

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

INTRODUCTION TO DOCTORS' WIVES ASSOCIATION (DWA)-NEPAL

Dear Editor,

Doctors Wives Association (DWA) was initiated in the year 1984 by five enthusiastic active ladies (Wives of the eminent doctors of Nepal) interested to contribute their effort to improve the quality of life of the children and women of Nepal.

All the members of DWA are Doctors' Wives, but with different educational and experimental background. Most of them are housewives and some are working women who, apart from being involved in their own responsibilities, are keen to contribute their effort to bring in better world for the children and women of Nepal. Everybody is concerned to be involved to do something worthy for the people, specially women and children who are in need. As such, being the Doctors' Wives, the association has mostly engaged in health support activities -preventive, curative and rehabilitative – to relieve the ones in pain from pain.

DWA at present is running with the meager membership fees only and looking for sources of grants and funds to run the activities for handicapped children.

DWA will appreciate any support to help the children with disabilities to improve their quality of lives.

Doctors' Wives Association has been organizing free corrective surgical camp for the children with cleft- lip palate in different parts of Nepal since 1998. Such camps are jointly organized by Operation Unis Japan, Doctors' Wives Association, Local NGOs and concerned hospitals. Till date 307 children have been benefited by these camps.

DWA aims to improve the quality of life of women and children of the society. Driven by this aim the association has been

staging awareness creation on various issues related to children and women of Nepal such as HIV/AIDS, breast and uterus cancer. Reproductive health, safe motherhood and neo natal care, importance of breast feeding, legal provision for women, effects of child abuse in their psychological health etc.

Surya Kumari Shrestha

General Secretary

Doctors' Wives Association (DWA)

PREVENTING MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV

Dear Editor,

I read with great interest the article "Preventing Mother to Child Transmission of HIV"¹ by S. Sharma where the author has very clearly outlined the necessity of awareness amongst the health worker and rest of the people in the society about the potentially alarming situation due to HIV/AIDS.

The retrovirus produces significant morbidity and mortality by affecting host lymphocyte (CD4 helper Lymphocyte) depleting it severely and progressively resulting host susceptibility to infection (CD4count<100 cells/micro liter). There is a dramatic decline in the morbidity and mortality with the advent of highly active antiviral treatment (HAART)² that looks still far away from the reach of general population. Only limited number of patients are getting HAART from Teku hospital. In the absence of perinatal HIV prophylaxis, between 13% and 40% children born to HIV-infected mothers are infected with HIV.³

The risk of vertical transmission is higher with vaginal than cesarean delivery, higher among mothers with high viral-load and higher among those who breastfeed their children. Breastfeeding is thought to increase the rate of transmission by 10 to 20%.³ It is sad to know that some doctors TUTH ask