



Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS: Care for the Unborn



Key Findings

21,145

Pregnant women tested

126

Women discovered HIV-positive



99% Success rate

Implementation in:

11 Blocks of Virudhunagar district

13 Blocks of Kanchipuram district

Background

As relationships and intimacy outside of marriage is considered a taboo in India, there is little attention given to sexual education and preventing sexual transmitted diseases. Because of this lack of education, there is an increased chance of contracting HIV. Parents are often unaware of being HIV-positive and prevention of parent to child transmission of HIV/AIDS is very necessary. Furthermore, there are more than 2 million teenagers between the age of 10 and 19 living with HIV/AIDS. Among them, many do not receive the care and support they need to stay in good health and prevent transmission.



HIV/AIDS Prevention

Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS is a programme run by Blossom Trust from 2005 until 2015 in collaboration with Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society and

Results

A total of 26,145 future mothers were able to be tested for HIV/AIDS over a period of 10 years. Among which, 126 pregnant women discovered they were HIV-positive. In 99% of the cases the transmission from the mother to the new born child was avoided.



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funded through Investment Lease and Financial Services Corporate (IL&FS). The aim of the PPCTC project is to prevent newborn children from contracting HIV when their mother is infected. Preventing new generations to contract the virus is fundamental in tackling the future eradication of HIV/AIDS. When no special care is taken, transmission is likely to occur at different stages of the child development. For 30% of the cases it is during pregnancy period, while 50% of the transmissions occur during labour and childbirth and the remaining 20% of the cases happen during breastfeeding.

HIV/AIDS Detection

A team of outreach workers was formed to go and meet the communities in the 11 blocks of Virudhunagar and the 13 blocks of Kanchipuram and identify pregnant women. Then, those women were referred to the AnteNatal Care support services and Voluntary Testing and Counselling centres. The outreach worker assisted the women throughout the testing process.

Prevention of the Transmission

HIV-positive pregnant women were cared for in the implementation of a treatment. Special care, such as cesarean delivery, was provided to women during labour to reduce the risk of transmission. After giving birth, HIV-positive mothers received support during breastfeeding and received extra counselling regarding feeding, appropriate hygiene and sanitation.

Care and support

This programme offered a comprehensive, family-centred range of support, clinical services and public health initiatives. Meetings were conducted by specialist counsellors to provide psychological and mental support to people living with HIV/AIDS. Support groups were implemented within the community to help connect women and families experiencing the same issues.

