

PREFACE

From the time HIV epidemic made its presence felt in the world it has manifested itself in terms of extremely volatile, diverse and devastating impacts on human populations. HIV/AIDS. Human Suffering of any kinds leaves a deep impact on a person. An insight into the everyday life of the people, who are living in HIV/AIDS, can ruffle ones innerscape and one begins to view life with greater depth and understanding than we generally tend to. The experience of this research has also transformed me as a person.

It looked like a formidable area of research which I knew would be difficult to probe. However, the research posed a challenge which I could not resist. Loss and death in the context of HIV/AIDS are a reality. The world has experienced loss and death to slavery, war, high infant mortality and fatal illnesses including, malaria, TB. Now HIV/AIDS have joined the killers. Apart from the many risk and personal risk of infection, widow shoulder another big burden of AIDS. One vast category of widows, struggling to survive across regions and cultures, who have been utterly neglected. Widows are young mothers and living with children. They carry triple burden-being positive and single, problem of looking after/ bringing up children and the problem from the point of views of status in society.

A series of interaction with affected widows has left indelible impressions on me, each deeply disturbing. This research enabled me to win the confidence of those who were waiting for the inevitable, but it also made me feel miserable, that there was nothing I could do for them except sharing their grief and sorrows. Anybody who enters the world of HIV positives should be sure of entering a blind alley, a tunnel at the end of

which there is no light. And in that darkness alone lies the message of this work.

The present study has been divided into a total of seven chapters. The chapter one gives an overview of the topic of the study related to HIV/AIDS. The chapter two is a review of literature related to HIV/AIDS in the general population and widow's incident. The chapter three describes methodology adopted to conduct the present study. The chapter four gives detailed about the research areas. The chapter five gives the detailed description of the profile/characteristics of the respondents. The chapter six is on the five case studies. The chapter seven gives a summary of the whole study and presents the emerging recommendations.

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