



A STUDY ON HIV AWARENESS AMONG YOUTH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COLLEGE STUDENTS IN MYSORE CITY

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Abstract

Knowledge about the spread of HIV and safe sexual practices has a critical impact on the prevention of AIDS. More than one third of reported cases of HIV/AIDS in India are among youth and 60 percent of these reside in rural areas. Assessment of the awareness of HIV/AIDS in the youth is important for determining the impact of previous and current awareness programmes as well as the need for intervention. The study aimed to assess the knowledge of youth regarding HIV/AIDS and to explore epidemiological determinants of awareness among them. Objectives are to know about the awareness regarding HIV among the college students/ youth. To creates awareness about the HIV among the youth. The research design used for conducting research is exploratory research design. The sample size for the study is 100 and random sampling method is adopted. The data was subjected to statistical analysis. The results are discussed with reference to awareness regarding HIV/AIDS.

Keywords: HIV/AIDS, Youth, Awareness..

Introduction

Use of drugs for non-medical purposes increased rapidly during the last decade, and was a major contributing factor in the outbreak of the HIV disease in several parts of the world, including Asia. As a consequence of large production of opium and its derivatives and of the dislocations caused by the Viet Nam war, South and South -East Asia have experienced a dramatic rise in the use of injectable drugs, facilitating very high and efficient HIV transmission.

India has been categorized as having a Pattern III spread for HIV, where the major mode of transmission was thought to be heterosexual intercourse. The first HIV-positive individual in India was identified in 1986 among the commercial sex workers of the city of Madras, following which surveillance was initiated in all the states of India. The current HIV prevalence rate among the general population in India is almost less than 0.1 per cent, and that of the high-risk group of sex workers varies between 1 and 30 per cent in different cities. States of India bordering Myanmar, such as Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland account for less than 1 per cent of the total population of the country, but contribute nearly 16 per cent of the total number of persons testing seropositive for HIV -1 in India, according to the Ministry of Health. It is mainly because of the high prevalence of injectors in those states, leading to a sharp rise in HIV among them. Reports of HIV - seropositive intravenous drug users are still almost totally restricted to the north -eastern region. Less than 10 cases have so far been reported in the rest of the country. The authors have conducted comprehensive studies on the prevalence of intravenous drug users, their risk behaviors and trends in prevalence over the last five years, and have collected the baseline data required for community-based control programs in the region. The results of the studies are covered in the present paper. The spread of infection from intravenous drug users to their sexual partners and the general population is also documented.

HIV/AIDS is a social problem. Day by day the number of the HIV/AIDS is increasing in our Country; wherever we go we can hear the HIV/AIDS patients that they are suffering from their sickness and social problem in the society. This study is focusing the HIV awareness among the youth and they must be motivated to extend their support to the HIV virus affected person.

Aim of the Study

Today's youth is going to build tomorrows future. They build the nation and they together build the world. So the youth must realize the present problem created by HIV virus and their self control is going to be the main solution to the problem. The main reason to say that the solution to the problem is in the hands of youth is that they have more understanding power and they have more ability. So they can understand the seriousness and prevent the deadly disease.

Objectives

- To know about the awareness regarding HIV among the college students / youth.
- To stop HIV/AIDS spread within adolescents and youth to reverse the current trend.
- To create an awareness about the HIV among the youths.



Universe and Sample

The researcher did the study about the HIV awareness among the college students of Mysore city. The sample size for the study is 100. The researcher has used the Random sampling method for the collection of data and a questionnaire covering the objectives are administered. The design used for conducting the research study is Exploratory and percentage method is used for the study.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The data gathered from students were subjected to processing. It was tabulated by drawing uni-variate tables percentages were calculated.

Table No. 01: Indicating the Age of the Respondents

Age	No. of Persons	Percentage
Between 18 to 20	36	36
Between 21 to 25	60	60
Between 26 to 30	0	0
Between 31 to 35	4	4
Total	100	100

The table indicates the age of the respondents. The highest number of respondents is between the age of 21 to 25 and the lowest number is between 26 to 30.

Table No. 02: How many Respondents are aware about HIV?

Awareness about HIV	Percentage
Fully aware	20
Partially aware	70
Unaware	10
Total	100

The table shows the awareness about HIV among the respondents. The knowledge about the topic among the youth differs. 20% is fully aware, 70% is partially aware and 10% is unaware about the disease. The responses of the people were inductive.

Table No. 03: How many respondents are aware about the treatment and preventive measures?

Knowledge	Fully Aware	Partially Aware	Unaware
Treatment	10%	60%	30%
Preventive Measures	5%	12%	83%

There are certain treatment and preventive measures for the control of HIV among the people. The table shows the awareness among the respondents regarding such treatment and preventive measures. 60% is partially aware of the treatment and 83% is unaware about the preventive measures. Preventive measures are used by only 5%.

The rapid spread of HIV among the college students is a clear example of the inevitable spread of the HIV epidemic if high-risk behaviour is prevalent. Faced with other pressing public health issues, poor countries such as India, Myanmar and Thailand failed to give due priority to HIV before the epidemic struck them. Despite early detection of a high prevalence of HIV among injectors, its quick spread to heterosexual partners could not be prevented. The huge demand for treatment support, service and counseling is unlikely to be met in the near future. The harm reduction approach as a strategy is possibly the only powerful and cost-effective tool in such a situation, but it has received scant regard in campaigns launched by the states or by pressure groups within the population. Of immense importance to such a program, and a precondition for its initiation, is the creation of the necessary political will.



Suggestion

1. The grass root level HIV awareness programs should be granted in the society.
2. Parents should be trained in the families to mold their children in providing sex education.
3. We need to trace out and treat the youth those who are addicted to the immoral sexual activities in the society.
4. Lower level and higher level sexual awareness program must be given to the youth.
5. We need to promote and encourage the youth to involve in the rehabilitation process of HIV affected people in order to be open to the reality.
6. Effective HIV awareness program should be extended among the illiterate youth.
7. Trained counselors should be appointed in the school and college level.
8. There should be professional rehabilitation centers in order to provide the better atmosphere to the victims of HIV.

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