Chapter VIII

Future Scope of the Present Study
8.0 FUTURE SCOPE OF THE PRESENT STUDY

In India the predominant mode of HIV transmission is heterosexual intercourse but the risk of heterosexual transmission and the effectiveness of measures to prevent it are not well defined. Little is known about factors that influence sexual behavior in heterosexual couples. It is particularly important to study reproductive behavior in this population, as unprotected sex in heterosexuals may contribute to sexual and perinatal HIV transmission. Hence, the knowledge of the sexual behavior of heterosexual couples, risk factors, and effectiveness of preventive methods is essential for both the design and the evaluation of prevention programs which is key to designing an effective response to the epidemic.

8.1 Scope

Research on HIV transmission in heterosexual couples in India is still in its introductory phase. Even though epidemiological studies conducted in different parts of the country reveals heterosexual transmission is the primary mode of HIV transmission in India, very little is known about the factors that influence sexual transmission of HIV and the rates of transmission among heterosexual couples. The behavioral, cultural and biological studies are yet to be dealt in details.

In the background of economic constraints in the public health sector in India for facing the ongoing AIDS epidemic, certain priority areas of research are to be considered as the futuristic goals:
8.1.1 Risk Factors for Sexual Transmission of HIV among Heterosexual Population in India

8.1.2 Study on sexual behavior and cultural background of heterosexual population in India

8.1.3 Prevalence of HIV infection among Partners of HIV infected People in different parts of the Country

8.1.4 Comparison of male-to-female and female-to-male transmission of HIV in Heterosexual Couples in India

8.1.5 The Roles of Viral Load and STDs in Heterosexual transmission of HIV in India

8.1.6 The Correlation between CD4 count and Viral load and the subsequent seroconversion among serodiscordant couples

8.1.7 The role of Viral load and CD4 count in Vertical Transmission of HIV

8.1.8 The impact of HIV on Partners, Families and Friends

8.1.9 The implications of Stigma and Discrimination for access to care and treatment, and its effect on health conditions of People Living with HIV/AIDS

8.1.10 Disclosure of HIV status of parents and its psychosocial impact on Children