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Declaring humanitarian emergency: Religious teachings, ethics, morality, dignity, law and education for the control of HIV/AIDS, STDs, and STIs

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Abstract

About 113 Million people worldwide being affected with the HIV/AIDS is now enough to declare the situation as a priority humanitarian emergency. The global society needs to accept that they are presently in the 'future shock' situation and accordingly a major overhaul of the presently applicable practices, thoughts and laws need to be courageously put forward. The religious sentiments are expected to prove extraordinarily instrumental to activate the people in tackling with the emergency of controlling HIV/AIDS, STDs and STIs. Given the scenario that the population increase (which also implies an increased disease incidence) by 2050 is expected to be primarily contributed by the less developed and developing countries especially from Asia & Africa, the religious sentiments can be impressed upon the minds of the people in abating the disease. For example, Islam is presently the fastest growing religion in the world, and given the fact that the percentage of Muslim population currently (2012) in Africa and Asia is respectively 52.39 % & 32 %, therefore, in this context Islamic teachings can be advanced to raise the conscious thought towards the prohibition of indulgence in immoral acts. The Quran, e.g., ordains through 32nd verse of chapter 17 as, "And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way." Similarly, the thoughts of the people can be bent towards the concept of life with dignity, the basic notions of ethics in regional and international context, and much importantly the promulgation of laws whereby governments can be motivated to control the incidence of the disease. Last but basic, intensive research will be required in understanding the disease and providing treatment to the affected population. The statistics released by the Population Reference Bureau (2012) provides insight into the intriguing facts which can be helpful in understanding the disease. In the global context, for example, USA and Nigeria can be undertaken as the two sample regions to study the contrasting disease facts. In USA, the disease prevalence is more in men (0.8 % of population) than women (0.3 %). Contrastingly, in Nigeria, the incidence of the disease is highest amongst the women (4.4 %) than in men (2.9 %). The question arises whether women in USA or men in Nigeria have a comparatively better physiological resistance in contracting the dreaded disease in comparison with their opposite counterparts. Research can provide the answers and the solutions.

Biography

Dr. Mudasir Ali has completed his masters and doctoral studies from University of Kashmir and is presently working as an Assistant Professor on contract basis. He has published more than 20 papers in reputed journals**.** He is approved as a 'Functional Area Expert' by the QCI (India) for conducting of the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and development of comprehensive Environmental Management Plans (EMPs).