

Public Relations Department, Chandigarh Administration
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Press Release

Chandigarh, March 12:- With a view to devising a concrete strategy to combat the HIV-AIDS menace in the region, epidemiological profiling of HIV-AIDS cases in 20 districts of Punjab, Chandigarh and the neighbouring areas, is being done and a report is being compiled by GMCH-32 under the guidance of its Director Principal, Dr. Raj Bahadur.

Disclosing this here today, Dr. Raj Bahadur said that the Punjab State AIDS Control Society and the Chandigarh AIDS Control Society would lend a helping hand in the effort. The report will be submitted to NACO, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and UNAIDS, for formulating future plans. Dr. Raj Bahadur was briefing on the outcome of the three-day state-level workshop on District Epidemiological Profiling of HIV AIDS–Data Triangulation which concluded here.

More than 60 participants from 20 districts of Punjab, Chandigarh and the neighbouring areas participated in the workshop held at GMCH-32, in collaboration with NACO, UNAIDS and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi.

Day one of the workshop saw a number of presentations. Dr. Vikas Bhatia from Community Medicine, GMCH, said that AIDS epidemic was a global problem and had killed millions of the people in India and abroad. He also talked about the concepts and framework of HIV / AIDS. Dr. Dinesh Kumar talked about data related with AIDS and shared various data tables with the participants.

On the second day, the participants were subjected to practical sessions on computers in the IT cell of GMCH to help them identify and remove the gaps and deficiencies in data of their respective district. This hands-on-training was given to build the capacity of staff at the district level to enable them to redefine the data and do the analysis. Experts in data triangulation and experienced analysts were involved in the effort.

The workshop had been inaugurated by Dr. Raj Bahadur. He said that sexually transmitted diseases (STD) were being taught to medical students. Dr. T Bakkalli from UNAIDS, Dr. S. P. S. Sohal , DHS Punjab, Dr. Kavita Chavan, PD (CSACS), Dr N. M. Sharma APD (PSACS) were also present.

He welcomed the delegates on behalf of the GMCH which has been nominated as state coordinating agency for

Punjab and Chandigarh to undertake study on epidemiological profile of all districts which will help in understanding the severity of the HIV / AIDS menace at the district and sub-district level.

Dr. Sohal DHS, Punjab, congratulated GMCH for undertaking this activity for the benefit of people of Punjab which would help formulate policy on HIV/ AIDS prevention and control. Dr T. Bakkali, Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor in UNAIDS, was the guest of Honour.