Awareness About HIV/AIDS in the Senior Secondary School Students

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Abstract

School children of today are exposed to the risk of being victims of HIV/AIDS - which was quite unknown to their predecessors a few decades ago. The epidemic of HIV/AIDS is now progressing at a rapid pace among young people. Studies have reported that young people form a significant segment of those attending sexually transmitted infection (STI) clinics and those infected by HIV. Programme managers and policy makers have often recommended that schools can act at the center point for disseminating information and education on HIV/AIDS. Hence school education has been described as a 'social vaccine', and it can serve as a powerful preventive tool. In India, there is a wide gap between the inputs in the HIV/AIDS curriculum for schools and the actual education that is imparted. With this background, the present study was conducted with the following objectives: (i) To study the difference in the awareness about HIV/AIDS in male and female students of senior secondary school. ii). To study the difference in the awareness about HIV/AIDS in urban and rural students of senior secondary school.

Keywords: Awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Introduction:

Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is posing a serious challenge to the conceptual foundations and the practice of development planning worldwide. Nearly half of the new HIV infections are occurring in young people. HIV/AIDS is retarding economic growth by destroying human capital by mainly affecting the young adults in the age group of 15–24 years who are in their most productive ages of life.

Globally, almost of a quarter of people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is under the age of 25 years. In India, 35% of all reported AIDS cases are among the age group of 15-24 years, indicating the vulnerability of the younger population to the epidemic. Furthermore, the epidemic is moving from high-risk groups such as sex workers to the general population and from urban to rural populations. Of the estimated people living with HIV, 60% reside in rural areas. HIV affects the immune system and reduces the body’s defenses to protect against various infectious diseases and cancer. Treatment is available to delay the death of persons suffering from the disease; however, there is no cure. Thus, it
becomes necessary to educate young people so that they can protect themselves from getting infected. Various government and non-government organizations the world over have undertaken programs to raise awareness among people regarding HIV/AIDS.

**REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

Clark et al.,(2002) concluded that age related increased knowledge on STDs/AIDS among the older adolescents might be unrelated to education; their increased knowledge level may be due to experiential factors such as having contracted STD rather than routine sexuality education.

Khan (2002) found significant association of knowledge on AIDS with level of education of adolescents.

Kore Shailesh et. al.,(2004) found that knowledge about AIDS was quite less, even in college students. To tackle AIDS, prevention is the most effective and cheapest way out that must be given worldwide public health priority. Prevention of HIV/ AIDS is possible through awareness and behavioural changes.

According to the National Family Health Survey-3 (2005-2006), 64.8% of rural youth had heard of HIV/AIDS at the country level.

Khan et. al., (2008) in his study observed that 90% knew that it is sexually transmitted and 88% knew about the spread of HIV by the use of contaminated needles. He concluded that non- medical students lacked awareness about the disease.

In a study conducted in the state of Maharashtra, teenagers were less aware of the role of improperly sterilized syringes and needles as a mode of transmission of HIV in comparison to other modes of disease transmission.

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM :**

Awareness About HIV/AIDS in the Senior Secondary School Students

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

The Main objectives of the present study are as follows.

1. To study the difference in the awareness about HIV/AIDS in male and female adolescent students of senior secondary schools.

2. To study the difference in the awareness about HIV/AIDS in urban and rural adolescent students of senior secondary schools.

**HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY:**

1. There exists no significant difference in awareness about HIV/AIDS in male and female adolescent students of senior secondary schools.
2. There exists no significant difference in awareness about HIV/AIDS in rural and urban adolescent students of senior secondary schools.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY:
- The present study will be delimited only to Kangra district of H.P.
- The present study was delimited to XII class students only.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY:
For the present study, the investigator has used random sampling technique. In total sample of the study constitutes 200 students (100 male and 100 female) selected from senior secondary schools.

TOOL USED:
For the present study, “AIDS AWARENESS TEST” developed by Dr. Kanwarjit Singh and Dr. Paramjit Singh was used.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED:
The data was analyzed with the help of following statistical techniques: Mean, Standard Deviation and t-Test.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS:

HYPOTHESIS- I
There exists no significant difference in awareness about HIV/AIDS in male and female adolescent students of senior secondary schools.

Table no. 1:
Showing the mean, S.D., and t-value of male and female adolescent students of senior secondary schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>S.D.</th>
<th>t-value</th>
<th>Level of significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>11.98</td>
<td>4.18</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>Not significant at 0.01 and 0.05 levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>12.36</td>
<td>4.55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table no. 1 shows the mean, S.D. and t-value of male and female students of senior secondary schools. The mean scores of male students are 11.98 and S.D. is 4.18. The mean scores of female students are 12.36 and S.D. is 4.55. The t-value is 0.35 which is not significant at 0.01 and 0.05 level of significance. Hence, there is no significant difference in the awareness about HIV/AIDS in male and female adolescent students of senior secondary schools.
Hence the hypothesis-I, “There exists no significant difference in awareness about HIV/AIDS in male and female adolescent students of senior secondary schools”, stands accepted.

HYPOTHESIS -II
There exists no significant difference in awareness about HIV/AIDS in urban and rural adolescent students of senior secondary schools.

Table no. 2
Showing the mean, S.D., and t-value of rural and urban adolescent students of senior secondary schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>S.D.</th>
<th>t-value</th>
<th>Level of significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural (Male + Female)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>12.20</td>
<td>4.43</td>
<td>0.140</td>
<td>Not significant at 0.01 and 0.05 levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban (Male + Female)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>12.06</td>
<td>4.30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table no. 2 shows the mean, S.D. and t-value of rural and urban students of senior secondary schools. The mean scores of rural students are 12.20 and S.D. is 4.43. The mean scores of urban students are 12.06 and S.D. is 4.30. The t-value of rural students and urban students of senior secondary schools is 0.140 which is not significant at 0.01 and 0.05 level of significance. Hence, there is no significant difference in the awareness about HIV/AIDS in rural and urban adolescent students of senior secondary schools.

Hence the hypothesis-II, “There exists no significant difference in awareness about HIV/AIDS in urban and rural adolescent students of senior secondary schools,” stands accepted.

MAIN FINDINGS:

On the basis of results obtained during the course of the present investigation the following findings has been drawn: -
1. It was found that there was no significant difference in awareness about HIV/AIDS in male and female adolescent students of senior secondary schools.
2. It was found that there was no significance difference in the awareness about HIV/AIDS in rural and urban students of senior secondary school.

CONCLUSION

The study has brought into light some of the important issues about awareness levels among young male and female adolescent students and the action strategies needed for making them aware. Because HIV infection is a dynamic process and could change as a function of time,
more and more similar studies targeted at general public particularly in school levels are needed at regular intervals to test the results of the preventive measures & efficacy of the existing policies.

References:


