

GE 2211 Environmental Science and Engineering

Unit – V

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AIDS

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What is AIDS?

- AIDS stands for: **A**cquired **I**mmune **D**eficiency **S**yndrome
- AIDS is a medical condition. A person is diagnosed with AIDS when their immune system is too weak to fight off infections.
- Since AIDS was first identified in the early 1980s, an unprecedented number of people have been affected by the global AIDS epidemic. Today, there are an estimated 33 million people living with HIV/AIDS.

What causes AIDS?

- AIDS is caused by HIV.
- HIV is a virus that gradually attacks immune system cells. As HIV progressively damages these cells, the body becomes more vulnerable to infections, which it will have difficulty in fighting off. It is at the point of very advanced HIV infection that a person is said to have AIDS.
- It can be years before HIV has damaged the immune system enough for AIDS to develop.

The Spread of AIDS

- AIDS is caused by HIV, a virus that can be passed from person to person through sexual fluids, blood and breast milk.
- People particularly vulnerable to HIV include injecting drug users, sex workers and men who have sex with men

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Economic Impact

- HIV and AIDS affects economic growth by reducing the availability of human capital.
- Without proper nutrition, health care and medicine that is available in developed countries, large numbers of people suffer and die from AIDS-related complications. They will not only be unable to work, but will also require significant medical care

World Statistics (2007)

- People living with HIV/AIDS - 33.0 million
- More than 25 million people have died of AIDS since 1981.
- Africa has 11.6 million AIDS orphans.
- At the end of 2007, women accounted for 50% of all adults living with HIV worldwide, and for 59% in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Young people (under 25 years old) account for half of all new HIV infections worldwide.
- In developing and transitional countries, 9.7 million people are in immediate need of life-saving AIDS drugs; of these, only 2.99 million (31%) are receiving the drugs.
- Around 95% of people with HIV and AIDS live in developing nations

Source: <http://www.avert.org/worldstats.htm> (19-Sep-2009)

Regional statistics for HIV & AIDS, end of 2007

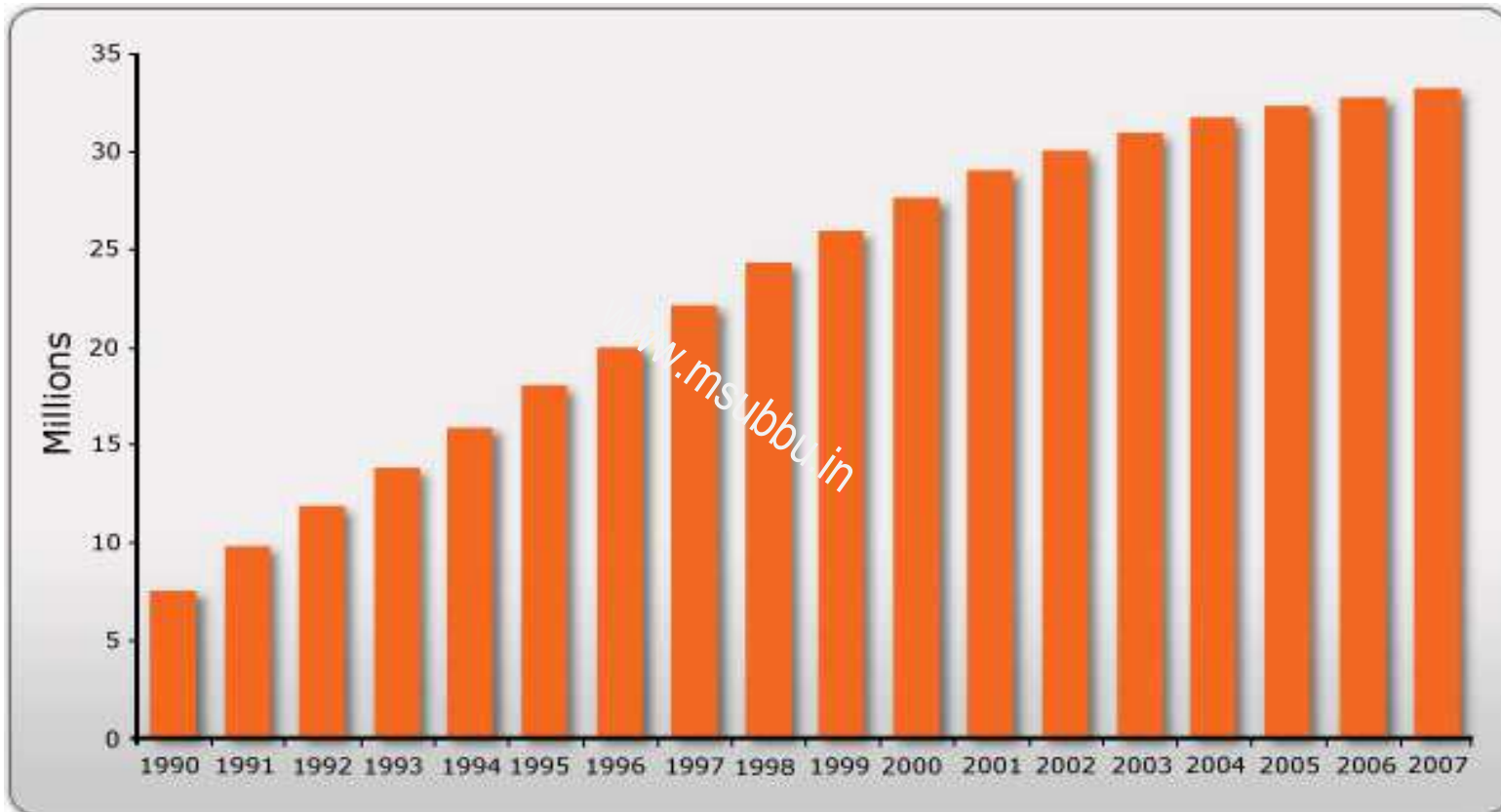
Region	Adults & children living with HIV/AIDS	Adults & children newly infected	Adult prevalence *	Deaths of adults & children
Sub-Saharan Africa	22.0 million	1.9 million	5.0%	1.5 million
North Africa & Middle East	380,000	40,000	0.3%	27,000
Asia	5 million	380,000	0.3%	380,000
Oceania	74,000	13,000	0.4%	1,000
Latin America	1.7 million	140,000	0.5%	63,000
Caribbean	230,000	20,000	1.1%	14,000
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	1.5 million	110,000	0.8%	58,000
North America, Western & Central Europe	2.0 million	81,000	0.4%	31,000
Global Total	33.0 million	2.7 million	0.8%	2.0 million

