

Impact of HIV/AIDS on the Elderly with Adult Children Infected with AIDS in Dehong, Yunnan, China

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October 2012

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Background

Most recently research on the AIDS epidemic has focused on persons who are infected by HIV in globally. However, the impact on elderly whose adult children living with AIDS has received less attention until 1990s. The impact of the epidemic extends not only infected with the virus but also affect their family members, emotionally, economically, socially, and physically. The elderly parent living with AIDS adult children not only loses the support of their adult children, but also increasingly takes on additional familial responsibilities with potentially adverse effects for their own well-being.

Dehong is located in south part of Yunnan, China, boarding area near Myanmar and more than twenty ethnic groups are living together to share the multicultural and subtropical environment. Although Dehong is the one of areas stricken by high rates of HIV/AIDS in China, little is known about the elders who care for their HIV+ adult children in such ethnic groups, there is even less information regarding the well-being, socioeconomic, and emotional stress of elderly parents in the role of caregiver.

Significance

The overarching goal this study is to advance an empirically grounded understanding of how the AIDS epidemic directly and indirectly affects

older persons (defined as 50 and above) in a developing country setting, and to advance the strategies to coping the stress and to achieve this understanding.

Dehong County is the high epidemic of HIV disease in Yunnan of China. Intravenous drug users and HIV infections were first identified amongst national minorities in Dehong. This study was employ qualitative interview of design to explore how older persons themselves may be put at risk of contracting HIV and AIDS, the main interest is on the various indirect impacts on elderly person associated with the infection of their adult children. Indirect impact include economic opportunity costs associated with care giving to infected children, potential loss of old age support from infected adult children, and health related effects such as physical health problem and emotional stress and community reaction.

Subject Population

The study site was selected in Dehong and was based on four criteria: a high HIV/AIDS prevalence, border location, minority nationality groups, and established links with the local CDC.

Sublet inclusion and exclusion:

Interview subject was the adult parent who taken care of an HIV/AIDS infected adult children (son/son-in-law) and daughter/daughter-in-law) with the ago over age 45 years old. Subjects were recruited with the assistance of the local Dehong CDC AIDS registration office.

1) Elderly who is caring for an adult child with AIDS currently or whose child died of AIDS and currently. 2) Age >45; 3) able and willing to give consent; 4) actively provided the care

Confidentiality interview procedure

There are some strategies was made participants felt confident to take the interview, we made phone call to subject and set an appointment conducted in comfortable place and timing.

The respondents were also informed that subject could refuse to answer any question or leave the interview at any time when their felt uncomfortable. All identifiable information such as name and location was seal and destroyed soon after the data collection. Photo was allowed to take by two interview subjects. Having a videotape in this study is very useful to collect the information in this study to collected elderly living with difficulties situation explanation and family relationships characterize. It is important to give participants sufficient time to carefully weigh the risks and benefits of participating but the videotape was permitted before interview on the team communication and coordination issues.

21 subjects were interviewed and they were 13 females and 8 males. Subjects age between 75 and 35 years old and average age are 62.5 years old.

They were 14 city resident retirement and 7 were farm worker and without the regular income, the relationship between interviewee and interviewer were father child relationships and one was an aunt-nephew relationship .

The interview was finished but in data reduction and translate process, here some pictures of my research and setting environment share with you.

The Picture of DeHong Temple



The Street of DeHong City



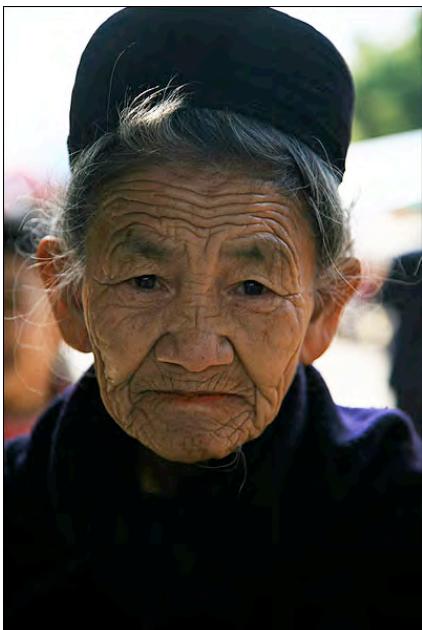
The Ruili Port Control Point



Back From the Fair



The Old Mother of Dai



Farmers Market



Sell Family's Farm Products



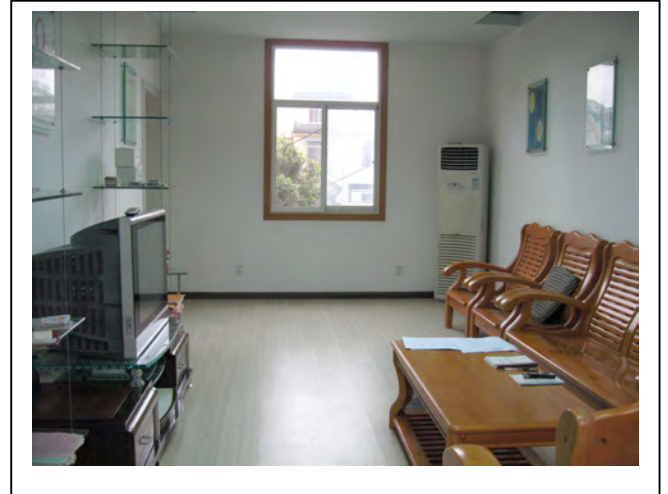
Pilot Study and Interview Process Discussed in DeHong



Collaborator Explain and Invite Subject to Join the Research



Interview House



Interview Environment (Garden)



Interviewer



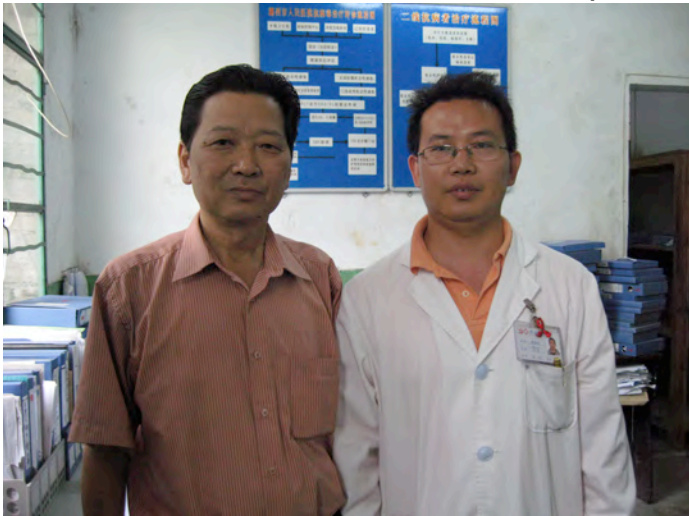
Confidentiality interview procedure



Nephew (orphan and infected) and his Aunt and Her Daughter



Collaborator of Local CDC and Hospital Staff



Red Ribbon Volunteer



Grandmother and Grandson

