involved in HIV &AIDS interventions ,health professionals and to general public seeking information about HIV&AIDS.

Above is the small article focusing on the Social impact of HIV&AIDS on children which highlights the main points of social destruction of HIV &AIDS towards youth and children.

Your comments and suggestions will be appreciated.

HIV & AIDS Social Impact on Youth and Children

Like a pebble dropped in a pool, HIV sends ripples to the edges of society, affecting first the family, then the community, then the nation as a whole. By targeting predominantly young and middle-aged adults who are the mainstay of the economy and the principal support of their families, the epidemic destroys the very fabric of societies. Particularly in places where HIV prevalence is high, it hamstring economic growth and makes the provision of social services more difficult. And in a vicious twist, by exacerbating poverty it makes populations more vulnerable to the spread of HIV. The impact of AIDS may be felt as an immediate shock, as when a family loses a breadwinner, or an organization a key worker. But at the wider community or national level the impact is felt as the gradual accumulation of losses, and diminution of resources and options for change. The seriousness of the impact depends not only on the numbers infected and directly affected by HIV, but also on the resources available to cope with the situation, whether at family, community or national level. Despite its serious implications, however, original research on the impact of AIDS is scarce

The socio-demographic impact of HIV and AIDS is very difficult to assess with any accuracy: assessment depends largely on data from birth and death certificates; a vital registration is poor or nonexistent in much of the world. However, HIV and AIDS tend to increase the death rate in age groups in which mortality is usually lowest (young and middle-aged adults), and in the worst affected countries—particularly of southern Africa—this has had a noticeable impact on population dynamics and social functioning. Life expectancy at birth has fallen, sometimes dramatically, and the population structure has changed shape. In addition, the combined effect of premature death and reduced fertility among HIV positive women has reduced the birth rate. Higher than usual death rates and lower birth rates have, in turn, affected population growth, and in a very few countries this may even be negative, though the evidence is contentious. In countries which have suffered high mortality among people in the prime of life, many children and elderly people have been left without family support, and society in general is handicapped by the loss of some of its most important and productive members.

15 million children and adolescents have been orphaned by AIDS and are now heads of households, as we lose an entire generation of parents, teachers, workers, and doctors in many regions. Yet despite the debilitating effects of AIDS, young leaders are taking action in their communities to prevent the spread of the disease and to address the devastating consequences of the pandemic. In fact, evidence shows that young people are most effective at changing the risk behaviors of their peers and at shaping a better future for themselves and their families. Still, when it comes to international development, young leaders are too often marginalized and left out of important interventions. It is an accepted fact that development is most successful when change comes from within a community itself not from outsiders. Therefore we should measure to empowers the youth leaders and make them able to advocate themselves ad society. There

are many ways to enhance the empowerment of youth regarding HIV & AIDS as a multidimensional issue. we have to bring a change in social status of youth by involving them in policy making, and strategic planning. we have to give them more platform of expressions so that they can communicate in a better way and express and discuss their views regarding HIV & AIDS.

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