* Proportion of adults aged 15-49 who were living with HIV/AIDS

Source: <http://www.avert.org/worldstats.htm> (19-Sep-2009)



Global Trend



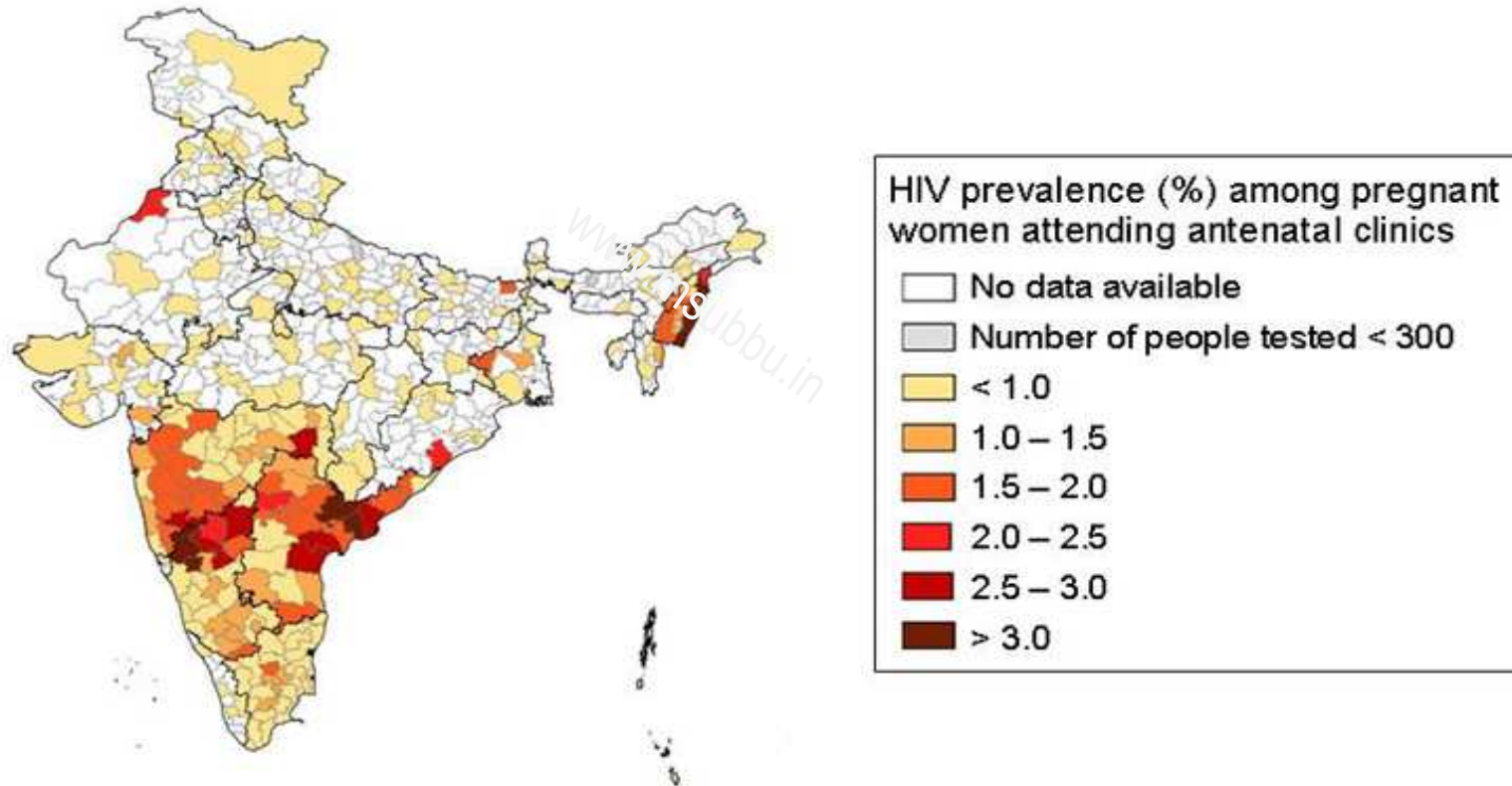
AIDS in India and China

- India is one of the largest and most populated countries in the world, with over one billion inhabitants. Of this number, it's estimated that around 2.3 million people are currently living with HIV
- There are currently an estimated 0.7 million people living with HIV in China

Source: <http://www.avert.org/worldstats.htm> (19-Sep-2009)



HIV prevalence in India – by district, 2005



World AIDS Day

- Started on 1st December 1988, World AIDS Day is about raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education.
- The World AIDS Day theme for 2009 is '*Universal Access and Human Rights*'. World AIDS Day is important in reminding people that HIV has not gone away, and that there are many things still to be done.





Pulli Raja campaign by PSI (Population Services International)

PSI, an NGO into social marketing, unveils an HIV/AIDS prevention campaign that seeks to disabuse people of various misconceptions.

In India, the virus was spreading mainly through the heterosexual route; this was true of almost 90 percent of the cases.

"Our studies and surveys also show that men are primarily responsible for carrying the virus home and infecting their wives and in certain cases, their lovers. Given the fact that ours is a male-dominated society and taking a pragmatic view of male sexual behaviour, we thought it fit to target them and persuade them to have a relationship with a single woman only, ideally the wife, or at least use the condom to protect themselves and the women in the event of multiple relationships. The campaign's whole focus is on persuading men to be responsible and not denigrating women" – Director, PSI (22nd October, 2003, The Hindu Business Line)

Pulli Raja – Ads (2003)

- The ads that followed consisted of a series of people trying to answer the question.
- *Spot 1:* Man: Will Pulli Raja get AIDS?
(his friend) If he forgets to wear a condom because he is drunk, and goes to a woman he will get AIDS
- *Spot 2:* Woman: Will Pulli Raja get AIDS?
Man, customer: If he goes to a healthy woman like you, why should he??
(The woman) No, even if a woman looks healthy she could have AIDS, so if he does not wear a condom he will get AIDS
- *Spot 3:* man: Will Pulli Raja get AIDS?
Man: If he goes to a regular, why would he?
(male friend) No, as if this is a woman with whom he is running a family! What does he know about who she is having a relationship with when he is not around, and if they have AIDS??



A condom vending machine in Shanghai, China



A condom vending machine in Hyderabad, India

