

# A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE ON AIDS/HIV AMONG ADULT PATIENTS AT SRM GENERAL HOSPITAL, KATTANKULATHUR.

Dr.C.Kanniammal,<sup>1</sup> Dr.T.Suseelal<sup>2</sup> Mrs.A.Akila Devi,<sup>3</sup> Mrs. Ambiga. K,<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Sheeba Jebakani. A,<sup>5</sup> Mrs. Mercy Anchala. A,<sup>6</sup> Ms. Bency. B.S,<sup>7</sup>

Dean and Head Department of Medical Surgical Nursing<sup>1</sup>, Assistant Professor,<sup>2</sup> Associate Professor,<sup>3</sup> Assistant Professor,<sup>4</sup> Assistant Professor,<sup>5</sup> Lecturer,<sup>6</sup> Clinical Instructor,<sup>7</sup> SRM College of Nursing, SRM Institute Of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, Kancheepuram – 603 203, Tamil Nadu, India.

## Abstract

AIDS has become a major health care problem in India with an estimated 34 million people suffering from the condition, representing the largest number of any country in the world. Hence it is necessary to assess the knowledge on aids among the adult population to establish preventive strategies’.

**Objectives :** 1. To assess the knowledge on AIDS/HIV among the adult out patients at SRM General Hospital, Kattankulathur.

2. To associate the knowledge on AIDS/HIV among the adult out patients with their demographic variables.

**Methods :** A Cross-sectional study was conducted at SRM General Hospital, Kattankulathur, during the month of December 2017. Data was collected from the patients who attended the out patients department. Above 20 years- 40 years of aged patients were included in this study. Self structured interview questionnaire was used to collect the data. Using SPSS version -16 the data was analyzed, frequencies were calculated and values were determined to find the victim between the variables. The result of the study concludes that (26%) outpatients were having poor knowledge (60%) of outpatients with moderate knowledge and (14%) outpatients with high level knowledge regarding AIDS.

**Conclusion:** The present study on knowledge on AIDS/HIV among adult population concludes AIDS is prevalent among adult population in all regions. It is recommended that health education should be reinforced among the reproductive age group. There is an urgent need to educate the patient with handout and posters to create awareness about transmission and management of AIDS.

**Key words:** AIDS/HIV, knowledge, adult out patients, prevalent, health education

## INTRODUCTION

AIDS/ HIV is a dreadful disease which is prevalent worldwide. It is a immune compromised disease caused by human Immune virus that leads to mortality and morbidity. It mainly affects the adult population who are ignorant about the spread of this disease. This disease spread through infected needles and unscreened blood transfusion which are handled by medical personals and others. Also it is common among multiple sex partners and people those who indulge in drug abuse. Majority of the people are not aware of safe disposal of used needles and razor which are used for the patients.

Globally approximately 34 million people are living with HIV/AIDS<sup>1</sup> Also 1.8 million individuals become newly infected in 2016 and with 5,000 new infections per day. Around 1.1 million people are diagnosed with Aids in the United States. In India 2.08 million people were living with AIDS in 2011.India spends about 5% of health budget on HIV/AIDS.<sup>2,3</sup>

AIDS will not spread by air, cough, droplet infection. It is not spread by hugging, kissing or by shaking hands. Also it is not spread by animals or insects. Low procurement of condoms is contributing to negative effect of health education. Opportunistic infections like tuberculosis, upper respiratory infection, urinary tract

infection and cancer leads to low immunity. Cytomegalo virus infection is serious and it causes vision loss, microcephaly, behavior issues, mental disability cerebral palsy, seizures and death among children. Patients with aids present with fever, cough, tiredness, hunger, night sweating and weight loss and loss of appetite. Since treating AIDS patients is costly people with low economic status finds difficulty to continue their treatment.<sup>4</sup>

It is important to provide adequate knowledge to the vulnerable people to protect from the risk of AIDS. The lack of awareness and misconceptions about AIDS is responsible for social stigma among the public. Studies reveals educational interventions can reduce the lack of knowledge among health care professionals.<sup>5,6</sup>

One of the study among medical students quoted that almost half of the students did not know the preventive measures of HIV nearly two third had misconception, about one third of the students did not know the mode of transmission<sup>7</sup> HIV mostly affects the reproductive and productive age groups. Studies revealed men were less aware of HIV infection. Also people who use alcohol and drugs are at high risk in transmitting HIV to others.<sup>8,9</sup>

Attention to be paid to public's knowledge and perception of the disease.<sup>10</sup> Nurses must empower knowledge and develop skills to care the AIDS patients.<sup>11</sup>

Since the theme for World Aids Day 2017 is "Right to health", the investigators discern the need to identify the knowledge on Aids among adult population and to create awareness among them.

