



A Study to Assess the Knowledge on Prevention of AIDS among Early Adolescence at Selected School, Thrissur

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ABSTRACT

A non-experimental, descriptive study was carried out to assess the level of knowledge on prevention of AIDS among early adolescence. Sample size for the present study; consist of 60 students from the 8th and 9th standard. Simple random sampling technique was adopted for the selection of samples .The tool was prepared by reviewing the literature. The present study reveals that majority of samples, nobody having very good knowledge,30% had good knowledge, 30% had poor knowledge and 70% had good knowledge regarding prevention of AIDS. The study also revealed that there was significant association between the level of knowledge on prevention of AIDS and gender of samples.

KEYWORDS

AIDS, Early Adolescence

INTRODUCTION

The Human Immune deficiency Virus (HIV) infects people worldwide and results in destruction of the body's host defenses and immune system. For many years, because of our lack of understanding and effective treatment, HIV has considered a rapidly progressing fatal disease .Today HIV infection is viewed more optimistically as a chronic disease that can be controlled with appropriate health care.¹

Early adolescence is the period of development characterized by biological, cognitive, emotional and social reorganization with the ultimate goal of adapting to the cultural expectation of becoming a adult. It is also a development

period associated with sexual debut as well as risk taking practices.

Adolescence is in stage of experimentation and exploration and in search of their sexual identity. The use of alcohol and other drugs enhances sexual and performances increments impulsive risk decision making and may function as stimulus for sensation seeking. These factors may synergistically increase the probability of unsafe sexual practices and elicit drug use (National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism 2004).Despite HIV prevention efforts during the past decade, teenagers represent on of the fastest growing group of newly HIV infected person. Sexual transmission accounts for most causes of HIV during adolescence.



The physiological, psychological and socio cultural changes that take place during the adolescence period places this group of young individual at higher level of risk to get infected with HIV. These factors contribute to the increment of newly acquired HIV infection seen among adolescence. In 2013 AIDS Alliance reported that India has 1.4 million HIV positive people. It is estimated that out of these 61% are male, 39% are female and 35% are children. As of 2009 the adult prevalence is believed to be 0.13%. Despite the huge number, the prevalence of HIV is low when compared to today population. On the other hand, HIV epidemic regions like South Africa have over 5million cases with a prevalence of 18 in adults.⁴

In general the adolescence population is the vulnerable age group at risk of acquiring the HIV virus .The world health organization recommended that the young children and adolescence as potential resources for spreading message for HIV/AIDS for its prevention. A lack of HIV/AIDS knowledge and inaccurate information are a factor that leads to infection with HIV. Thus there is a need for conducting a study among adolescence to assess their knowledge on

prevention of AIDS. So the researcher conducted a study to assess the knowledge on prevention of AIDS among early adolescence.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

A study to assess the knowledge on prevention of AIDS among early adolescence in a selected school, Thrissur

.Objectives

- To assess the knowledge on early adolescence on prevention of AIDS
- To associate the knowledge of early adolescence on prevention of AIDS with selected demographic variables.

Hypothesis

H₀: There is no association between the knowledge of early adolescence regarding prevention of AIDS with selected demographic variables.

Methodology

It was school based descriptive and non-experimental study that was carried out among the 8th and 9th standard students of A.K.M Higher Secondary School, Poochatty, Thrissur. A sample comprising of 60 students were taken up for the study. Simple random sampling technique was



adopted for the selection of samples .The tool was prepared by reviewing literature.

Research design

Research design used for the study is non-experimental and descriptive.

Variables

Demographic variables: Demographic variables are gender, religion, place of residents, monthly income, educational status of father and mother, number of siblings and any past knowledge regarding AIDS.

Research setting

The study was conducted in A.K.M Higher Secondary School, Poochatty,Thrissur.

Population

In this study the population is comprised of early adolescence.

Sample

The sample of the study consists of 60 students from 8th and 9th standard.

Development of tool

The instrument was prepared and modified by reviewing literature.

Description of tool: The research tool consist of 2 sections

Part 1: Consist of selected demographic variables

Part 2 : Consist of structured knowledge questionnaire

Validity of tool: The tool was validated by experts from the field of nursing for the adequacy of content and based on expert's suggestion , the tool got its final form.

