

Awareness of HIV/AIDS and STD Amongst Rural Adolescents in Baghpat District of Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

This community-based cross-sectional study was conducted in a rural area under the Community Health Centre (CHC) of Binoli, Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh. The study revealed that (i) Only 62 percent of the adolescents had heard of HIV/AIDS, (ii) 87.63 % respondent have knowledge about the mode of transmission is sexual intercourse. (iii) Television (48.6%) was a major source of information followed by posters (19.35%) and radio (46.77%) for the adolescents about HIV/AIDS and (iv) Male adolescents had a significantly high risk behaviour as compared to the female adolescents.

KEYWORDS:- AIDS, HIV, Awareness, STDs Adolescents, Risk behaviour, Information, Television etc.

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INTRODUCTION

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) caused by Human Immune-deficiency Virus (HIV) is posing a serious challenge to the conceptual foundation and the practice of development planning worldwide. Adolescent is one of the most vulnerable groups as far as risks of HIV/AIDS are concerned. Adolescents perceive HIV/AIDS as a disease of adults. This is a misconception prevailing among them. Moreover, adolescents have a greater risk taking characteristics which include sexual intercourse, visiting commercial sex-workers and adolescent pregnancies. Similar trends have been documented in developing countries. Adolescents are unique in the sense that they are the beacons of the society in the near future i.e. 5-10 years. They will soon become active players in the society. Early adolescent period is the most appropriate time for intervention since this phase involves a high risk-behaviour which could have a long-term effect on future course.

Assessment of awareness level of the adolescents is important because it determines the impact of efforts made by the government and also says about the need for interventions. Initially, HIV was linked with high risk-taking adult group residing in urban areas, so the research was mostly focused on them. However, the problem has already spread to rural areas and further spreading as fast as in metros. Limited data are available on the awareness level of rural adolescents, who comprise a large portion of the national population, about HIV / AIDS. Therefore, this study was conducted to find out the awareness of adolescents about HIV / AIDS in Binoli, Baghpat Uttar Pradesh.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

A community-based cross-sectional study was conducted in four villages of Binoli Community Health Centre, Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh. 180 male and 120 female adolescents in the age group of 10-19 years permanently residing in these villages were included as sample respondents as per the WHO definition of adolescent.

A pre-tested semi-structured schedule, containing 20 attributes was used to get the information on the demographic profile, socio-economic status cultural aspects of daily life awareness regarding HIV / AIDS and risk-behaviour of adolescents. The schedule was administered in privacy to avoid any external influence and focused on variable who linked with the level of HIV/AIDS awareness.

FINDINGS

The socio-demographic characteristics of the study group are shown in Table 1. The sample consisted of 60% males and 40% females. 40% of the respondents had education up to high school level and only 6.33% were graduates. Only a few

adolescents (1.6%) were illiterates. Majority of them (45.66%) belonged to middle class families, 3.6 percent upper class and 4.66 percent lower class. Only 3.66 percent of the respondents were married. Only a few females gave consent for their interview because in Rural areas HIV/AIDS is a very sensitive issue and its not discuss openly with his family and their concept not clear about HIV/AIDS. Due to their high non-response rates to many of the items in the schedule, illiterates were excluded from the sample during analysis.

TABLE 1
CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL ADOLESCENTS

Characteristics	N=300	%
Gender		
Boys	180	60
Girls	120	40
Age in years		
10-11	30	10
12-13	80	26.66
14-15	60	20
16-17	70	23.33
18-19	60	20
Education		
Illiterate	05	1.6
Primary	55	18.33
Middle	101	36.66
High School	120	40
Graduate	19	6.33
Marital Status		
Unmarried	289	96.33
Married	11	3.66
Socio-economic Status		
Upper Class (343)	15	3.6
Upper Mid Class (33-42)	64	20.66
Middle Class (24-32)	137	45.66
Lower M Class (13-23)	70	23.33
Lower Class (<13)	14	4.66

TABLE-2
Knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS

hard about HIV/AIDS (n=300) yes/no	No	%
	186	62
	114	38
Knowledge regarding mode of transmission	n=186	
transmission through sexual intercourse	163	87.63
transmission by blood transfusion	148	79.56
transmission by sharing needles/syringes	119	63.97
transmission from mother to child	80	43.01

Misconceptions regarding mode of transmission		
transmission by mosquito bite	40	21.50
transmission by taking food with infected person	48	25.80
transmission by living with infected person	39	20.96
transmission not possible by healthy looking person	52	27.95
knowledge regarding preventive measure		
preventive by avoided illegal sexual relationship	150	80.64
prevention by blood safety	89	47.84
prevention by use of new needlesprevention by use condom	96	51.63
	90	48.38

About table show that 87.63% respondent have knowledge about mode transmission mainly transmission through. Sexual intercourse, 79.56% respondent have knowledge transmission by blood transfusion only 63.97% respondent aware about that the transmission also possible by contaminated syringes 43.01% respondent know about transmission from mother to child.

TABLE-3
Major source of information regarding HIV/AIDS

Major source of information	No	%
Knowledge regarding mode of transmission	n=186	
television	90	48.36
Newspaper	62	33.33
Radio	87	46.33
Nukad Natak	15	8.06
Poster and handbills	36	19.35
Friend circle	42	22.58
family members	09	4.83

DISCUSSION

Awareness is the key to prevention of HIV AIDS. The Present study show that more than one third rural adolescents are not well Known about HIV/AIDS. According to the national family health survey (2005-2006), 64.8% of Rural youth had hard of HIV/ AIDS at the country level. Our findings reveal that a large number of Adolescent (38%) in rural area are still unaware about HIV/AIDS.

In this study me found. That Knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS 48.36 respondent obtained from television, 33.33% respondent from News paper, 46.77 respondent from Radio, 8.06% respondent from Nukad Natak, 19.35% respondent poster hand bill and other source of information, 22.58% respondent from friend circle and only 4.83% respondent obtained in family Discussion, Due to the rural area there was very low percentage age of respondent who obtained knowledge about HIV/AIDS in family Discussion.

It was fended that rural adolescent were less aware about the pattern of transmission of HIV/AIDS, Most of the Rural adolescent also have misconception regarding the mode the transmission of HIV/AIDS, They also think another ways about of the patter of transmission of HIV/AIDS like as transmission my mosquito

bite, transmission by taking food with infected person, transmission by living with infected person, and transmission not possible by healthy looking person. In our study explored that there is a need to improve awareness level in rural adolescent to prevent HIV/AIDS by using method which help to rural youth to know about HIV/AIDS.

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