

Research on HIV/AIDS and International Migration

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Rationale

- Concern over the increasing mobility-related HIV/AIDS cases in Japan
- To produce policy recommendation and how the government of Japan could reduce mobility-related HIV/AIDS in Japan

The Main Research Areas

- Social-epidemiological research on migrant populations in Japan
- Epidemiological research on migration and HIV/AIDS in selected Southeast Asian countries
- Policy Analysis and policy recommendation

Migrants and HIV/AIDS

Migrants contributes to the spread of HIV/AIDS...?

- “empirical support” often questionable or lacking
- some studies have shown that migrants are not necessarily the “most high-risk” populations

Border Control and Testing

“evidence-base regarding the public health benefits of mandatory screening is unclear...” Coker (2003)

- Will screening on entry detect those with infection?
- Will screening achieve the desired public health objectives?

The Need for a Regional Approach - the European Experience -

- HIV/AIDS among the migrant populations is a serious issue
 - 46% increase in the rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections between 1997-2002
 - the largest increase was due to heterosexual transmission (+116%)
 - the increase in the heterosexual cases due largely to increase in cases diagnosed in heterosexuals originating from a “country with a generalised HIV epidemic” (Euro HIV 2003)

The Need for a Regional Approach - the European Experience -

- Advanced stage of regionalisation i.e. a long history of regional cooperation beyond economic and security alliance
 - 1984 Euro-HIV Surveillance
 - late 1980s-2005 EU Public Health Activities
 - 2004 EU HIV/AIDS Think Tank
 - 2004 Inter-service Group on HIV/AIDS in Europe
 - 2004 EU HIV/AIDS Task Force

The Problematisation of HIV/AIDS among the Migrant Populations and the Perceived Solutions

High HIV prevalence in the originating country, increasing the probability of potential migrants to be HIV-positive

Originating Country

Long-term aid (bilateral and multilateral) to assist the originating country reduce HIV prevalence

Migrating under high-risk environment, increasing their risk of infection



Educate and empower various migrant populations

Migrants arriving as vulnerable and socially and economically disadvantaged groups

Destination Country

Culturally appropriate information and support for migrant populations

From State-Centrism to New Regionalism

- The role of regional organisation and regional leadership
- The role of non-state actors e.g. NGOs, civil societies



Comprehensive response to the
total
system of migration

Conclusion

- There are several conceptual generalisations...
 - interventions that aim at accommodating, rather than diverting the population movement is more effective
 - interventions must be two-prolonged, targeting prospective migrants at their home countries, and migrants arriving at their destination countries

Conclusions II

- having a regional framework is crucial; administrative, legal and symbolic role
- involving non-state actors is crucial; “epistemic communities”, or the network of professionals