Indian J.Sci.Res. 4(1) : 69-74, 2013

ISSN : 0976-2876 (Print)
ISSN : 2250-0138 (Online)

ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF NURSING STUDENTS TOWARDS HIV/AIDS

MAHESH B. CHENDAKE[a1] AND VAISHALI R. MOHITE[b]

Department of Medical Surgical Nursing, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences Deemed University, Krishna Institute of Nursing Sciences, Karad Maharashtra, India

[a]E-mail: maheshchendake@rediffmail.com

[b]E-mail: kinsprincipal@rediffmail.com

ABSTRACT

India ranks 2nd in the number of HIV patients. There is a risk (0.3% after a single percutaneous exposure to HIV/AIDS-infected blood) of transmission of the virus from patient to health care worker. In India, people with HIV frequently encounter discrimination, with serious adverse consequences for their physical and psycho-social well being. So this is an effort to assess the knowledge& attitude of Final year Basic B.Sc. Nursing students towards HIV/AIDS at Karad & to determine association between socio demographic variables with knowledge& attitude. The collected data is analyzed by using descriptive analysis by Instat software. Overall knowledge score is 2137(69.83%). Rating of knowledge score showed no subjects bellow average 64(72.22%) subjects in good rating. Overall attitude score is 1556 (64.03%). Rating of Attitude score showed no subjects bellow average, while 77 (85.55%) in excellent rating. Permanent residence shows significantly association with knowledge towards HIV/AIDS, may be because of more exposure to mass media and extensive coverage by health sector.59 (89.39%) 21 years old ages students have shown positive attitude as excellent. $\chi 2$ 2.029 (P Value 0.1544). Correlation Coefficient shows statistically not significant .It indicates their knowledge and attitude are build independently which correlate with earlier findings and suggestions.

KEYWORDS : Knowledge, Attitude, HIV/AIDS, Nursing

In repute to Human Immunodeficiency Virus it can aptly be said that "Prevention is the only cure". Today 33.3 million people are affected by this virus in this world, of which 2.27 million are in our country. Every year 2.6 million new cases of HIV are added to the previous burden. And more than 1.3 million people worldwide die due to it each year. In number of HIV patients India ranks 2nd in the world. The HIV prevalence at antenatal clinics in Maharashtra was 0.5% in 2007. At 18%, the state has the highest reported rates of HIV prevalence among female sex workers. Similarly high rates were found among injecting drug users (24%) and men who have sex with men (12%).

The disease started first among young homosexuals in the west coast of America. The disease, which has invaded mankind universally and has no cure yet, is a complex health problem for individuals, families, friends and the community as a whole (NACO, 2010-11).

In India, as in many other countries, people with HIV frequently encounter discrimination. HIV/AIDS has stimulated ethical debates about a nurse's right to refuse treatment. While there is a risk of transmission of the virus from patient to health care worker, this risk has been estimated at 0.3% after a single percutaneous exposure to HIV/AIDS-infected blood. Medical students have refused to care for HIV/AIDS patients (Whalen, 1987), which is unacceptable for future physicians and illustrates the extreme emotions that HIV/AIDS can elicit.

Maintaining the desired quality of life of people with HIV/AIDS is possible mainly through extensive, competent and compassionate nursing care. Yet, the provision of this care raises health and occupational concerns for all levels of health care providers.

Objectives of the present study were to assess the knowledge & attitude of Final year Basic B.Sc. Nursing students towards HIV/AIDS, to determine association between knowledge and attitude with socio demographic variables of Final year Basic B.Sc. Nursing students towards HIV/AIDS and to determine correlation between knowledge and attitude of Final year Basic B.Sc. Nursing students towards HIV/AIDS. (The Hindu, 2011).

METHODS

In methodology descriptive study approach with Cross sectional survey design was used .This study was conducted in Krishna Institute of Nursing Sciences, Karad Maharashtra state India during September 2011. The state of Maharashtra and Karad taluka was being chosen taking into account the high prevalence of HIV here. All students of final year B.Sc. nursing are included in study as these were

[1]**Corresponding author**

the ones who were going to join the work force of the health care sector. Sample size was 96. All samples who were willing and present at the time of data collection. Sample technique used was purposive sample technique.

As no standard questionnaire was available a questionnaire was prepared taking into account the various aspects of the disease. The questionnaire was in English language and contained 9 questions relating to personal profile and 34 questions related to HIV and AIDS and 27 questions related to attitude. The percentage of agreement between content validations was 98%. And the reliability of tool was tested by Cronbach Alfa was 0.98, which was considered as reliable. Data was analyzed by various tools present in Microsoft excel spread sheet and statistical analysis was done by using software "Instat "by researcher himself. Whenever necessary data is grouped together to maximum avoid '0' values or "less than 5" values, and < than more than in 80 % in different cell in various tables to get accurate results in chi square analysis as per software requirement.

Ethical Permission opted after synopsis presentation in front of expert member of ethical committee of Krishna Institute of Medical sciences, Deemed University. An informed consent from participants was obtained, subjects were given code numbers, and the demographic data of participants were used to ensure anonymity and confidentiality.

RESULTS

Major findings shown in table 1 are overall knowledge score was 2137(69.83%). Mean Knowledge score is 23.744 with minimum of 17 and maximum of 30 with Standard Deviation 2.470. Graph 2 shows Rating of knowledge score showed no subjects bellow average, 08(8.88%) subject with average. 64(72.22%) subjects in good rating while 18 (20%) in excellent rating.

Table 1 : Summary of Knowledge Score

Summary of knowledge	
Minimum score	17
Maximum score	30
Standard Deviation	2.470
Final Knowledge score Mean	23.744
Median	24
Lower 95%CI	23.226
Upper 95%CI	24.263

Table 2 : Summary of Attitude Score

Summary of knowledge	
Minimum score	40
Maximum score	80
Standard Deviation	6.784
Final Attitude score Mean	68.47
Median	70
Lower 95%CI	67.05
Upper 95%CI	69.90

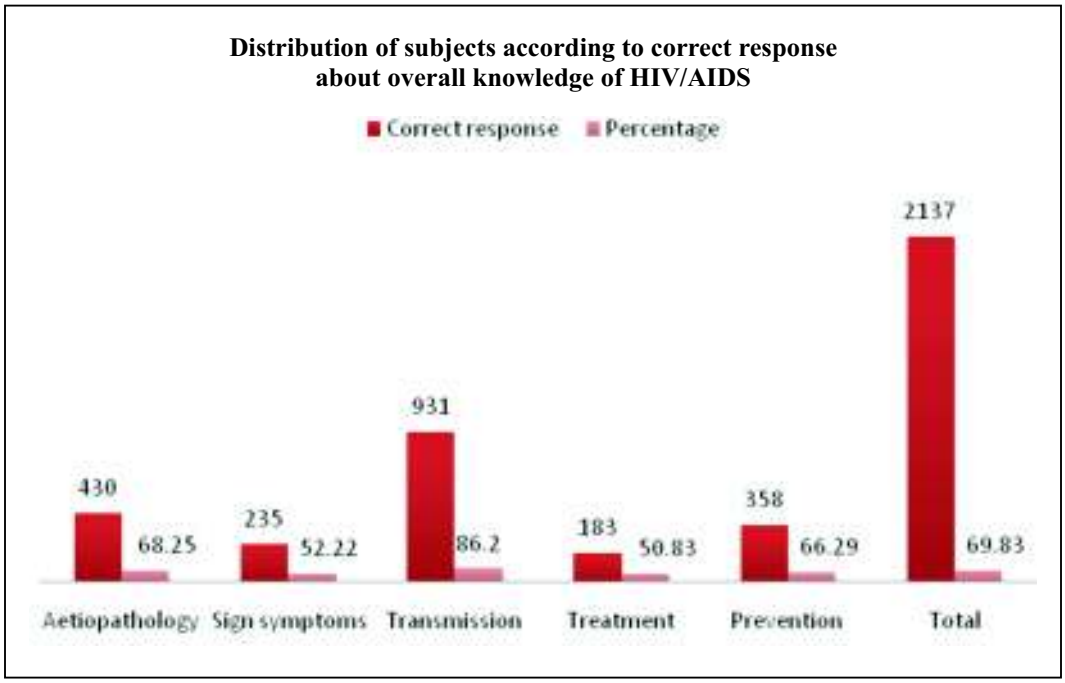
Table 2 shows overall attitude score was 1556 (64.03%). Mean Attitude score was 68.47 with minimum of 41 and maximum of 80 with Standard Deviation 6.784. In Graph, 4 Rating of Attitude score showed no subjects bellow average, 02(2.22%) subject with average, 11(12.22%) subjects good rating while 77 (85.55%) in excellent rating.

