Strengthening systems for working on Issues regarding Oral Health and HIV & AIDS in resource constraint setting - India

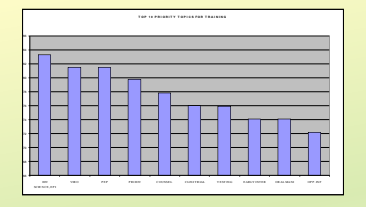
Abstract # 151432, APHA Session 3090, 5th Nov 2007, Poster Session IV

A. Bhardwaj[1], Jeffery Hill[2], S.R. Prabhu[3]

THE NEED

- Oral environment is the ideal setting for early recognition of HIV infection…early diagnosis of these lesions by the oral healthcare worker may lead to the early recognition of a patient who is infected by HIV and is not aware of it.
- Stigma and discrimination are major challenges to access to treatment, (including dental), care and support for people living with HIV & AIDS. Qualitative discussions with PLHWA show that they face the above challenges in a dental clinic.
- Limited information on HIV infection in the dental curriculum.
- Capacity building and training in HIV /AIDS in India - focused on the health care providers like doctors, nurses, social workers and counselors…Oral health care providers have been largely ignored.
- A team approach in management of the HIV positive is critical.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT
120 SURVEYS COMPLETED ACROSS 4 CENTRES



OBJECTIVES

To train and prepare Oral HealthCare Providers to deal with essential aspects of dental management and infection control measures and to address stigma and discrimination in the oral healthcare setting with a focus on HIV & AIDS.

RESPONSE

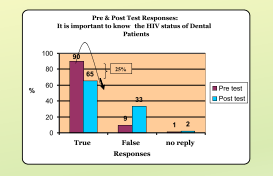
AVNI in collaboration with its National and International Partners* responded to the challenge in 2005 by;

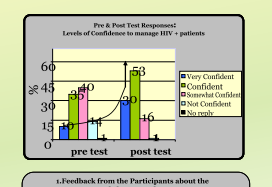
- Doing a NEEDS ASSESSMENT amongst Dentist and prioritizing topics of interest on HIV/AIDS for a Dentist.
- Establishing National and International Partnerships* for Resource team, Materials development, Accessing Funds, Firming up Host colleges.
- Specific Objectives, Agenda, India Specific Workshop Training Materials and RESOURCE MANUAL developed.
- Zeroed in on HIGH Prevalent and HIGH to Medium Vulnerable States as per (NACO) National AIDS Control Organization classification and conducted the 2 day TOT workshop.
- Building the capacity by addressing the whole continuum of recognition, diagnosis, treatment, care and support of PLHWA's.
- Addressing discriminatory behaviors and attitudes of oral healthcare providers through role models, leadership trainings.
- Workshop Evaluation, Documentation and Dissemination to KEY STAKE Holder's.
- Advocacy done at the appropriate forums to ensure sensitization towards inclusion of Dentists as part of the team in our fight against HIV/AIDS.

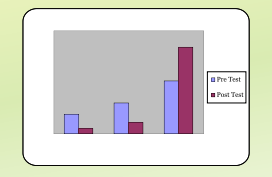
ACHIEVEMENTS

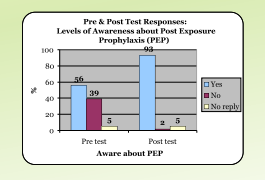
- 1400+ dentists trained in 3 years (2005, 2006 and 2007.)
- Covered 11 cities which are spread over High HIV Prevalence and High to Medium vulnerable States.
- Participants representing about 70 dental colleges actively participated in the workshops.
- Technical Resource Group formed under the guidance of Dental Council of India (DCI) and NACO.
- Key Resource Persons from the team and DCI launched a treatise "HIV & AIDS in Dental practice" for dentists in India. This book was launched by His Excellency the President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

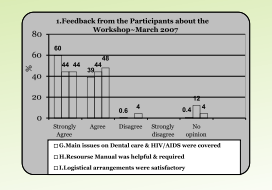
Highlights of workshop in 2007 Knowledge, Attitude, Behavior and Practices (KABP) of the Dentists

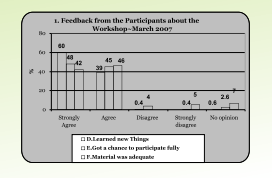












His Excellency The President of India Dr A P J Abdul Kalam launching 'HIV & AIDS in Dental Practice Book'

His Excellency The President of India Dr A P J Abdul Kalam with Dr Anil Kohli – President Dental Council of India

Group Work – Vadodara Workshop – 2007

1 , 2 AVNI HEALTH FOUNDATION, Mumbai, India ---- 3. UNICEF, India CONTACT: ajey@avnihealth.org or visit website www.avnihealth.org for further information