

Book Review

HIV-AIDS in India & Developing Countries
 by Dr. Yanamadala Murali Krishna, MD,
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Overview :

Dr. Yanamadala Murali Krishna's *HIV-AIDS in India & Developing Countries* offers an in-depth, authoritative examination of the HIV-AIDS epidemic, with a particular focus on the Indian subcontinent and other developing nations. The book carefully traces the origins, transmission, and global ramifications of the HIV virus while addressing the specific socio-economic challenges faced by these regions in combating the disease. Divided into comprehensive chapters, it delves into the medical, social, and political dimensions of HIV-AIDS and provides a roadmap for both understanding the disease and implementing effective interventions.

Book Structure and Content :

The book begins with a historical account of the origins of HIV, followed by a detailed exploration of the global impact of the disease, as highlighted in the early chapters. Chapters 1 to 4 set the stage by exploring the epidemiology and biological mechanisms of the virus, offering a global perspective on the HIV pandemic. Dr. Krishna's writing style is clear, concise, and devoid of unnecessary medical jargon, making it accessible to a wider audience, including policymakers, healthcare workers, and public health students.

One of the most compelling aspects of the book is the chapter on HIV-AIDS in India, where Dr. Krishna examines the unique trajectory of the disease within the subcontinent. This section not only emphasizes the high-risk groups and cultural factors influencing the spread of the disease but also highlights the significant progress India has made through its generics industry and global contributions to HIV treatment equity.

The author places great emphasis on prevention strategies and treatment protocols, particularly the section on Two-Drug Antiretroviral Therapy, which is a crucial read for healthcare professionals in resource-limited settings. In the Indian context, the narrative successfully addresses the cultural stigmatization of the disease and the lack of adequate healthcare infrastructure, making a strong case for global collaboration in both prevention and treatment efforts.

Highlights :

The chapters on HIV and Tuberculosis, HIV and Pregnancy, and the role of UNAIDS in coordinating a global response to AIDS are particularly noteworthy. Dr. Krishna carefully analyzes the co-infection of HIV and TB, an urgent issue in India and other developing nations, and outlines diagnostic approaches like the Tuberculin Response for better management of HIV-TB patients.

Moreover, the book dedicates a thoughtful chapter to HIV Cure Research and the promise of an AIDS vaccine, discussing the scientific, financial, and ethical challenges of vaccine development. The reader gains valuable insight into the global fight against AIDS, emphasizing how innovations in HIV treatment, including generic drug production in India, have substantially contributed to making antiretroviral therapy accessible to low-income countries.

The final chapters focus on women and children, a segment disproportionately affected by the AIDS epidemic, and explore the societal implications of living with HIV, including the fight for rights of those affected by the disease. The author advocates for a more robust legal and social framework to protect the rights and dignity of HIV-positive individuals.

Critical Evaluation :

One of the book's greatest strengths lies in its ability to weave together scientific information with

real-world applications. Dr. Krishna's deep understanding of the epidemiological and clinical aspects of HIV-AIDS is evident throughout, as is his concern for the socio-economic contexts that hinder effective treatment in developing countries. The section on Indian generics and global HIV treatment equity presents a balanced view of the complex global pharmaceutical landscape and India's critical role in ensuring access to life-saving medications at an affordable cost.

However, while the book is comprehensive in scope, it occasionally assumes a level of pre-existing knowledge that may alienate non-specialist readers. A more detailed glossary of medical terms or an expanded introduction to antiretroviral therapies could enhance accessibility for a broader audience.

Conclusion :

HIV-AIDS in India & Developing Countries is a meticulously researched and thoughtfully presented work that offers valuable insights into one of the most critical global health challenges of our time. Dr. Yanamadala Murali Krishna's book is not only a significant academic contribution but also an essential guide for policymakers and healthcare professionals involved in the global fight against HIV. Its particular emphasis on India and other developing nations fills a crucial gap in HIV literature, making it a must-read for anyone interested in global public health.

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