With this background, the present study was conducted with the objective to assess the knowledge on Aids among adult population in the outpatient department at SRM general hospital.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS:**

It was a cross-sectional study based on knowledge assessment of AIDS/HIV. Data was collected from 117 adult patients, above 20 to 40 years of age during study period were enrolled in the study. Adult outpatients, above 20 to 40 years of age, and appearing for check-up at SRM General Hospital, Kattankulathur, Kancheepuram dist, were eligible but those who did not consent to participate in the study were excluded. The setting was chosen in the basis of feasibility in terms of availability of samples and co-operation extended by the outpatients and the management. Non Probability convenient Sampling technique was adopted for selecting the samples for the study. One hundred and seventeen (43 male + 74 female) patients, who were fulfilling the eligibility criteria, were interviewed by using self structured interview questionnaire.

The permission was obtained from Dean, SRM college of Nursing and authorities of the selected department. After obtaining formal approval from the administration of SRM General Hospital, Informed consent was obtained from each participant of the study before starting data collection. Assurance was given to each subject that anonymity of each individual would be free to withdraw from the study at anytime.

Data collection was done within the given period of time among outpatients during day time. Self introduction about the researcher and details about the study was explained to the Samples and their consent was obtained. After the data collection the participants were educated with video teaching and posters on transmission, signs and symptoms, prevention and treatment of aids disease. The data collected was entered and analyzed by using a statistical package SPSS.11.0. For descriptive analysis frequencies were calculated and chysquare p-value was calculated to determine statistical associations.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Analyzed data are presented in the following sections:

Table 1: Frequency and Percentage distribution of adult out patients.

Table 2: Frequency and Percentage distribution of knowledge of adult out patients on AIDS/HIV

Table 3: Association of selected demographic variables and knowledge on AIDS/HIV among adult out patients.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of adult out patients N=117

VARIABLES		No.	%
Age	a. < 20years	8	7%
	b. 21-25years	13	11%
	c.26-30years	18	16%
	d.31-35years	17	15%
	e. 36-40years	61	51%
Gender	a. Male	43	36%
	b. Female	74	64%
Place of origin	a. Urban	65	56%
	b. Rural	52	44%
Education status	a. No formal education	13	11%
	b. Primary school	18	14%
	c. Middle school	23	20%
	d. High school	27	21%
	e. Graduate	43	35%
Family history of chronic illness	a. Yes	25	24%
	b. No	88	76%

Table 1 reveals the frequency percentage distribution of adult outpatients in accordance with their age, gender, place of origin, education status and family history of chronic illness.

In a total of 117 adult out patients the age range of the patients was from 20 to above 40 years. Among them < 20 years were 8 (7%), between 20-25 years were 13 (11%), between 26-30 years were 18 (16%), between 31-35 years were 17 (15%), between the age group 36-40 years were 61 (51%).Among them 74 (64%) women and 43 (36%) were males.

Regarding the place of origin 65 (56%) were living in urban community and 52 (44%) were living in rural community. With respect to education status 13 (11%) has no formal education, 18 (14%) has primary school education, 23 (20.0%) underwent middle school education, 27(21.0%) outpatients completed high school and 43 (35%) patients were graduate.

Considering the family history of chronic illness 25 (24%) of them has no history of chronic illness and 88 (76%) of them had history of chronic illness.

Table 2: Frequency and Percentage distribution of adult out patients knowledge on score N=117

Category	score	%
0-6 poor	30	26

Category	score	%
7-12 moderate	71	60
13-17 high	16	14

Table 2 reveals the percentage distribution of adult outpatients knowledge score on Aids disease transmission. Among 117 participants 30 (26%) of them were having poor knowledge level, 71 (60.0%) were having moderate knowledge level and 14 (16.0% of them were having high level of knowledge on AIDS/HIV

