
A Descriptive Study to Assess the Knowledge of HIV/AIDS among Adolescents of Selected Schools of Urban Area of City Jalandhar, Punjab

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ABSTRACT

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infects people worldwide and results in the destruction of the body's host defences and immune system. By 1999, HIV infected more than 47 million people throughout the world, with an estimated 6 million people newly infected each year. A descriptive study was conducted to assess the knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among the adolescents of selected schools of urban area at Jalandhar city. The aim of study was to assess the knowledge of adolescents of selected schools of urban area at Jalandhar city regarding HIV/AIDS. The objectives of the study were to assess the knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among adolescents of selected schools of urban area and to find out association between knowledge of adolescents regarding HIV/AIDS with selected demographic variables. Sample size was 100 (50 from 11th class and 50 from 12th class) and convenient sampling technique was used. A self structured multiple choice questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge of adolescents regarding HIV/AIDS. Results showed that 85% of respondents had average knowledge, 15% of respondents had good knowledge and no one fall under poor knowledge.

Keywords: *HIV/AIDS, Adolescents, Demographic Variables.*

INTRODUCTION

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infects people worldwide and results in the destruction of the body's host defences and immune system. By 1999, HIV infected more than 47 million people throughout the world, with an estimated 6 million people newly infected each year. HIV/AIDS is a serious global problem at present. It has no medicine or vaccine, so the emphasis lies in preventing spread of the infection. The other name of the AIDS is "Sims Disease".

In 2015, prevalence of HIV in India was 0.26%. This figure is small compared to most other countries because India's has huge population 2.1 million people living with HIV. In the same year, it is an

estimated that 68,000 people died from AIDS related disease. HIV epidemic in India is driven by heterosexual sex, which accounted for 87% of new infections in 2015.

Adolescent is the stage of try out new thing and risk that includes early sexual debut, sexual harassment and violence, trafficking, and substance abuse. Along with these, other factors such as the lack of knowledge about AIDS/HIV, unreachable to healthcare services and treatment, lack of education and life skills, and early marriage have increased their risk to HIV/AIDS.

Since, adolescents constitutes a major part of reproductive group, they are likely to

play an important role in determining the future growth pattern of India's population and economy. Thus, it is critical that investment in terms of finances, research, and developmental policies be done to improve their well being. So, researcher wanted to assess the knowledge of adolescents regarding HIV/AIDS.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To assess the knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among adolescents of selected schools of urban area.
- 2) To find out association between knowledge of adolescents regarding HIV/AIDS with selected demographic variables.

DESCRIPTION OF TOOL

The tool was divided into 2 sections:

Section 1: Socio Demographic Variables

It consists of age, gender, class, parent's education, parent's occupation, heard about HIV/AIDS, any seminar attended by adolescent.

Section 2: Self Structured Questionnaire related to Knowledge of HIV/AIDS

It consist of 30 multiple choice questions to assess the knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS such as definition, causes, incubation period, stages of AIDS, complication, prevention of AIDS. Each multiple choice question having one correct answer. Each correct answer carries 1mark and wrong answer carry 00 marks. The criterion measure for knowledge score was good (21-30), average (11-20) and poor (1-10).

RESULTS

Table 1 Knowledge of Adolescents regarding HIV/AIDS

Knowledge level	Score	Percentage
Good	21-30	15%
Average	11-20	85%
Poor	0-10	0%

Results showed that 85% of respondents had average knowledge, 15% of respondents had good knowledge and no one fall under poor knowledge.

CONCLUSION

The majority of adolescents had average knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS. Therefore further studies should be carried out to enhance the knowledge of adolescents.

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