特集：合同臨地訓練

Knowledge, attitudes and practices towards HIV/AIDS among students and teachers

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ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVES; To determine knowledge, attitudes and practices towards HIV/AIDS among students and teachers.

STUDY AREA; Four Primary and one Secondary school in Riruta location of Nairobi Province of Kenya

STUDY DESIGN; It was a cross-sectional study design.

SUBJECT; Seventy teacheers were sampled from the school. Sixty-two students were sampled from the school. Therefore total number of subjects was one hundred and thirty two.

The sampled students were those in classes 6 and 7 in 4 primary schools. Response rate was 100%. Simple random sampling was used. Study period was 9 August through 30 November, 1999.

MAIN RESULTS; Knowledge about HIV/AIDS was found to be 100% for students and teachers. Knowledge and application of preventive measures for the patients' care was found to be 80% among teachers and 50% among the students. 50% of the students and 80% of the teachers had appropriate.

CONCLUSION; Whereas most students aand teachers have some knowledge about HIV/AIDS, there is a room for improvement on the attitues and preventable practices.

***Key words*;** knowledge, attitude, practices, HIV, AIDS, students, teachers.

INTRODUCTION

Acquired Immune deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a serious problem in Kenya and indeed in the entire sub-Saharan Africa. It had by mid 1990's surpassed both measles and malaria to become the second leading cause of child mortality in sub-Saharan Africa.

In July 1994, the world Health Organization estimated that the world wide cumulative figures for those infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) was, 16 million adults and 1 million children, the majority of whom lived in sub-Saharan Africa.

In Kenya, the AIDS pandemic has caused many problems like health care delivery expenses, upsurge in incidences of pulmonary tuberculosis due to lowered immunity, increased mortality rate, social problems like AIDS orphans etc.

Of the 5.8 million people infected with HIV this year 4 million live in sub-Saharan Africa.

The predominant means of transmission in sub-Saharan Africa is hetero sexual, accounting for ninety percent of the cases.

Prevention of new cases of HIV infection in the youth and adolescents is crucial in the control of this epidemic, hence the authors' target for school teachers as important health message disseminators.

In 1990, the World Health Organization (WHO) asserted that people width enough knowledge on HIV/AIDS stood a better chance of preventing themselves against the same than those without knowledge. This was

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supported by Blood (1993) who in a study carried out in Glasgow concluded that vulnerability to HIV/AIDS was associated with the individual's knowledge of disease. This is in conformity with aims of the authors.

HIV/AIDS infection rate is also accelerated by people's attitudes as reported by the World Council of Churches through a study carried out in India (WCC 1994). The study revealed that 80% of the people had elementary knowledge about HIV/AIDS but had wrong attitudes towards it. This is in line with the authors of this report whose aim was to assess not only attitudes but knowledge and practices among teachers and students.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Although almost everyone in Kenya has heard about HIV/AIDS and konw that AIDS virus transmitted primarily by sexual intercourse, cases of HIV/AIDS are increasing.

This raises an important issue as to who is the best suited people or professionals to be utilized in the dissemination of information on the preventive measures. This is why the authors focused on teachers and students.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The authors sought to establish the amount and quality of knowledge the teachers and students had on HIV/AIDS preventive measures. This would form the basic of the preparation of teachers as capable disseminators of information on HIV/AIDS preventive measures to students. Previous reports have shown that having knowledge about HIV/AIDS is important to prevent HIV infection and to have appropriate attitude towards people with HIV especially among adolescents.

ABBREVIATIONS

S.T.I……Sexually Transmitted Infections
NASCOP …Kenya National AIDS Control Programs.
NCPD ……National Council for Population and Development
AMREF ……African Medical and Research Foundation.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

RESEARCH METHOD

It was a cross-sectional study design, chosen because the area was very diverse.

STUDY POPULATION

This was made up of students in classes six and seven in four primary schools and form three students in one secondary school. It also consisted of teachers with special duties in the five schools. The total number of subjects was five houndred.

STUDY AREA

This was Riruta Location of Nairobi province of Kenya. Riruta Location lies South-west of Nairobi. Politically it is Dagoreti constituency while administratively it is in Dagoreti Division. It is a rural-urban set-up with a population of 65,000 according to a 1992 population estimate. The area is densely populated. Residential structures are basically slum-like with mixture of permanent and semi-permanent houses.

Ethnic composition is diverse with almost all Kenya tribes being represented. In addition, there are foreigners from Uganda, Somalia, Rwanda and Tanzania.

There are several health facilities with one city council Health center and several private health institutions.

There are four public primary schools and several private ones. There is one public secondary school.

The area has one administrative chief and three assistance chiefs.

STUDY SAMPLE

The total number of standards six and seven students in the four primary schools and form three students in one secondary school was 360.

The total number of teachers in the five schools was140.

Therefore the target population consisted of 500 subjects.

SAMPLE SIZE

This was made up of 62 students from the four primary and one secondary school, and 70 teachers from the schools.

Sample size was therefore made up of a total of 132 respondents.

SAMPLING METHOD

Simple random sampling was used to select respondents.

SURVEY PERIOD

Data was collected in six days by five researachers/authors.

RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Interview schedules and semi-structured questionnaires were used.

CONTENTS OF THE QUESTIONAIRES AND INTERVIEW SCHEDULES

The following information was sought from the respondents using the questionnaires and interview schedules;

1. Personal characteristics
2. Percentage of the students
3. Course of AIDS
4. Sources of information on HIV/AIDS
5. Predisponsing factors to HIV/AIDS infection
6. HIV/AIDS preventive methods
7. Signs of AIDS
8. Role of teachers in HIV/AIDS
9. Care of AIDS patients

PLAN FOR DATA ANNALYSIS

Descriptive statistical methods were used to analyze the data.

RESULTS

1) SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF RESPONDENTS

Total number of teachers=70
Total number of students=62

Table 1-a Respondents' gender distribution

TEACHERS	NUMBER	PROPPRTION
Females	50	71.4%
Males	20	28.6%
STUDENTS		
Males	41	66.1%
Females	20	32.3%
Non-respondents	1	1.6%

Table 1-b RESPONDENTS AGES IN YEARS

TEACHETS	NUMBER	PROPORTION
BELOW 25	0	0%
25 TO 50	69	98.6%
ABOVE 50	1	1.4%
STUDENTS		
12 TO 15	33	53.2%
16 TO 18	25	40.3%
ABOVE 19	4	6.5%

COMMENTS

1. Female teachers were more than male teachers.
2. Male students were more than females.
3. Most students were below 18.
4. Most teachers were of the ages 25 to 50.

2) KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HIV/AIDS

Table 2-a CAUSES OF AIDS

TEACHETS	NUMBER	PPROPORTION
Mosquito bite	1	1.4%
HIV	69	98.6%
STUDENTS		
Mosquito	1	1.6%
biteHIV	61	98.4%

Table 2-b SIGNS OF AIDS

SIGNS	TEACHERS	STUDENTS
Weight loss	73%	60%
Fever	30%	15%
Diarrhea	40%	13%
Others	94%	95%

COMMENTS

1. Majority of the respondents i.e. 98.6% of teachers and 98.4% of students knew that HIV caused AIDS.
2. Majority of the respondents knew the signs of AIDS.

3) ATTITUDES OF TEACHERS TOWARDS HIV/AIDS

TABLE 3

ATTITUDE	PROPORTION
Use of projection	80%
Faithfulness to spouse	60%
Taking care of AIDS orphan	72.9%

COMMENT

Correct attitudes towards AIDS.

4) PRACTICES TOWARD HIV/AIDS

TABLE 4-a

PRACTICE	PROPORTION	
	TEACHERS	STUDENTS
Taking care of AIDS patients	80%	—
Counseling	30%	—
Teaching about HIV/AIDS	30%	—
Abstinence	50%	100%

COMMENTS

1 Majority of the teachers (80%) had taken care of AIDS patients.
2 Students had no practice towards HIV/AIDS by all (100%) abstained from sexual intercourse.

TABLE 4-b TEACHING ABOUT HIV/AIDS (BY TEACHERS)

FREQUENCY	PROPORTION
Daily	12.9%
Weekly	27.1%
Monthly	27.1%
Yearly	32.9%

COMMENTS

Teachers discussed issues of HIV/AIDS with their students very rarely.

DISCUSSION

This study revealed that 97% of the respondents were aware of AIDS and same proportion knew the causative agent of the disease.

In spite of this fact, HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to devastate population in the developing world particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa (AIDS Care 1999).

The study also revealed that most respondents associated HIV/AIDS with loose morals and thought that abstinence was the best method of preventing transmission of the AIDS virus. In spite of this knowledge most teachers did not abstain and instead 80% used protective devices.

Majority of the respondents knew the signs of AIDS and had seen and taken care of AIDS patients. Majority had come across AIDS orphans and this is in line with the assertion by NASCOP that "one of the work impacts of AIDS deaths to young adults is the increase in the number of orphans", (NASCOP, 1999, AIDS In Kenya, background, projections, impact and intervention).

The study further revealed that teachers were involved in activities geared to HIV/AIDS prevention like counseling, teaching in class and in general discussions with pupils/students. This shows that if teachers were well equipped with proper information on HIV/AIDS, they would play an important role in the prevention of the spread of this scourge.

In another early study, it was noted that "schools should allocate sufficient personnel, time and resources to ensure that policies and programmes are developed and implemented with appropriate community involvement. Curricula are well developed and teachers are well trained, and update teaching methods and materials about AIDS are available", (USA Department of Health and Human Rescources, 1987).

Although teachers are involved in teaching about HIV/AIDS, the frequency is very low with only 12.9% doing it daily. This study is therefore significant, as it has pointed out those deficiencies on teachers so that remedial measures are taken to empower teachers as disseminators of HIV/AIDS preventive methods to students.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Curricula for a/c teachers at all levels should be modified to include information on HIV/AIDS.
2. Workshops/seminars for teachers at all levels should be contacted regularly.
3. Health facilities should be actively involved in disseminating HIV/AIDS information to all patients attending them.
4. Further studies should be carried out on the determinants of human behavior, preferebly by social scientists.

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