

Orientation session with the Religious Leaders

The National AIDS Control Programme, Ministry of Health has conducted an advocacy session with the religious leaders, scholar, learned person, Sermon deliverer, Mudaris (teaching faculty) and social counselors to celebrate World AIDS Day 2009 i. e. 1st December 2009 on 23rd November 2009. The session was chaired by Dr. Hasan Abbas Zaheer, National Programme Manager, National AIDS Control Programme. Dr. Hasan Abbas Zaheer highlighted the role of religious leaders in prevention and control of HIV & AIDS. He said, religious leaders play an important role in the lives of the people across the world and the Pakistan is no exception to it. In-fact religion and the religious leaders in Pakistan have strong socio-religious and political influence on the community members across the country. They talk very; often on social issues, such as marriage, divorce, current socio economic issues and rights of the poor and the needy. The commonly used communication channels are sermons, lectures in religious institutions and on mass media and individual counseling. He further added, that they can play important and effective role in the dissemination of information in our social cultural context.



Dr. Hasan Abbas Zaheer, National Programme Manager, National AIDS Control Programme. Dr. Hasan Abbas Zaheer highlighted the role of religious leaders in prevention and control of HIV & AIDS. He said, religious leaders play an important role in the lives of the people across the world and the Pakistan is no exception to it. In-fact religion and the religious leaders in Pakistan have strong socio-religious and political influence on the community members across the country. They talk very; often on social issues, such as marriage, divorce, current socio economic issues and rights of the poor and the needy. The commonly used communication channels are sermons, lectures in religious institutions and on mass media and individual counseling. He further added, that they can play important and effective role in the dissemination of information in our social cultural context.

Religious leaders and scholars also showed their interest during their speeches that they are ready; to help in creating awareness about HIV & AIDS amongst the masses.