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A STUDY ON HIV/AIDS AWARENESS AMONG THE YOUTH IN HYDERABAD – A STUDY



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Abstract: *Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is unique in human history in its rapid spread, its extent and the depth of impact. Since the first AID case was diagnosed in 1981, the world has struggled to come to grips with its extraordinary dimensions (UNAIDS, 2014). Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection and AIDS are now well established as major medical and public health problems. Since AIDS was first recognized, the medical and public health community had to confront a disease complex whose parameters are constantly evolving and whose implications for the individuals, family, and community are becoming increasingly demanding. The disease complex, perhaps more than any other in recent history has highlighted the intricacy of the relationship between the physical and psychosocial aspects of health and disease. In particular, it has dramatized the tension experienced by individuals throughout the course of infection and the need to adapt to their changing personal and family relations as well as the challenge of their health circumstances. The present paper intended to know the awareness among youth of the Hyderabad City about HIV/AIDS.*

Key Words: *Impact of HIV/AIDS, Awareness among the Youth about HIV/AIDS*

Introduction

India, having a population of 1.35 billion people, has an HIV/AIDS infection rate estimated at 2.1 million (NAIDC Control Organization, 2017). Most infections are acquired sexually, but a small proportion is acquired through injecting drug use. In southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu HIV is transmitted mainly through heterosexual sex and is largely linked to sex work. Infection levels among pregnant women in sentinel antenatal clinics have

remained stable at over 1%, suggesting that a significant number of sex workers' clients may have passed on HIV to their wives.

Impact of HIV/AIDS

It is widely accepted now that HIV/AIDS is one of the most important public health issues in India, and has received attention from the highest political levels in the country. In the past few years, there has been a remarkable build-up of activities in India aimed at controlling HIV / AIDS in the form of prevention programs.

Impact of HIV/AIDS

- HIV/AIDS is now a major threat to India. The number of people living with the disease is approaching 5 million. The country has the second largest number of people living with HIV/AIDSs after South Africa.
- People living with HIV/AIDSs face tremendous health risks from opportunistic illnesses such as pneumonia and tuberculosis.
- Life expectancy at birth is expected to fall as low as 30 years between 2005 and 2010 in some countries of South Africa.
- More than 14 million AIDS orphans thus far likely face poverty, illness, malnutrition, sexual abuse, and social isolation.
- In some hard-hit African countries, 30 to 70% of child mortality can be due to AIDS.
- HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of death in Africa and the fourth leading cause of death worldwide.

Importance of the Study

At present, there are two major problems which are precipitating humankind. They are HIV/AIDS pandemic and environmental destruction. In fact, for these two problems, there is no vaccine but prevention is the only answer. Every youth is responsible for cause and remedy.

Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the socio-economic background among the youth in Hyderabad.
2. To know about the respondent's relationship with the family.
3. To find out respondents/youth awareness on HIV/AIDS.
4. To find out how HIV be transmitted
5. To find out is the preventive measures from HIV infection?

Hypothesis

- There is a significance between Age Vs Awareness about HIV/AIDS.

- There is a significance between Gender Vs Awareness about HIV/AIDS.
- There is a significance between Caste Vs Awareness about HIV/AIDS.
- There is a significance between Religion Vs Awareness about HIV/AIDS.
- There is a significance between Marital Status Vs Awareness about HIV/AIDS.
- There is a significance between Family type Vs Awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Research Design

The research design is defined as “Arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that was to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure” (Jahoda, Seltiz) to measure the condition, the Explorative/ Formulated research design (this particular research is employed to retest theories or to develop them, or to explore new ideas and methods) with Applied Multidisciplinary in approach. “The phenomenal studies under the explorative nature usually take quasi-social research application with multidisciplinary subjects” like in this case psychology and sociology (Thakur 2000).

The data gathering is taken up by an interview/survey method. Standardized questions pretested and then administered by the hand-to-hand by the interviewer. The interviewer will take notes on the interview schedule about the “A study on HIV/AIDS awareness among the youth in Hyderabad. The case study and content analysis embedded to present as a comprehensive structural explanation of the study. They are related at the following pages.

Data Collection: The data collection is procured by the primary and secondary data availability since data is sacred and interpretation is free.

Primary Data: This data is gathered with administering the structured interview schedule to the respondents in the sample size for a period of a month (February 2015). The multivariate close-ended interview schedule is administered;

Secondary Data: This data is realized through the suitable and relevant available subjective material in published data, previous studies, and M.Phil researches. Library, book publishing and field source from the respondents and informants. There are special anecdotes of the youth involved in the case study of HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns to be incorporated in background profiles and generating a hypothesis.

Sampling: The selected sampling is identified in twin cities of Hyderabad, there are 60 respondents, among them, 14 women and 46 men have been selected by way of a simple random method for data collection. Data were collected directly from the respondents/youth, selected for the purpose of the study.