Procedure for data collection: The total duration of data collection is 1 week. Before starting the study the researchers obtained prior permission from the authority of particular school. The investigator collect the data by administering structured questionnaire after selecting sampling technique was given to the sample.30 minutes were given for each subject to complete the questionnaire All the samples were given the questionnaire at the same time.

Plan for data analysis: The collected data were analyzed by both descriptive statistics an inferential statistics.

- Descriptive statistics was used to analyse the demographic data and level of knowledge by using frequency table and mean.
- Inferential statistics (chi-square test) was used to check the association between the knowledge levels of the nursing students.



FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Out of 60 samples, nobody is having very good knowledge, 30% of students having poor knowledge and 70% of students having good knowledge regarding prevention of AIDS. The study also revealed that there was significant association between the level of knowledge on prevention of AIDS and gender of samples.

As it is observed from the above table out of 60 samples, nobody is having very good

knowledge, 30% of students having poor knowledge and 70% of students having good knowledge regarding prevention of AIDS.

Table 1 Level of knowledge on prevention of AIDS

Level of knowledge	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Poor knowledge	18	30
Good knowledge	42	72
Very good knowledge	-	-

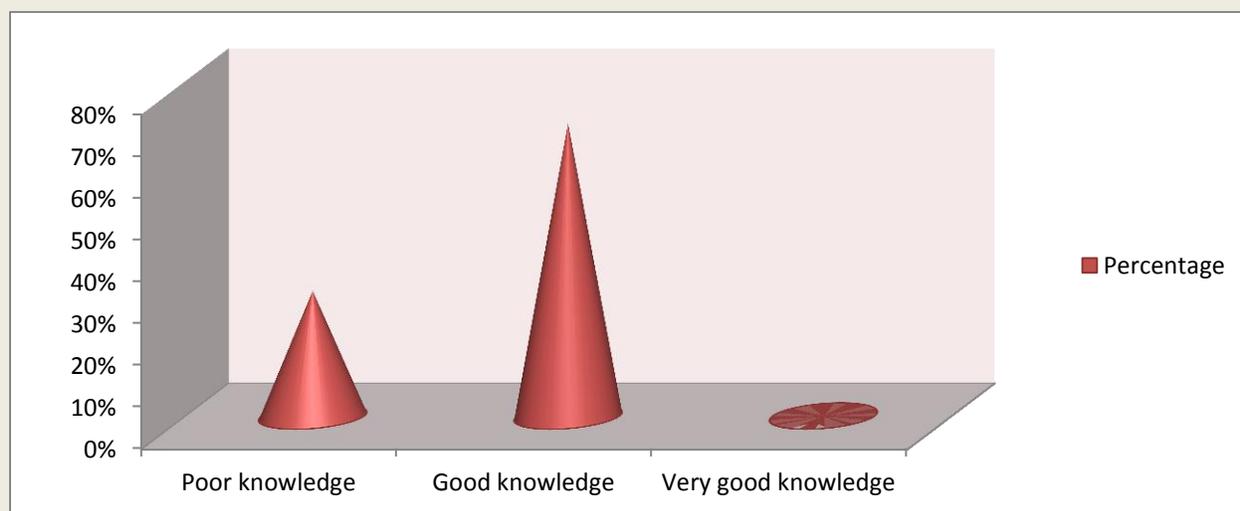


Fig: 1 Percentage distribution of early adolescence according to their level of knowledge

Table 2 Associations between the level of knowledge on prevention of AIDS and gender of sample

Level of knowledge	Gender		Chi square
	Male	Female	
Poor knowledge	14	4	11.835
Good knowledge	19	23	
Total	33	27	



The data presented in the table shows that chi square value (11.835) is greater than table value (3.841). Therefore there is association between the level of knowledge on prevention of AIDS and gender of samples. So the hypothesis is rejected.

CONCLUSION

The study shows that up to 60 sample 70% have good knowledge, 30% have poor knowledge and no one have very good knowledge. The result of the study also shows that there is association between knowledge and gender. The study proves that the students need to update their knowledge regarding prevention of AIDS which inventing day by day. The curriculums also give importance to education regarding prevention of AIDS its common causes, symptoms, management and treatments.



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