In respect to Knowledge related to aetiopathology of HIV/AIDS. 100 % has given correct response for; the causative agent of AIDS is a virus. While 84 (93.33) believes that AIDS is a disease which destroys the body's natural immunity against infection. 79 (87.77%) believes that Persons infected with HIV are likely to develop antibodies within 6 months so they can be detected through proper test. Over all 430(68.25%) has given correct responses for Knowledge about HIV/AIDS related to aetiopathology of HIV/AIDS.

In respect to Knowledge related Sign symptoms of HIV/AIDS 82(91.11%) responded correctly as AIDS is manifestation of HIV. Overall 235(52.22%) has responded correctly for Knowledge about HIV/AIDS related sign symptoms of HIV/AIDS.

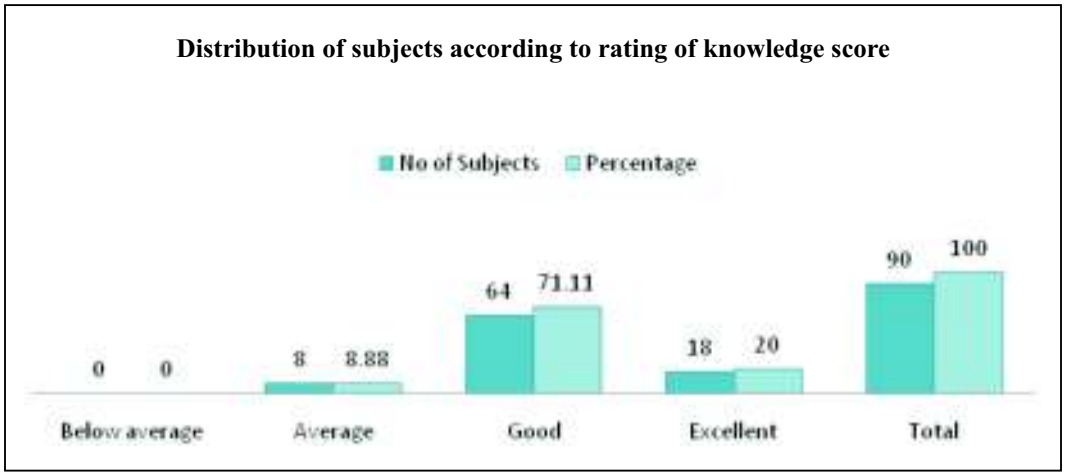
In respect to Knowledge related transmission of HIV/AIDS 89(98.88%) responded correctly for HIV can be transmitted through blood, body fluid e.g. semen or vaginal secretions, during unprotected sex, through tattooing, sharing sharp object or from mother to child during child birth or breast feeding? 85(94.44%) believes that HIV can be transmitted from infected mother to newborn child. While 88(97.77%) reported correctly for HIV/AIDS is a

Graph 1: Distribution of Subjects According To Correct Response About Overall Knowledge of HIV/AIDS



Overall Knowledge Score was Good i.e.2137 (69.83%)

Graph 2: Distribution of Subjects According To Rating of Knowledge Score



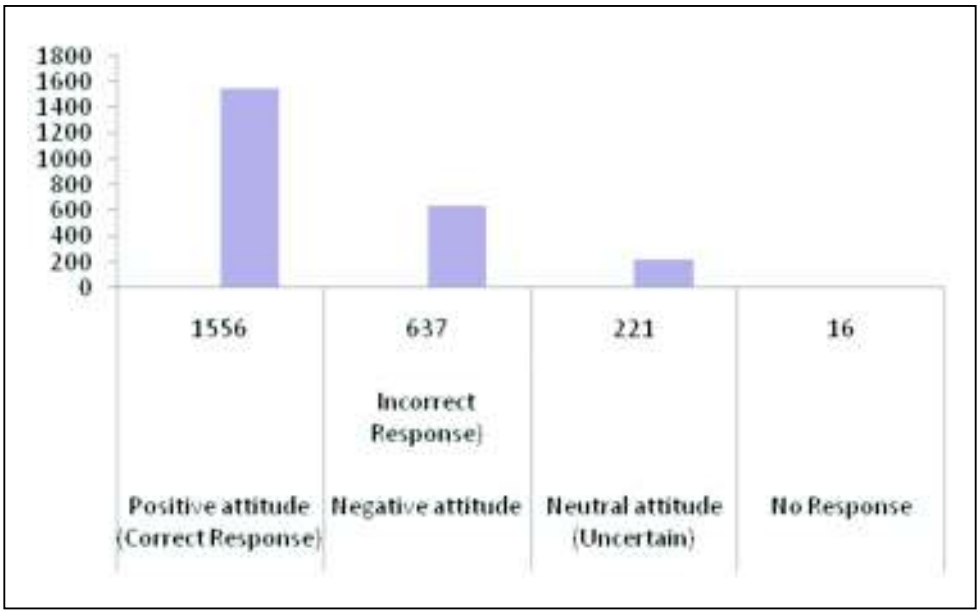
Ratting of Knowledge Score Shows 64(71.11%) Subjects In Good Rating Out Of While No Subject Below Average

