HIV/AIDS Related Discrimination in Health Care Service: a Cross-sectional Study in Gejiu City, Yunnan Province

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Objectives To investigate discrimination against people living with HIV (PLWH) and its impacts. Methods Forty people who were either HIV positive (7/40) or had high risk behavior (33/40) were interviewed. Focus group discussion was held in the interview with people who were suspected to be infected with HIV, and in-depth interview was conducted in the survey of HIV positive persons whose privacy was strictly protected to ensure the confidentiality of the collected information. Results It was identified that six forms of discrimination against people living with HIV occurred in health care service in Gejiu, including speaking to patients in an insulting manner, refusing to provide health care service, delaying treatment, treating differently, uncovering patients’ privacy, and over-protecting themselves against patients. Discrimination against people living with HIV greatly affected their health conditions. Conclusions Discrimination against people living with HIV in health service has negative impact on their physical and mental health.

Key words: HIV/AIDS; Discrimination; Health care service; Gejiu

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The research is based on the qualitative data of the project “To ensure female clients’ rights (people living with HIV/AIDS, PLWHA) or who are suspected to be PLWHA) in access to reproductive health services through curtailing the stigma and discrimination in the services in Gejiu City, Yunnan” (Reference No. DDH 2004/20(087-455)) financed by a grant from the European Union to the Institute of Health and Development, Kunming Medical College. We thank all of the interviewees as well as the Gejiu Health Bureau for their supports and cooperation.

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(Received January 30, 2007 Accepted November 20, 2007)