

**ISSUES OF CHILDREN  
IN  
JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

**AN INTRODUCTION**

*Editors:*

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## EXPERIENCES OF CHILDREN LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IN KASHMIR

– Sabah Jan, Shazia Manzoor & Saima Farhad

### Abstract:

HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that targets and alters the immune system, increasing the risk and impact of other infections and diseases. It is a lifelong infection. Without proper treatment, the infection might progress to an advanced disease stage called AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency syndrome). Since HIV is a condition that is often acquired through deliberate behaviour, many consider PLHA (people living with HIV/AIDS) personally responsible for having HIV and view HIV as due justice for reckless or immoral behaviour. HIV/AIDS can also affect children's normal childhood. Children from families living with HIV/AIDS often have to deal with psychosocial stress, an ill caregiver, reducing parenting capacity, a shift in family structure, financial deprivation, and stigma and discrimination. These challenges can lead to emotional and behavioral changes in children, such as lepression and delinquency. Sometimes children from HIV/AIDS families find it difficult to understand the reason why people treat them badly. They feel different and isolated from other children leading to other social and behavioral problems. Children from such families have to suffer from financial insecurity all their lives. Usually parents of such families are often ill, find it difficult to work or concentrate on their children's health, education and other leisure activities. The children who are themselves HIV positive are not able to make people understand the reason of their illness. Usually their

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