sexually transmitted disease (STD) 87(96.66%) feels that Receiving a transfusion, with blood infected by the AIDS virus, is one way to get the disease. 64(71.11%) also feels that HIV cannot be transmitted through sharing toilets, or bed with someone who has AIDS.

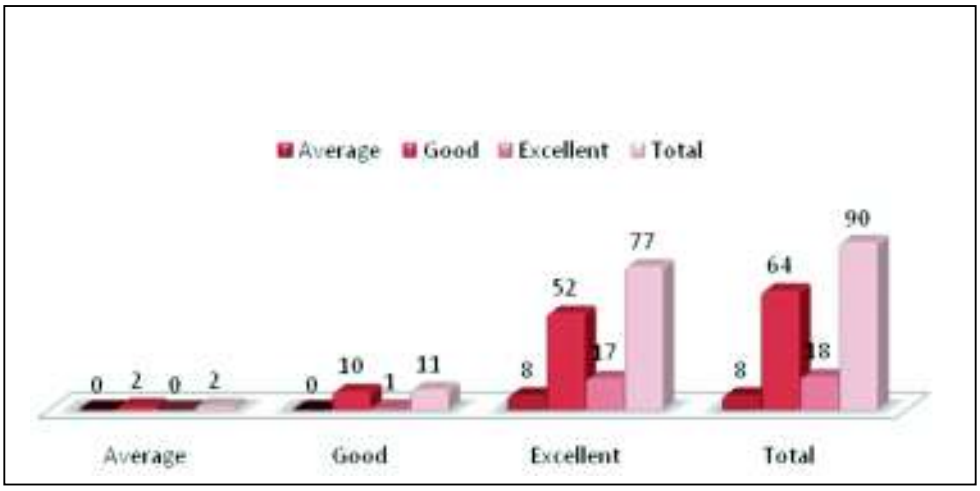
In respect to Knowledge related to treatment of HIV/AIDS Over all 183(50.83%) correct reposes are given for knowledge related to Treatment of HIV/AIDS.

In respect to Knowledge related to Prevention of HIV/AIDS 87(96.66%) has given correct response for Observe universal precaution to prevent infection in hospital. While 80(88.88%) responded correctly for Condom use is the best way of HIV/AIDS prevention. 358(66.29%) correct responses are given for knowledge

Graph 3: Distribution of Subjects According To Correct Response About Overall Attitude of HIV/AIDS



Graph 4: Association Between Knowledge And Attitude Final Correct Score Obtained According To Grading



Association was not statistically significant

related to Prevention of HIV/AIDS (Graph 2 & 3).

Graph, 3 shows Attitude towards HIV/AIDS where 85 (94.44%) responded correctly 'AIDS virus increases other infection'. 82 (91.11%) responded correctly 'There is no harm in meeting a person with HIV/AIDS'. 62 (68.88%) feel that health care workers are at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. 70 (77.77%) responded correctly 'I willingly assist to the delivery of an HIV/AIDS pregnant mother'. 78 (86.66%) responded correctly 'I feel it necessary to take extra precautionary measures while caring for patients with HIV/AIDS'. 55 (61.11%) responded 'I feel doctors, nurses and other health care workers refuse caring for people with HIV/AIDS'.70 (77.77%) reported I will willingly assist in an operation with HIV positive /AIDS patients. 81 (90%) reported correctly 'AIDS is the terminal stage of infection by HIV"

Attitudes of nurses towards people living with HIV/AIDS have long been scrutinized. Studies show that

some nurses have negative attitudes and are reluctant to provide care to people with HIV/AIDS, resulting in poorer quality nursing support being provided. Attitudes of nursing students towards caring for people with HIV/AIDS is thus of vital importance since they become the future practicing nurses.

