

Discussion Guide Questions for Multimedia Presentation about HIV/AIDS

Anticipatory Questions (*Before the presentation, have students answer these questions on notebook paper without revealing their answers. The answers below are for your reference:*)

1. How many people are affected by the global AIDS pandemic? (Remind the students that there are 6.4 billion people in the world.)

Answer: Over 40 million people

2. Where do most cases of HIV/AIDS occur in the world?

Answer: 95 % occur in the developing world

3. What's your definition of a *developing* country?

Answer: Developing countries are those in which the money and other resources needed to industrialize and/or develop are lacking in relation to other countries.

4. What does HIV stand for and how does it affect the human body?

Answer: HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. The virus multiplies in people's living cells, making them highly susceptible to disease. When people are HIV positive, they have the virus in their cells that eventually causes AIDS.

5. What does AIDS stand for and how does it affect the human body?

Answer: AIDS is Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. Once an HIV positive person contracts multiple illnesses due to the body's weakened immune system, then that person has developed AIDS. There is no cure for AIDS, and once it has been diagnosed, it severely impacts a person's ability to live a normal life.

Post-Presentation Questions:

1. Ask for any initial feedback (reactions, questions, etc.).

2. Discuss the connection between HIV/AIDS and poverty.

a.) Why are the same people suffering from both?

Answer example: HIV/AIDS takes a heavier toll on people in developing countries because they have the least access to education and treatment. Of all people living with HIV/AIDS in the developing world, less than 10% have access to ARVs because they are expensive and

often inaccessible due to patents. Even the least expensive antiretroviral medication can cost approximately \$3 per day.

As a result of higher HIV/AIDS related deaths among adults between age 20 and 49—their most productive economic period—the economy in many highly affected countries declines. With so many people unable to produce, there is less money to fund government services such as education and health care.

When a government has less money, it needs to cut programs. Most often, the programs that are cut are in the education and public health sectors. With fewer education and health care programs, HIV/AIDS prevalence grows, and the vicious cycle continues.

b.) Discuss ways that the cycle of AIDS and poverty can be broken.

3. What are some strategies to help fight the spread of HIV/AIDS other than the ones NetAid has presented?

Answer example: Organize an HIV/AIDS educational program for youth in order to prevent future generations from suffering from its effects.

4. What are some personal actions that you can take in the fight against global HIV/AIDS?

5. Ask your class to come up with examples of how to provide people infected with HIV/AIDS access to the necessary medication.

Answer example: In Brazil, the government has produced generic versions of the Antiretroviral Therapy medication, which has allowed everyone, regardless of his or her ability to pay, to receive free medication. This has made a tremendous impact on Brazil's ability to treat many of its citizens and prevent the HIV/AIDS pandemic from having as devastating an impact on its society as in many other countries.

Answer example: At childbirth, mother to child transmission from an HIV positive mother to her child is one way that HIV/AIDS is transmitted. Nevirapine is a medicine that costs only a few dollars, and when administered at childbirth, significantly reduces the chance that the newborn child will be HIV positive. In India, this treatment costs \$2 and can cut in half the risk of a child being born HIV positive.

6. How does the story of Natasha in Zambia demonstrate the potential for education and treatment to overcome the hardships caused by the global AIDS pandemic?

Answer: Although there is no cure for AIDS, the disease is treatable and preventable. The only obstacle is getting the proper education and treatment to those most vulnerable to the pandemic. HIV/AIDS awareness programs have been highly effective in curtailing the spread of the disease and preventing stigma and discrimination by getting the word out about the facts and myths regarding HIV/AIDS.