Abstract:
Drug abuse and addiction have been linked with HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic. Globally, around 16 million people inject drugs and 3 million of them are living with HIV. On average, one of every 10 new HIV infections is caused by injecting drug use. Drug injectors account for 1.7% of India’s HIV infections up from 0.9% two years ago. Prescription drugs like the opiate pethidine have replaced cannabis and heroin as the drugs of choice among young people in India. The cheap, and easily accessible, Amphetamine-Type Stumulants (ATS) are the second most abused drugs worldwide. HIV-infected substance users have benefited less than other patients from advances in HIV treatment because of the challenges involved in navigating and sustaining engagement with the often complex system of medical care delivery. This paper high-lightens the growing incidence of substance abuse and compliance with the ever challenging antiretroviral therapy (ARV).