



National Health Programmes and HIV/AIDS Control Programme in India.

Muhammad Mohsin Dar¹, Mr. MD Zulphikar Ali², TANYA SHARMA³

² CO Author

³ HOD

Mewar university

Introduction::

India has launched several National Health Programmes to tackle pressing public health challenges. Among them, the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) has played a pivotal role in combating the spread of HIV/AIDS, improving access to healthcare, and promoting awareness. Managed by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the programme is structured to meet the evolving epidemiological trends and public health needs.

Keywords:: National Health Programmes; HIV/AIDS; National AIDS Control Programme (NACP); Antiretroviral Therapy (ART); Targeted Interventions (TIs); Blood Safety; Stigma and Discrimination; PPTCT; HIV Testing; NACO

Objectives of National Health Programmes

1. Achieve universal health coverage through equitable access to services.
2. Reduce the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases.
3. Improve maternal and child health indicators.
4. Enhance community awareness and participation.
5. Strengthen healthcare infrastructure and delivery.

Overview of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP)

Phases of NACP

- NACP-I (1992–1999): Focus on awareness, surveillance, and blood safety.
- NACP-II (1999–2006): Expanded services and prevention strategies.
- NACP-III (2007–2012): Emphasis on decentralization and targeted interventions.
- NACP-IV (2012–2017 and extended): Consolidation of previous gains and scaling ART services.

Objectives of the HIV/AIDS Control Programme

1. Prevent new HIV infections through targeted awareness and testing.
2. Ensure universal access to treatment, care, and support for PLHIV.
3. Strengthen national capacity for planning, surveillance, and service delivery.
4. Reduce stigma and discrimination at all levels.

Functioning and Implementation

- Awareness and Behavior Change Communication (BCC): Through media campaigns, outreach workers, and school-based programs.
- HIV Testing and Counselling: Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTCs) in public and private sectors.
- ART Services: Over 570 ART centres providing free medication and clinical support.
- Targeted Interventions (TIs): For high-risk groups like FSWs, MSMs, and IDUs.
- PPTCT Services: Screening and antiretroviral therapy for HIV-positive pregnant women.
- Blood Safety: 100% screening of blood units for HIV and other infections.

- Monitoring & Evaluation: HIV Sentinel Surveillance, SIMS (Strategic Information Management System).

Outcomes and Achievements

- 57% reduction in new HIV infections (2000–2019) [1].
- 80% ART coverage among estimated PLHIV as of 2022 [2].
- Over 23,000 HIV testing facilities established across India.
- Integration with other health programmes like Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) and TB Control.
- Increased community engagement and reduced stigma in urban areas.

Challenges::

- Social stigma and lack of awareness in remote regions.
- Ensuring treatment adherence and follow-up.
- Managing co-infections such as TB and hepatitis.
- Sustaining international funding and technical support.

Future Directions::

- Integration with digital health platforms for better tracking and outreach.
- Strengthening primary healthcare systems and linkages.
- Scaling up community-led interventions.
- Enhanced focus on gender-based approaches and rights of marginalized populations.

REFERENCES::

1. National AIDS Control Organization (NACO). Annual Report 2022-23.
2. UNAIDS. Global HIV & AIDS statistics — 2023 Fact Sheet.
3. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. National Health Policy 2017.
4. WHO. HIV/AIDS India Profile.
5. NACO. HIV Sentinel Surveillance Report 2021.
6. Sharma, M. et al. (2021). Indian Journal of Public Health.
7. World Bank. "India: HIV/AIDS Control Project."
8. NACO Guidelines on ART Services, 2022.
9. India HIV Estimations Report, NACO-UNAIDS, 2023.
10. Singh, R. et al. (2020). Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Medicine.