

CERTIFICATE

It gives me immense pleasure in certifying that the thesis entitled “**Legal Awareness Study on Legal Rights of HIV/AIDS Victims in North Gujarat**” submitted by **Anantkumar Rameshchandra Upadhyay** is based on research work conducted under my guidance. She has completed the following requirements as per PhD regulations of the University:

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DECLARATION

I, **Mr. Anantkumar Rameshchandra Upadhyay, S/o of Shri RameshChandra Bahi, resident of Vivekanand Society, Arvalli, Modasa -383315 (Gujarat)**, hereby declare that, the research work incorporated in the present thesis titled as **Legal Awareness Study on Legal Rights of HIV/AIDS Victims in North Gujarat** is my own original. work and is completely authentic. This work has not been submitted in any other university for the award of any diploma or degree. I have accurately acknowledged the material collected from the primary as well as secondary sources as per required. I solely bear the responsibility for the originality of the entire content.

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PREFACE

In the vast landscape of human rights, certain groups face unique challenges and vulnerabilities that demand specific attention and advocacy. Among these groups, individuals living with HIV/AIDS stand out not only for the physical and health-related burdens they endure but also for the social stigma and legal discrimination they often face.

The Legal Awareness Study on Legal Rights of HIV/AIDS Victims in North Gujarat delves into the complex intersection of legal rights, societal attitudes, and state interventions concerning individuals affected by HIV/AIDS in the region. With a focus on North Gujarat, this study seeks to shed light on the legal landscape and state-mediated awareness programs while examining the role of law in protecting HIV-positive individuals from discrimination.

The introduction highlights the significance of intelligence in distinguishing humans from other animals and acknowledges the continuous process of discovery through research. It emphasizes the importance of legal research, particularly in addressing issues related to HIV/AIDS, a global health concern. Stigmatization and discrimination against individuals with HIV/AIDS are discussed as prevalent societal challenges.

The rationale of the study is explained, focusing on the need to understand discriminatory attitudes towards HIV/AIDS victims. The study aims to assess societal awareness and perceptions related to HIV/AIDS, drawing insights from various stakeholders such as counselors, healthcare professionals, and NGOs. The importance of knowledge in shaping discriminatory attitudes is underscored, and national surveys revealing misconceptions about HIV/AIDS are cited.

The scope of the study encompasses descriptive data collection on discrimination against HIV/AIDS victims, human rights perceptions, and societal variables affecting these perceptions. It aims to investigate the role of family and society in treatment, challenges faced by patients, and awareness levels among

different stakeholders. Qualitative data will be collected through interviews with respondents from four districts in Gujarat, including healthcare workers, patients, and their families, with a focus on understanding support systems crucial for recovery and treatment.

Overall, the study seeks to shed light on the legal rights and societal perceptions of HIV/AIDS victims in North Gujarat, aiming to contribute to interventions and programmatic responses to combat discrimination and improve awareness. Critically Assess Legal Rights and State-mediated HIV/AIDS Awareness Programs: This study aims to critically evaluate the legal rights afforded to individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Gujarat. It will also examine the effectiveness of state-mediated awareness programs in disseminating accurate information and dispelling myths surrounding HIV/AIDS.

Examine the Role of Law in Protecting Against Discriminatory Behaviour: By analyzing existing legal frameworks and case studies, this study seeks to understand the extent to which the law serves as a protective mechanism against discriminatory behavior directed at HIV-positive individuals. It will explore legal avenues available to victims of discrimination and assess their efficacy in ensuring justice and equality.

Understand Society's Perspectives Regarding HIV/AIDS: Through surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions, this study aims to gain insights into societal attitudes, perceptions, and stereotypes regarding HIV/AIDS in North Gujarat. By exploring public perceptions, the study seeks to identify gaps in awareness and address misconceptions that contribute to stigma and discrimination.

Examine Discriminatory Behaviour Towards HIV-positive Individuals: This study will investigate the prevalence and nature of discriminatory behaviour experienced by HIV-positive individuals in North Gujarat. It will explore instances of discrimination in various settings, including healthcare, employment, education, and community interactions, to identify patterns and underlying factors driving such behaviour.

There is no significant relationship between HIV patients and their awareness towards legal rights: This hypothesis posits that awareness levels among HIV-positive individuals regarding their legal rights are not correlated with their HIV status. The study will examine factors influencing awareness levels and assess the effectiveness of legal education initiatives targeting this population.

The role of law to protect the legal rights of patients with HIV is not significant: This hypothesis questions the effectiveness of legal mechanisms in safeguarding the rights of HIV-positive individuals. Through legal analysis and case studies, the study will evaluate the impact of existing laws and policies in addressing discrimination and ensuring access to healthcare, employment, and social services for HIV/AIDS victims.

In undertaking this study, we hope to contribute valuable insights to the ongoing discourse on HIV/AIDS rights and advocacy efforts in Gujarat. By addressing legal gaps, challenging societal norms, and advocating for policy reforms, we aim to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for individuals living with HIV/AIDS in North Gujarat and beyond.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATIONS	FULL FORM
ABAD N.P.	Ahmedabad District Network of Positive People
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
CBO	Community-based Organization
CCC	Community Care Centres
CHC	Community Health Centre
CMIS	Computerized Management Information System
CST	Care, Support and Treatment
CSWE	Council on Social Work Education
ESID	Employees State Insurance Department
FSW	Female Sex Workers
GCERT	Gujarat Council of Educational Research and Training
(GNP+) HIV	Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS -positive
GSACS	Gujarat State AIDS Control Society
G.S.N.P.	Gujarat state network of people living with HIV/AIDS
HCP	Health Care Provider
HCW	Health Care Worker
HELP	Health Education and Life-skill Programme
HFWD	Health and Family Welfare Department
HIPPOO	Hidden Investable Potential Power of Organization
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRG	High-Risk Group

ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
ICTC	Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre
IDU	Injected Drug Users/ Injectors Drug
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IFSW	International Federation of Social Workers
IGOs	Intergovernmental organizations
ILO	International Labor Organization
INFOSEM	Integrated Network for Sexual Minorities
IPC	Indian Penal Code
LAC	Link ART Centre
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
LWS	Link Worker Scheme
MSM	Men who Have Sex with Men
NACO	National AIDS Control Organization
NACP	National AIDS Control Program
NAPCP	National Aids Prevention and Control Policy
NASW	National Association of Social Workers
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
NIHAR	Network of Indian Institutions for HIV/AIDS Research
PHC	Primary Health Centre
PIL	Public Interest Litigation
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PSI	Population Service International
SAC	State AIDS Cell

SACS	State AIDS Control Society
SBPs	Strengths-based Practices
SC	Supreme Court
SCC	State Coordination Committee
SHG	Self Help Group
SIMS	Strategic Information Management System
SIMU	Strategic Information Management Unit
STD	Sexual Transmitted Disease
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TB	Tuberculosis
TI	Targeted Intervention
TV	Television
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNO	United Nations Organization
VKMC	Vatsyayan Kendra & Mamta Clinic
WHO	World Health Organization