

**A study of Knowledge and Attitudes towards HIV/AIDS among  
Healthcare Providers**



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## **Certificate of Approval**

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## **Chapter I**

### **Introduction**

## Introduction

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) attacks the body's immune system by attacking cells, known as helper T cells or CD4 cells. A damaged immune system is not capable to protect the body against illnesses. HIV leads to disease of Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome known as AIDS. Initially the person experiences a brief episode of illness if not detected or treated the illness progresses and an individual remains asymptomatic. After few years undiagnosed and untreated progress and attacks the immune system and individual becomes more prone to infections and particularly opportunistic infections (Greene, 2007).

According to UNAIDS, 2012 this epidemic has infected almost seventy five millions individuals around the globe and thirty six million people have died with this infection. It was estimated that 35.3 million people infected with HIV and they were living globally till 2012. Although the burden of the disease is varied from country to country and region to region but the hard reality is that 0.8 percent of the adults with the age of 15-45 had been infected and following the origin the virus Africa and particularly sub Saharan Africa observed the most affected area where almost 1 into every 20 adults is carrying the infection of HIV/AIDS and seventy one percent people are facing the epidemic globally (UNAIDS, 2012)

HIV is considered as one of the sexually transmitted diseases as its mode of transmission globally is identified as sex, all over the world vaginal sex is considered the main cause of transmission but in USA anal sex is observed the main mode route, blood transfusion, contaminated needles and injection, unsterilized equipment are also identified as mode of transmission. The direction of previous transmission of HIV/AIDS was sexual contact from one side to the other anal and vaginal intercourse

during sexual activity if the injured person and the virus from entering the body of another person very easily (Busch & Satten, 1997).

Lyles et al. (2000) defines one more method of HIV transmission in injecting drug users is being sexually sex links contained relatively closed set-up, which are characterized by different friends sex, unsafe sex, and exchange of sex against currency. The most important cause of HIV transmission among America is homosexuality and common in MSM (male sex with male), opposite sex, and injecting drug users. Vertical transmission is another mode of transmission into babies through their infected mother who can pass HIV to their babies during pregnancy, delivery of the baby during childbirth and breastfeeding.