Study corresponds to our study were Deb S, Mukherjee and Acharya, (2004) Attitudes of Nursing Students of Kolkata toward Caring for HIV/AIDS Patients .Findings revealed a very positive outlook of the nursing students in regards to caring for HIV/AIDS patients. 100% of the students had heard of HIV/AIDS, Veronica, (2004) reported on knowledge and attitudes of nursing students of Muhimbili University College of health sciences, Dar es Salaam regarding HIV infection. Magnus, (2004) studied Knowledge about and attitudes to, HIV/AIDS among students in a Sydney nursing college. He reported students showed a fairly high level of knowledge: a mean percentage score of 78 on the transmission scale and 80 on the precaution scale. Majority (72%) had favorable attitudes to AIDS patient care. Their conclusion was over all knowledge and attitude among dental students was found to be satisfactory. 69.80% have a positive attitude regarding HIV/AIDS education.

Study which are contrast to our study were Mgosha et al., (2009) .A study in Turkey revealed that a lack of relevant education regarding AIDS was obvious in their sample comprising students of medical faculty, dental faculty and medical technology vocational training school. Similarly students of pharmacy also had low level of knowledge of AIDS/HIV, as showed in a study done in Malaysia. Lai , (2007) A study done in Delhi on interns, showed that most of the interns (68.3%) perceived themselves to be at a high risk of acquiring HIV due to needle pricks and surgical instruments (32.4%), exposure to body fluids of patients (28.5%) and insufficient availability of gloves (17.6%). They also found that some interns (3.1%) were considering leaving medical profession due to this risk and few (23.2%) opinioned that students may lose interest in medical field due to the risk. While in my study it shown as 89(98.88%) responded correctly for Can HIV be transmitted through blood, body fluid e.g. semen or vaginal secretions, during unprotected sex, through tattooing, sharing sharp object or from mother to child during child birth or breast feeding? 85(94.44%) believes that HIV can be transmitted from infected mother to newborn child. While 88(97.77%) reported correctly for HIV/AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) 87(96.66%) feels that Receiving a transfusion, with blood infected by the AIDS virus, is one way to get the disease. 64(71.11%) also feels that HIV cannot be transmitted through sharing toilets, or bed with someone who has AIDS. 54 (60%) reported I will be comfortable while working with a HIV/AIDS infected person. Mahat and Eller, (2010) has conducted study on HIV/AIDS and universal precautions: knowledge and attitudes of Nepalese nursing students. (N = 127) findings shows that Nepalese nursing students have a large knowledge gap and negative attitudes, regardless of level of education.

Graph, 4 Shows In our study association between knowledge and attitude is not statistically significant because Maximum observation falls into excellent category which is independently built of each other. It may be because as they are adequately exposed to clinical field and allow to work with experienced people in field and their knowledge is widely updated due to exposure to mass media, internet and library and interaction with expert from field. Correlation coefficient (r) = 0.1562 & Coefficient of determination (r squared) = 0.02440 is also shows (P value is 0.1415) shows statistically not significant .It indicate their knowledge and attitude are build independently which correlate with earlier findings and suggestions.

CONCLUSION

Overall Knowledge score is good, Attitude score is excellent. Investigator doesn't find any misconception regarding HIV/AIDS. According to the study findings participants have the theoretical understanding about the term clinical management of HIV/AIDS clients/patients which is based to their general knowledge acquired during their basic nursing training program. Participants have the knowledge regarding necessary precautions and intervention strategies which are significant for the prevention of HIV infection when they provide nursing care to HIV/AIDS clients/patients.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are grateful to the Prof. & HOD. Dr. Prakash M Durgawale, KIMSDU, Department of Preventive Medicine Karad, Dr. Satish V. Kakade, Associate Professor and Statistician ,KIMSDU Karad, Dr. Asha Jadhav, Prof. Dept. Ob/Gynac, KIMSDU Karad, Dr. Saroj Upasani, Principal KDA Nursing College, Mumbai.

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