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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

## KNOWLEDGE REGARDING HIV/AIDS AMONG ADOLESCENTS STUDYING IN A SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL.

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#### Manuscript Info

##### Manuscript History

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Knowledge, Adolescents and HIV/AIDS.

#### Abstract

HIV is a member of the group of viruses known as retroviruses which is enveloped. Recent times have witnessed a transition in the prognosis of Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection from a fatal disease to a chronic manageable disease. HIV infected adolescents face unique challenges when it comes to accepting and treating their diseases. Many adolescents are in denial, afraid, misinformed or lack familial or social support. Therefore, this age group may benefit from counselling services and supportive care. Adolescent HIV/AIDS is an epidemic with difference and its control needs to be adolescent specific.

**Aim :** This study was carried out to assess the knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among adolescents studying in a senior secondary school.

**Setting and Design :** Government Model Senior Secondary School, Sector-10, Chandigarh was used to collect relevant data. Quantitative research approach and a descriptive research design was used for the study.

**Material and Methods :** The study was conducted on a sample of 100 students of age group 16-20 yrs. were selected from Government Model Senior Secondary School using simple random sampling. Data was collected using self structured multiple choice questionnaire on HIV/AIDS. The collected data was organized, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted using descriptive and inferential statistics.

**Results :** The findings of the study revealed that out of 100 students 91% had average knowledge followed by 6% who had poor knowledge and 3% had good knowledge. There was no significant association of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among adolescents studying with socio-demographic characteristics. After the completion of study, health education was imparted to the students regarding prevention of HIV/AIDS.

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#### Introduction:-

HIV is a member of the group of viruses known as retroviruses which is enveloped. Recent times have witnessed a transition in the prognosis of Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection from a fatal disease to a chronic manageable disease. In the years 1970s, HIV has killed millions of men, women and children from all economic classes, representing every race, from countries around the world. In India, among the states – UTs in 2015, Manipur has shown the highest estimated adult HIV prevalence. HIV infected adolescents face unique challenges when it

comes to accepting and treating their diseases. Many adolescents are in denial, afraid, misinformed or lack familial or social support. Therefore, this age group may benefit from counselling services and supportive care. Adolescent HIV/AIDS is an epidemic with difference and its control needs to be adolescent specific.

### **Materials And Methods:-**

**Research approach & Research design:** For the present study, quantitative research approach and descriptive research design was used.

**Target population:** The target population of the study included 100 students of age group 16-20 yrs. from Government Model Senior Secondary School in Chandigarh, UT.

**Sample and Sampling technique :** 100 students of age group 16-20 yrs. were selected from Government Model Senior Secondary School using simple random sampling.

### **Description of the Research tool**

**Research tool:** A self structured questionnaire was developed to assess knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among senior secondary students. It was constructed after extensive review of literature and consulting with the experts in field of medical science.

**Part A :** A socio-demographic sheet which includes age, sex, residential area, family type, parental marital status, religion, educational status of mother and father, occupation of mother and father and family income.

**Part B :** It consisted of self structured questionnaire to assess knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among senior secondary students. There were total 30 questions. Each correct item was given a score of 1 and incorrect item was given a score of 0.

### **Ethical Consideration**

Prior to data collection, permission was obtained from the concerned authority of hospital along with the principal of the concerned school. The objective and purpose of the study was explained to the subjects. Subjects were given full autonomy to participate or withdraw from research anytime. It was ensured that the information will be kept confidential.

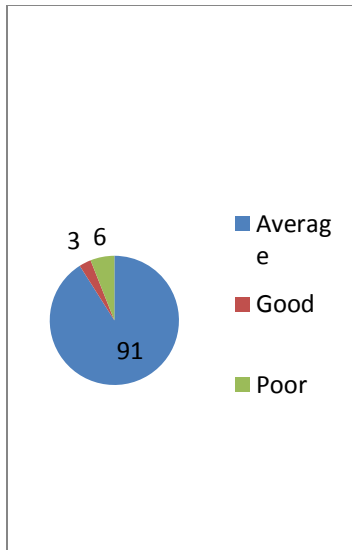
### **Data collection procedure**

Data was collected within one week period by investigators through self report (pen-paper) method. It took an average of 40-45 minutes. Students were little reluctant to give information but rapport was established to gain their confidence and information was sorted out with the help of Multiple choice questions.

### **Major Findings**

The present study was conducted on 100 subjects to assess the knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among adolescents. Out of these 100, 91% had average knowledge followed by 6% who had poor knowledge and only 3% had good knowledge (Fig.1).

There was no significant association of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among adolescents studying with socio-demographic characteristics. After the completion of study, health education was imparted to the students regarding prevention of HIV/AIDS.



**Fig1:-**Knowledge score of respondents

### **Discussion:-**

The present study revealed that out of 100 students, 91% had average knowledge followed by 6% who had poor knowledge and only 3% had good knowledge and there was no significant association of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among adolescents studying with socio-demographic characteristics. A similar study by Nuwera H, Prabhu A S, was conducted a cross sectional study among 250 students studying in X grade of three private schools located in Mangalore city regarding HIV/AIDS showing majority of them had heard about this condition i.e. 57%, followed by 33% who knew the cause of HIV/AIDS. Overall they had average knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS. Another cross sectional study was conducted by Shinde M et al in four randomly selected government schools which showed that 75% of the students were aware the system that mainly gets affected by HIV/AIDS and only 25% knew about the cells affected by HIV/AIDS. Majority i.e. 70.70% students had knowledge about the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

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