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Sommario/riassunto

At a time when the number of people, and in particular women, living with HIV/AIDS in India is increasing, the aim of this publication is to contribute to the understanding of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) and of its prevention. Indian and French specialists (medical practitioners, social scientists, activists) have been brought together to elucidate different aspects of this transmission and its possible prevention. Due to the numerous factors involved in the risks of transmission, and the social and cultural complexity of maternity in India, all these contributions show the necessity of initiating and conducting research in the fields of the social sciences. Considerations as to the need of research are formulated which can be of interest to the whole domain of social sciences. These proposals - mainly perceived in the areas of social anthropology or psychology - are exploring the links between the social and cultural settings and the risks of transmission from the mother to the child in taking into account all the parameters of the ongoing prevention made by the public and private sectors. The three routes of transmission pregnancy, delivery and breastfeeding - are analysed here as practices embedded to maternity and on the perception of risks of transmission, and on possibilities of prevention. And this exploration shows that in fact these topics reveal a large part of the functioning of contemporary dynamics of the Indian society. This proposal could therefore be enlarged and adapted to such different disciplines as economy, demography, law, geography, history or sociology in combination with public health and epidemiology. These perspectives are an invitation to develop further research in each discipline, but also to develop multidisciplinarity, interdisciplinarity, or transdisciplinarity. In the context of the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India, MTCT is seen to be increasingly crucial. Because this subject has only recently begun to emerge...