

STUDY OF IMPACT OF DISCIPLINES ON ATTITUDE OF GIRLS TOWARDS AIDS/HIV

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to see the attitude of young girls of different disciplines i.e. Math, Biology, Commerce towards AIDS/HIV. To know if discipline has impact on attitude of girls of Higher Secondary School. To fulfill the requirement a sample of 30 girls of Higher Secondary School each from math, biology and commerce discipline were taken from Jabalpur city of Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh. Descriptive survey method was employed, and purposive random sampling technique was used to collect data. AIDS attitude and awareness scale prepared by UNICEF was used for data collection. Conclusions were drawn that showed that there is impact of discipline on attitude towards AIDS/HIV of girls of different disciplines. Thus studying biology is helpful in knowing the nature of spread of virus (HIV) and the disease. It provides knowledge about transmission and prevention of AIDS. Study of biology also helps in modification of behaviour.

Keywords: Attitude, Awareness, HIV, Knowledge, Behaviour.

AIDS, the acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome also sometimes called “slim disease” is considered to be fatal illness. It is caused by a retrovirus known as the human immune-deficiency virus (HIV) which weakens the body’s immune system to such a extent that the victim becomes vulnerable to a host of infections, and life-threatening diseases. The last stage of HIV infection is known as AIDS. AIDS was recognized as an emergency disease in early 1980s. It has spread over the years and will persist well into 21st century. Evolution of AIDS has been from a mysterious illness to a global pandemic thereby infecting tens of millions people. The national AIDS control programme was launched in India in 1987 to prevent further transmission of HIV, to decrease morbidity and mortality and to minimize the socio-economic impact resulting from HIV infection. It also becomes important to communicate information in youth so that they are aware of the prevention, testing and support system. Increased knowledge and positive attitude will help them in choosing safe behavioural patterns, beliefs and will help in reducing stigma and discrimination (Sreja and Nalinilatha, 2017). The research in hand will be helpful in changing the

attitude of people specially school going girls. Nubel and Jane-Francis (2016) undertook the problem of knowledge, attitude and practices regarding HIV/AIDS amongsenior secondary school students in Fako division. They used questionnaire on a sample from a secondary school from Fako and found that 62% of participants had a high level of knowledge of HIV/AIDS whereas those with poor knowledge were 3.4%.

Caroline, Deka, Das and Deori (2016) conducted a study on the topic Knowledge and Awareness regarding HIV/AIDS in School Children of Guwahati City of India. Their findings revealed that there is significant difference in knowledge and awareness regarding HIV/AIDS between students of Government and Private Schools. Kameshore, Singh, Minita and Avinash (2014) undertook topic knowledge and attitude on HIV/AIDS among students of higher secondary schools in Imphal: Across sectional study. Their findings revealed that the main source of information was books, teachers, T.V., radio and newspaper. 63.80% of the students had positive attitude towards AIDS/HIV. Choy, Rene, and Khan (2013) indicated that less than 20%

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of medical students received adequate training to care for PLHWA. A prevalent negative belief was seen regarding testing, confidentiality, disclosure and environment of care towards PLHWA. Mishra (2012) took topic A Study of Attitude and Awareness of AIDS among Truck Drivers. They found from the results that low age group truck drivers (18 to 30 years) have significantly positive attitude towards AIDS than high age group (31 to 50 years). Sevim (2003) conducted their study on Knowledge and Attitudes of High School Students about AIDS; A Turkish Perspective. Their results showed moderate knowledge levels in highschool students. Owuamanam (2000) conducted study on HIV/AIDS Awareness and Educational Training Strategies in Nigeria; Implication for Counseling. The study revealed that the awareness of undergraduates was not total and more efforts and behaviour change was needed. A careful review revealed that there is need for development of positive attitude towards AIDS of students.

Objectives

1. To study the attitude of girls of different disciplines towards AIDS.
2. To study the difference in attitude of girls of different disciplines.

Method

Descriptive survey method for employed to conduct research study.

Sample:

The present study was descriptive survey, and was conducted on 90 students of Higher Secondary classes. The data was collected by purposive random sampling technique from schools of Jabalpur city of Madhya Pradesh. The sample included only female students. The age range of the students was 16 to 18 years.

Measures:

AIDS attitude questionnaire prepared by UNICEF was used as a tool for data collection.

Procedure:

The investigator selected two schools which

had math, biology and commerce as diversified subjects at Higher Secondary level. The selection of schools was such that it had both girls as well as boys at higher secondary level.

Permission was taken from the Principals of schools, so that test can be administered on a sample of 30 girls each from math, biology and commerce stream. Instructions were made clear before distributing the questionnaire. When the students had finished the test booklets were collected. Raw scores obtained were tabulated in master-sheet. Data was treated statistically using various statistical methods. Results were analyzed and conclusions were drawn.

Results and Discussions

Table 1: Comparative results of Girls of different disciplines on their attitude towards AIDS.

| Disciplines | N | Mean | S.D. |
|-------------|----|-------|-------|
| Math | 30 | 32.16 | 37.44 |
| Biology | 30 | 37.80 | 54.60 |
| Commerce | 30 | 34.66 | 43.50 |

Table 2: Summary of ANOVA Test

| Source of Variation | Df | S.S | M.S | 'F' | Significance |
|---------------------|----|---------|-------|------|--------------|
| Between groups | 2 | 489.79 | 244.5 | 3.38 | <0.05 |
| Within groups | 87 | 6290.31 | 72.29 | | |

Degree of freedom -87

Minimum value at 0.05 level=3.10

Minimum value at 0.01 level=4.85

The results obtained in the above tables (Table 1) clearly shows that the means for Girls regarding their attitude towards AIDS for Math, Biology and Commerce disciplines are 32.16, 37.80 and 34.66 respectively. From Table 2 it can be seen that the value of "F" ratio comes out to be 3.38 which is more than the minimum value of significance at 0.05 level. Thus from the results for girls it can be concluded that there is impact of discipline on attitude towards AIDS.

Conclusions

It can be concluded that there is impact of discipline on the attitude of girls of different disciplines. This can be accounted for girls regarding

the study of Biology, as the nature of subject provides the deeper knowledge of human health, diseases and their causes. The study helps in building scientific outlook, which enhances understanding in a better way and thus better results are seen.

Educational Implications

Girls who were from Biology background, showed a positive attitude towards AIDS/HIV. Ensuring that there is no discrimination with people/students suffering with this disease, it becomes important to introduce students of other disciplines with information about AIDS and its spread. Students should be given education which can be included in the curriculum in the form of training or other activities like Essay writing, Slogan writing, Collecting news on AIDS from newspaper and preparing a scrap book can be done.

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