The tool of Data Collection: A structured interview scheduled was prepared by the investigator for the purpose of data collection. The schedule had the following aspects:

1. Personal information: Age, Caste, Education, Marital status, Family income.
2. Family background.
3. Information regarding health – STD/HIV/AIDS.
4. Information regarding preventing measures from HIV/AIDS infection.

Area of the Study: The study was conducted in twin cities of Hyderabad. The study is undertaken to know youth awareness/knowledge about HIV/AIDS. In case if they are aware then how far are, they really practicing the methods for prevention. The study has been conducted according to the following major objectives based on youth in twin cities of Hyderabad.

Findings & Conclusion

Findings

1. **Age Vs Awareness on HIV/AIDS:** from the 60 respondents, 4 (36.4%) from the age group of 18-25 years and 7 (63.6%) from the age group of 26-30 years have High Awareness on HIV/AIDS.
2. **Gender Vs Awareness on HIV/AIDS:** According to the samples there is no significance between Age and Awareness on HIV/AIDS as the Pearson Chi-Square is 0.458.
3. **Caste Vs Awareness on HIV/AIDS:** The data shows that from 60 respondents, 7 (63.6%) from BC's have High Awareness on HIV/AIDS, compare to other communities placed in second & third place - 2 (18.2%) from SCs and others.
4. **Religion Vs Awareness on HIV/AIDS:** The data shows that from 60 respondents, 11 (100%) from Hindu's and, have High Awareness on HIV/AIDS
5. **Marital Status Vs Awareness on HIV/AIDS:** The samples show that from 60 respondents, 2 (18.2%) from Married Category and, 9 (81.8%) from Unmarried Category have High Awareness on HIV/AIDS.
6. **Family Type Vs Awareness on HIV/AIDS:** In order to measure the Awareness on HIV/AIDS among people from different Family Types shows that from 60 respondents, 7 (63.6%) from Nuclear Families and, 4 (36.4%) from Joint Families have High Awareness on HIV/AIDS
7. **Family Income Vs Awareness on HIV/AIDS:** From 60 respondents, 9 (81.8%) from Families earning less than One Lakh PA, 1 (9.1%) from families earning One-to-Two Lakh per annum and, 1 (9.1%) from Families earning above Two Lakhs per annum have High Awareness on HIV/AIDS.

Suggestions

On the basis of the major findings the following suggestions are made:

1. In order to prevent HIV/AIDS pandemic, the government without any delay on war foot should take remedial steps.
2. Through mass media awareness of AIDS is being made but much has to be done. If the government is not able to go ahead with this work, at least it should encourage voluntary organizations to do this job, through involving the youth.
3. Either government or voluntary organizations should come forward to start welfare centers to create awareness among the youth in term the youth can educate the attracted men/women do not select the private or public sex profession.
4. Sex education like STD/HIV/AIDS etc. should be introduced from High School to University level in all branches. This is very advantaged to the youth too.
5. In order to control the promiscuous behavior in the society, the Government should strictly ban pornography in the video, cable TV, video libraries, blue films, Magazines, Newspapers, wall posters of cinema, advertisements, advertisement in TV, in barbershops, massage-parlors, hotels, hotels, and also in public toilets etc.
6. Condoms should be supplied to truck drivers on the main road of the outskirts of the city. Government or voluntary organizations youth should form a resource group, who can give a lecture on STD/HIV/AIDS which can be understandable for youth, students, para medicos, industrial workers, commercial sex workers, paid blood donors, slum dwellers, and the general public etc.
7. The government should bring about awareness by art exhibitions, banners, leaflets, posters and photo exhibitions, public advertisements, bicycle rallies, street dance, press release, special publications, workshops, seminars, hot air balloons, announcing on radio and TV etc.

Above all sex and STD-related problems should be discussed freely without inhibitions, so that the problem related to these can be easily tackled, through widespread awareness campaign in war fooling.

Conclusion

Since one decade the whole world is precipitating with two major problems, which are environmental pollution and HIV/AIDS spread. Since there is no vaccine, prevention is the only answer to these two problems.

Hyderabad is the capital city for the state of Telangana. About 70 lakh people are of India. Many people coming here to distinct place for the purpose of business, education, official or personal work. The finding indicates that the youth are not fully aware of the problem of AIDS nor about the means of transmission of the disease.

December 1st is the World AIDS Day which is being observed since 1988 in huge level by Government and volunteers for social awareness against HIV/AIDS spread. Rallies, workshops, and seminars are being conducted, but these have not been able to make any meaning regard to the youth in general and victims in particular.

All should be brought to the category of aware and positive that is, after educating the youth about the problem of AIDS or how it would affect society. They should be motivated and trained, to take all possible preventive measures to prevent themselves from this infection.

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