



Questions and Answers (Economic Impacts)

Q. How does HIV/AIDS have an economic impact?

A. The amount of human capital that the world has is decreasing because of the massive amount of people dying and become sick due to HIV/AIDS. The economy is not only being affected by the deaths but also the millions who are sick and unable to work. HIV/AIDS is mostly affecting the age group typically of working age and thus is having a doubly negative effect on the economy. The pandemic is already have negative impacts on national economies and is predicted have a greater negative impact as millions of orphans are being left behind in the wake of HIV/AIDS.

Q. And in our houses?

A. HIV/AIDS is greatly affecting the economy a whole, and also individual households as they have decreased financial capacity. Adding to this, when members of the family become sick finances are directed to their treatment and often members of the family are needed to stay home for care and support. Due to the decreases in capacity and funds the family as a whole suffers and nutritional requirements are not met. In nations with prevalence levels higher than ten percent the national life expectancy is beginning to decrease due to the affect of HIV/AIDS.

Q. Is it not only the uneducated being affected?

A. No. Everywhere the skilled and educated classes are also being infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Relating to this is another problem, the loss of skilled labor. Those with an education are also becoming sick and the population able to provide skilled labor is becoming much smaller. All of this will lead to lower productivity in the future, again having negative impacts for entire national economies. As mentioned above, it is generally the working age people who are being affected and this is also affecting national governments ability to finance new projects as their taxable population is diminishing and becoming unable to work.

Q. Are we now hopeless?

A. In fact, this makes things more urgent for action now. If we wait and do nothing, this problem will only increase and further degrade economies. But, if we act now providing education, prevention methods, care, treatment, and support, we can help turn the wave of HIV/AIDS back and begin to recover the losses of our economy. The current effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its current trends shows us both that it is not hopeless and that our individual action is in great need now more than ever.