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Final Abstract Number: 27.004 Session: HIV and Tuberculosis Date: Friday, April 4, 2014 Time: 15:45-17:45

Room: Room 2.60

HIV/AIDS knowledge improvement among Iranian prisons: Innovative Peer Education Method (FMP)



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Background: According to the UNODC report in 2013, thirty million men and women globally are imprisoned each year. Prevalence of infectious diseases such as HIV, hepatitis B & C, TB and other STI in prisons are 2-10 times higher among prison populations compared to the rates of general population. Aimed at reducing risky behaviors and incidence of infectious diseases in prisons as well as targeted new educational method named Fission Method of Peer education (FMP) implemented as a cost effective, rapid progressive and extensive coverage method in Iranian prisons

Methods & Materials: This interventional study was performed on HIV education on male prisoners in two blocks of Tehran main complex prison in 2013. One of these blocks went on a 30 day peer training program (FMP) as a case group and other block received routine programs(such as lecture, pamphlet,leaflet, and...) of education in prisons (control group). Baseline data collected with pretest from all imprisons in both blocks. The questions were divided into four groups about HIV/AIDS information. After implementation 30 day peer education program in case group, both groups had the post test. Data were analyzed by SPSS software version21

Results: In the case group, post - test scores significantly higher than the pre - test scores, but in the control group, the difference was not statistically significant (Phi Kramer test). There was a significant proportion of true answer increasing in all 4 question's groups in the trained inmates: in corrected beliefs questions: p < 0.0001, transmission group's questions: p < 0.005, ways of prevention group's questions: p < 0.0001, diagnostic signs questions: p < 0.0001). The results obtained strong correlation between levels of education with increasing awareness by this training program method. The higher the educational level, the higher change awareness with this method

Conclusion: This new peer education method (FMP) can be ideal setting to improve HIV/AIDS knowledge of inmates. Considering that this method is cost effective, spontaneous and ongoing with high transmission power to improve the education of prisoners, so it seems to be the way to educate many infectious diseases like H1N1 Influenza especially in their epidemic outbursts in prisons

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2014.03.540

Final Abstract Number: 27.005 Session: HIV and Tuberculosis Date: Friday, April 4, 2014

Time: 15:45-17:45 Room: Room 2.60

Prevalence of primary tuberculosis among nomadic Fulani population and their cattle herds in Kano, Nigeria



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Background: Nigeria has a sizable population of Fulani pastoralists. Zoonotic infections like Bovine tuberculosis [TB] are common among Nomadic Fulani (NF) and their livestock. Close interaction between the nomads and their animals provide a critical human-animal interface with potential for transmission of zoonoses. We conducted a survey to determine the prevalence of primary tuberculosis infection among nomads and their cattle in Kano, north-Western Nigeria.

Methods & Materials: We performed TST to all inhabitants of the nomadic setting and a randomly selected population of their cattle. We obtained socio-demographic information and symptoms of pulmonary tuberculosis in both respondents and their cattle. We explore knowledge of respondents regarding risk of disease transmission between them and their livestock. We compare rates of TST among the respondents and the cattle. Participants with features of active TB were referred for further evaluation and treatment.

Results: Out of 244 individuals evaluated 103 (42.2%) were females with a median age (range) of 35 years (1 – 80 years). Among 167 participants who consented for and returned for TST reading, 45 (26.9%) were positive; 33 (73.3%) of which were within the economically viable age of 20 – 50 years. Twenty-nine (11.9%) respondents reported having cough for at least 3 weeks at the time of the study. Of the 244 participants interviewed, 51(20.9%) reported having animals with chronic cough. A total of 26 (12.7%) of the 204 cattle tested had positive TST. Majority of the respondent were aware of potential risk of transmission of infectious diseases between them and their herds.

Conclusion: High TST positivity among the nomads and their herds suggests TB is prevalent in their communities and potential for animal-human transmission exists. Tuberculosis and other infectious diseases control programs should capture nomads in their planning and implementation.