

**Refugees and immigrants with HIV/AIDS in North America:
Stigma, discriminations and vulnerabilities
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Abstract

Of the total number of refugees and immigrants accepted into North America (especially in Canada) every year, around half originate from Asia. South Asia has been facing an HIV pandemic, and an estimated six million people have been infected and at least 60 percent of HIV+ people in Asia live in India alone. In Canada until 2012, 69,844 cases tested positive for HIV. The numbers who are HIV+ entering Canada from South Asia may be substantial. At present, however, little is known empirically or even anecdotally about the extent of this risk and its impact on health.

This research attempts to assess the perceptions of South Asians in Canada towards HIV and AIDS, and ascertain the prevention and treatment services that they are aware of, accessing, including community based care and the Canadian public system. At a bigger scale, this research seeks to identify the ways in which immigrants and refugees/refugee claimants who are HIV+ from South Asia are vulnerable to discrimination in Canada because of the factors which include but are not limited to: (1) lack of information about HIV/AIDS incidence in the community (2) inability of the Canadian health system to respond appropriately with the lack of information (3) the community's need for introspection on their own health issues. This research offers to generate new knowledge; and policy recommendations about South Asian refugees and immigrants who are HIV+ in Canada. This research has crucial policy implications in Canada and in Asia.



BIO

AKM Ahsan Ullah, Associate Professor at the UBD taught theories of migration, sociology of migration, development and HIV/AIDS at the American University in Cairo (AUC), the Saint Mary's University, Canada; City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. He has extensively contributed to national and international refereed journals. He contributed at least 35 chapters in a number of books and published 15 books. He worked for national and international development and research organization in various capacities. He worked in Africa, Middle east, North America, Europe and Asia.