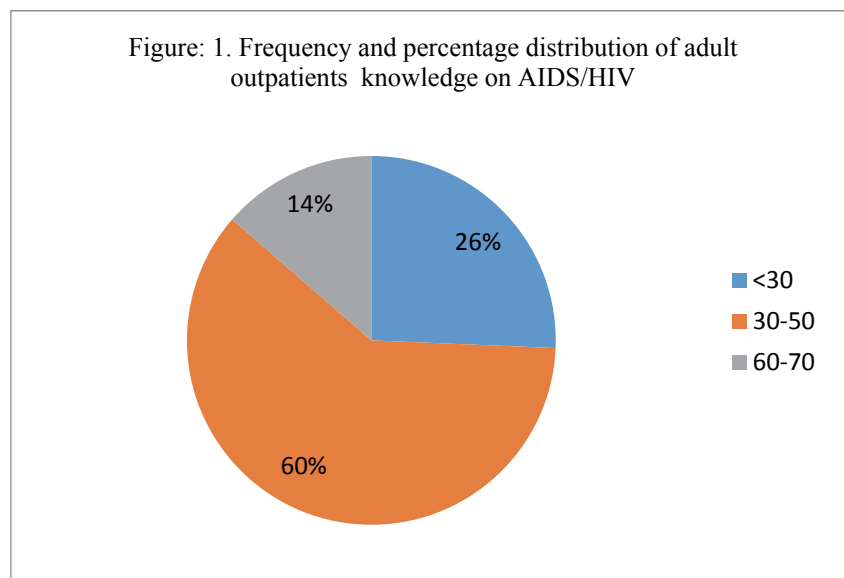


Table 3: Association of selected variables and knowledge on AIDS/HIV among adult out patients (N=117)

VARIABLES		Poor knowledge level	Moderate knowledge level	High knowledge level	X <sup>2</sup> Value and P Value
Age	a. <20years	0	5	3	X <sub>2</sub> = 11.82 p = 0.1
	b. 21-25years	2	9	2	
	c. 26-30years	5	12	1	
	d. 31-35years	4	12	1	
	e. 36-40years	11	47	3	
Gender	a. Male	5	32	6	X <sup>2</sup> = 1.80 p = 0.4
	b. Female	14	54	6	

VARIABLES		Poor knowledge level	Moderate knowledge level	High knowledge level	X <sup>2</sup> Value and P Value
Place of origin	a. Urban	9	48	8	X <sup>2</sup> = 0.68 p = 0.7
	b. Rural	8	40	4	
Education status	a. No formal education	1	12	0	X <sup>2</sup> = 12.28 p = 0.1
	b. Primary school				
	c. Middle school	3	13	2	
	d. High school	8	14	1	
	e. Graduate	4	21	2	
		4	30	9	
Family history of chronic illness	a. Yes	2	18	5	X <sup>2</sup> = 2.56 p = 0.3
	b. No	15	64	9	

Not significant at P > 0.05

## DISCUSSION

AIDS/HIV is a communicable disease which spreads faster in India. This disease leads to suppression of vital organs and it reduces the life span of people who are affected. Due to the death of parents with Aids many children became orphans and homeless. This is a critical situation for the children to study further and to decide about their future. India is facing a lot of economical problem to help the people affected with Aids and their families.

It is the ethical responsibility of medical and nursing staff and students to involve in the education, management and prevention of this disease. Personal attitude and experience should be improved to maintain a patients right confidentiality and involvement in decision making and nursing care.<sup>12</sup> Health care workers has a continuous role among females and the high risk population.<sup>13</sup>

The present study assessed the knowledge of Aids among adult patients attending out patients department of SRM General Hospital. The result of the study revealed that out of 117 participants regarding the age group majority of them were between 36 – 40 years (51%), also majority of them were women (64%). Majority of them living in urban community (56%).

Regarding the knowledge on Aids awareness the analysis revealed among 117 participants 30 of them (26%) had poor knowledge, 71 of them (60%) had moderate knowledge and 16 (14%) of them had high level of knowledge regarding Aids disease. There is no association on knowledge on aids transmission with selected demographic variables like age, gender, place of origin, education status and family history of chronic illness.

These findings are consistent with the study done by Rizwan S A et al ., (2015) that (60%) of the population did not have comprehensive knowledge and their mean knowledge score was (14.7) .<sup>14</sup> policies should be developed to emphasis on health education and free treatment to the affected people with AIDS.<sup>15</sup> The study recommend to do urgent interventional studies to tackle this situation and to fill the knowledge gaps from migrant workers that may prove vital to prevent further spread of AIDS/HIV through out the country.

## CONCLUSION

The present study is associated with knowledge and Aids disease. The present study on knowledge on Aids disease revealed that 26% of outpatients had poor knowledge and 60.0% of outpatients had moderate knowledge and 14.0% of outpatients had high level knowledge. It can be concluded from the present study that people are still ignorant about the causes and prevention of Aids disease. We, therefore recommend that health education

should be reinforced among the general population to empower knowledge and to prevent Aids disease. Hence, healthcare members should create awareness about prevention and management of Aids disease.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST: The authors declared no competing interests.

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