

**Knowledge Regarding HIV/AIDS Transmission in rural, Rajasthan.**

Praveen Singh Shekhawat<sup>1</sup>, Ved Prakash Agrawal<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Senior Demonstrator Microbiology, <sup>2</sup>Senior Demonstrator Anatomy,  
Government Medical College, Bhilwara.

**Correspondence Author:** Ved Prakash Agrawal, Senior Demonstrator Anatomy, Government Medical College, Bhilwara.

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**Abstract**

**Background-** Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) has become the most important public health problem since the Second World War.

**Methods-** This cross sectional study enrolled 100 people residing in urban and rural area of the city. This study was carried on individuals aged more than 18 yrs.

**Results-**35 % Patients heard HIV/AIDS first time when they went to health worker for their disease. Electronic media and print media are major source of information in care giver and general population. Most of (46.00%) the study subjects were agree that HIV /AIDS can be prevented but 42.00% patient do not know and 12.00% patients believe that it cannot be prevented.

**Conclusion -**The awareness regarding HIV/AIDS was low in general population. It can be increased by IEC activity.

**Keywords:** KAP, HIV, Population.

**Introduction**

Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) has become the most important public health problem since the Second World War. The latest epidemiological studies in 2013 reported 35 million cases of HIV/AIDS. The prevalence of people living with HIV in Iran was estimated to be

between 47,000 and 110,000 in 2013<sup>1</sup>. Any individual may be at risk for HIV, but some groups of individuals are at a higher risk for exposure to HIV. Imprisonment is a risk factor for HIV infection because of the common practice of needle sharing and unsafe sex <sup>2-4</sup>. Many knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) studies have been conducted on HIV/AIDS in prisons. The level of KAP apropos HIV/AIDS is different in different communities. One study showed that very few individuals staying in working women's hostel or Dormitory had adequate knowledge about the modes of transmission and methods of prevention<sup>5</sup>.

**Material and Methods**

This cross sectional study enrolled 100 people residing in urban and rural area of the city. This study was carried on individuals aged more than 18 yrs. All the individuals were required to fill a questionnaire which contained information about their socioeconomic data like age, sex literacy level, and residential status, religion and monthly income. The questionnaire had questions regarding the knowledge about HIV, its mode of transmission and various methods to prevent its spread. All the data obtained from the survey was arranged in Microsoft excel and analysed by EPI Info software.

**Results**

A total of 100 medical students responded to the questionnaire, 22% were female, and 88 % were male.

Table 1: Descriptive characteristics of the participants

Characteristics	No. of individuals	Percentage
Sex		
Male	88	88%
Female	22	22%
Age		
Less than 40 Yrs	72	72%
More than 40 Yrs	28	28%

Table-2: Response of the Subjects

Response	No. of individuals	Percentage
Source of information		
Print media	11	11
TV	32	32
Friends	14	14
Through Medical staff	35	35
Don't Know	8	8
Can HIV prevented		
Yes	46	46
No	12	12
Don't Know	42	42

35 % Patients heard HIV/AIDS first time when they went to health worker for their disease. Electronic media and print media are major source of information in care giver and general population. Most of (46.00%)the study subjects were agree that HIV /AIDS can be prevented but 42.00% patient do not know and 12.00% patients believe that it cannot be prevented.

**Discussion**

The HIV/AIDS is acquired due to high risk behaviour of people which helps the virus to enter the body. The major issues related to HIV /AIDS is social stigma and discrimination which exist at individual, family and societal level. Stigma and discrimination fuel the HIV /AIDS epidemic. The reasons behind these issue are wide spread ignorance, poor information and misconceptions about HIV /AIDS. Understanding about the knowledge, attitude and practices about HIV/AIDS of people having HIV/AIDS (source of infection), care givers (including patient attendant and medical staff) and in general populations will help us in formulating strategy for prevention, treatment and improving compliance to treatment of HIV/AIDS. In the absence of any preventive vaccine or curative treatment to this dread disease till date, prevention remains the only measure to apprehend the transmission of disease.

More than 72% of patients were in age group of less than 40 years. It clearly indicates that it is the young and productive population which is mostly affected by the disease. Majority of patient were males (88.00%) and male to female ratio was 4:1. This observation in similar to a study done in India (Zahear et al., 2003)<sup>6</sup>, (Singh et al., 2002)<sup>7</sup>.

**Conclusion**

The awareness regarding HIV/AIDS was low in general population. It can be increased by IEC activity.

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