

A STUDY OF AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ABOUT AIDS

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Abstract:

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is one of the worst pandemics the world has ever known. The illness alters the immune system, making people much more vulnerable to infections and diseases. This susceptibility worsens as the disease progresses.

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), the virus that causes AIDS, was first discovered in 1981 in a remote area of central Africa. It has since swept across the globe, infecting millions in a relatively short period of time. AIDS has killed more than 28 million people that we know of, with up to 3.6 million people dying in 2005 alone. While many cases go unreported, the prevalence of the disease is increasing. There is currently no cure for HIV/AIDS. Treatments can slow the course of the disease - some infected people can live a long and relatively healthy life. HIV can be transmitted in many ways, such as vaginal, oral sex, anal sex, blood transfusion, and contaminated hypodermic needles.

A total of 100 students were selected as subjects. Random sampling technique was applied to select the subjects. Boys and Girls opted for undergraduate courses studying in B.Sc. and B.A. was acted as subjects. Age ranges from 18-21 years. From the findings of the study it has been clear that the entire Science group students percentage mean was 74.83% which shows awareness about AIDS while Arts students percentage mean awareness was 68.16%. Science students were having more awareness about AIDS in comparison to Arts students. As per the findings of the result it is clear that Girls were less aware about AIDS in comparison to Boys of undergraduate course.

KEYWORDS:

AIDS, HIV, awareness.

INTRODUCTION

AIDS is one of the worst pandemics the world has ever known. HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), the virus that causes AIDS, was first discovered in 1981 in a remote area of central Africa. It has since swept across the globe, infecting millions in a relatively short period of time. AIDS has killed more than 28 million people that we know of, with up to 3.6 million people dying in 2005 alone. While many cases go unreported, the prevalence of the disease is increasing. Clearly the AIDS pandemic has had, and will continue to have, a significant and global impact.

The thought of contracting HIV is frightening. And there is good reason for that fear -- the disease is presently incurable, it has a high mortality rate, it spreads quickly and there is no vaccine to protect against it. In today's world, that combination is rare. For example, small pox is often fatal, but the disease has been completely contained through vaccinations. Tuberculosis is often fatal but can usually be cured with antibiotics if caught early.

In this article we will judge the awareness against such a pandemics amongst the undergraduate students that how much aware are they about this world wide incurable disease. For AIDS we can say that

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“prevention is better than cure”. No drugs have been discovered so far as long as cure is concerned. It is sexually transmitted disease of the world and can be prevented by various methods. Scientists of different countries are trying at their level best to overcome this problem by inventing drugs for its complete treatment.

As long as India's population is concerned it comprises of adolescents aged 10-19 years, their reproductive health needs are poorly understood and ill served. The transition from childhood to adulthood has tended to be sudden. On the one hand, the biological onset of adolescence is advancing; on the other hand age at marriage is rising due to expansion of educational opportunities.

Adolescents are found poorly informed regarding their own physical well being, their health needs and their own bodies. Whatever knowledge they have is incomplete and many a time confusing. Low level of educational attainment, limited education and inhibited attitude towards sex related accentuate this ignorance. AIDS is like a Plague of this modern era as we have to fight altogether to overcome and get fruitful results.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This article is related with the study of “awareness and knowledge among the undergraduate students about AIDS.” The article has following objectives.

- To study the awareness among B.Sc. undergraduate students about AIDS.
- To study the awareness among B.A. undergraduate students about AIDS.
- To compare the awareness and knowledge level of B.Sc. and B.A. students about AIDS.
- To study the awareness among undergraduate girls about AIDS.
- To study the awareness among undergraduate boys about AIDS.
- To compare the level of awareness and knowledge level of undergraduate girls and boys.

FORMULATION OF HYPOTHESIS

It was hypothesized that:-

1. The B.Sc. students are highly aware of AIDS.
2. The B.A. students are highly aware of AIDS.
3. There will be significant difference between the awareness and knowledge among B.Sc. and B.A. students about AIDS.
4. Boys of undergraduate courses are highly aware of AIDS.
5. Girls of undergraduate courses are highly aware of AIDS.
6. There will be significant difference between Boys and Girls of undergraduate courses about AIDS.

Delimitations

- Present study is restricted to undergraduate students only.
- Present study is restricted to Lucknow district only.
- Present study is restricted to Science and Arts faculty of undergraduate course.
- Study is restricted to survey method only.
- Study is restricted to use self made questionnaire only.

Methodology

Survey method was applied for this study to get the results. Prior permission and consent was taken from the subjects to participate whole heartedly to give their best. Self made questionnaire was distributed among the students to judge their awareness and knowledge level about AIDS.

