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Debates on Intervention Review of HIV/AIDS Related Studies: Perspectives from Anthropology

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ABSTRACT From 1981 to 2007; history of HIV/AIDS has witnessed thousands of documentation. There are stories on origin, molecular genetics of the virus to extensive national surveys reviewing state of the epidemic in various nation-states across the globe. Every reputed Journal or research publication in medicine, epidemiology, social medicine and community health, social sciences in particular anthropology and psychology, publish regularly on the subject. This review articles examines publications from two important journals namely *The Lancet* and *Annual Review of Anthropology*. Locating our arguments in a multidisciplinary framework, the paper dwells on a position that the disciplines which have theoretical and methodological skills to help in strategizing control of the virus are caught in a myriad of disciplinary hierarchies. It is not only that various segments of the population in HIV management programmes are marginalized, while structuring a paradigm of 'risk behaviour'; but also in a 'systems approach', significant anthropological data bank and subject skills are ignored or pushed to the periphery. It is time that the National AIDS control organization in India and other planning instruments of the Government machinery recognize and utilize all resources available to meet the challenge of the pandemic. We are convinced that the effective control is feasible only when the political leadership understands the dynamics of the spread of the virus. It is not only subject to individual behaviour but processes of political and economic control. The cultural construction of social realities, in which individuals function, is critical to the understanding of the larger dimensions of the epidemic/pandemic.