Sample

A total of 100 students were selected as subjects. Random sampling technique was applied to select the subjects. Boys and Girls opted for undergraduate courses studying in B.Sc. and B.A. were acted as subjects. Age ranges from 18-21 years.

Interpretation of Data

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Table – 1

Scores	Percentage	Interpretation
Below 24	Up to 40%	Low awareness
25-36	41- 60%	Average awareness
37 and above	Above 60%	High awareness

Table -1 Show the scoring pattern and the interpretation of the scores. If scores obtain by the subject is below 24 it means having low awareness level regarding AIDS. Scoring 25 to 36 represents the average awareness level and if the scores lie above 37 shows the high awareness level.

Table – 2
Awareness among B.Sc. students about AIDS

Name of Group	No. Of Student	Mean	% awareness
Science Group (B.Sc.)	50	44.9	74.83

Table 2 shows the mean of the Science Group (B.Sc.) students that most of the students obtain 44.5 marks out of 60. Further it also reveals that awareness about AIDS among them is 74.83% which also mean that they are highly aware about it. Thus the Hypothesis formulated H1 is accepted.

Table – 3
Awareness among B.A. students about AIDS

Name of Group	No. Of Student	Mean	% awareness
Arts Group (B.A.)	50	40.9	68.16

Table 3 Shows about the awareness about AIDS among Arts Group (B.A.) students which obtain 40.9 marks out of 60. The percentage awareness about AIDS is 68.16 which is also a good sign and it reflects that Arts group is also highly aware about AIDS and thus the Hypothesis formulated H2 is also accepted.

Table – 4
Comparison of Science Group and Arts Group about awareness of AIDS

Name of Group	No. Of Student	Mean	S.D.	T - Value
Science Group (B.Sc.)	50	44.9	6.40	*2.87 significant At 0.01 level
Arts Group (B.A.)	50	40.9	7.51	

Table 4 shows that the mean value of 50 students of Science Group is higher than that of Arts Group with respect to their awareness about AIDS. S.D. (6.40) Science Group is less than the S.D. (7.51) of Arts Group.

Further the computed value of t' is 2.87 which is greater than the tabulated value of t' = 2.58 at 0.01 level of significance. Thus the mean difference is highly significant. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and the research hypothesis H3 is accepted.

Table – 5
Awareness about AIDS among Undergraduate Boys

Name of Group	No. Of Student	Mean	% awareness
Boys	50	43.3	72.16

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Table 5 shows that the Boys of Undergraduate courses score 43.3 marks out of 60 marks. Therefore the % awareness about AIDS is 72.16 which show that the boys are highly aware about AIDS. So Hypothesis H4 is accepted.

Table – 6
Awareness about AIDS among Undergraduate Girls

Name of Group	No. Of Student	Mean	% awareness
Girls	50	39.1	65.16

Table 6 shows the means of Girls of Undergraduate courses scored by them is 39.1 marks out of 60. Thus the % awareness about AIDS is 65.16. Therefore it is observed from the values obtained that the Girls are highly aware about AIDS. So Hypothesis H5 is accepted.

Table – 7
Comparison of Boys and Girls about awareness of AIDS

Name of Group	No. Of Student	Mean	S.D.	T- Value
Boys	50	43.3	6.27	*3.15 significant At 0.01 level
Girls	50	39.1	7.03	

Table 6 shows the mean value of boys is higher than girls with respect to AIDS awareness. S.D. (7.03) of girls is higher than S.D. (6.27) of boys. The calculated value of 't' is 3.15 which is greater than the tabulated value of 't' = 2.58 at 0.01 level of significance. Hence the mean difference is highly significant. Therefore the null Hypothesis is rejected and research Hypothesis H6 that there is significant difference between the awareness of boys and girls of undergraduate courses about AIDS awareness is accepted.

FINDINGS

From the findings of the study it has been clear that the entire Science group student's percentage mean was 74.83% which shows awareness about AIDS while Arts students' percentage mean awareness was 68.16%. Science students were having more awareness about AIDS in comparison to Arts students. As per the findings of the result it is clear that Girls were less aware about AIDS in comparison to Boys of undergraduate course. Thus the difference between awareness about AIDS among the boys and girls was not significant and thus the hypothesis has been rejected on the basis of the above result.

The findings of the above calculations is that the difference mean of boys group and girls group indicate that the boys and girls are no equally aware about AIDS and this difference may due to sex differentiation and their educational environment also different is due to their educational back ground because of they are much concerned with science background while others were concerned with arts background.

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