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Knowledge Attitude and Practices About HIV/AIDS Among Antenatal Women in Rural Area

Sujata K. Murarkar Assistant Professor, Bharati Medical college, pune

D. S. Deo Assistant professor at S.R.T.R Medical college, Ambajogai

R. N. Lakde Associate Professor at B. J . medical College, Pune

ABSTRACT

Introduction- India accounts for about 7% of all HIV/AIDS cases in the world. Globally, women constitute 48% of adults infected with HIV; in India they constitute 39%.In this context present study was conducted to assess knowledge, attitude and practices about HIV/AIDS in antenatal women.Methodology-A cross sectional study was conducted in 200 randomly selected women attending ANC clinic at S.R.T.R Medical College, Ambajogai.Results-Out of 200 antenatal women interviewed only 7.5% women correctly know about the route of transmission of HIV/AIDS.87.5% women felt that it is necessary to have knowledge about HIV/AIDS .69.5% women were willing to discuss HIV/AIDS with their family, friends or neighbors.Conclusion-Increasing knowledge about HIV/AIDS will be helpful in reducing incidence of HIV/AIDS.

KEYWORDS: Antenatal women, HIV/AIDS, Knowledge

Introduction

India as a developing country with a population of over one billion people faces many economic and social challenges. The HIV/AIDS epidemic seems to be one of the most pernicious threats to India's sustainability due to its rapid contagiousness and its ability to penetrate through diverse layers in Indian society. An alarming effect of this epidemic is the escalating rate at which Indian women are contracting HIV.[1]

India accounts for about 7% of all HIV/AIDS cases in the world. Globally, women constitute 48% of adults infected with HIV; in India, they constitute 39%.The prevalence is highest among productive young people between the ages of 20 and 29 years, with 60% of new infections occurring in the 15-25 years age group.Heterosexual transmissions accountfor more than 80% of all infections. The pandemic is having a serious effect on the reproductive health of women in India.[2]

Because 90% of the current infections are occurring among individuals under 50 years of age, spread of the epidemic among women of child bearing age has significant implications for further spread of HIV infection. It has been shown that there is 15 to 30 percent chance of passing the infection to child during pregnancy or birth. In India, the reported rate of mother to child transmission ranges from 13-60 percent.[3]

The prevalence of HIV among pregnant women is good indicator of the spread of the epidemic in the general population, as the level of HIV infection among pregnant women is similar to that in the general population of men and women aged 15-49 years.[4]

According to the 2010 report of the joint United Nations programme on HIV AIDS (UNAIDS) sexual intercourse is primary mode of HIV transmission in India accounting for about 90% of new HIV infections. More than 90% of infected women acquired the virus from their husbands and intimate partners.[5]

In this context, this study was conducted to assess the existing level of knowledge, attitude and practices about HIV/AIDS in antenatal women.

Material and Methods

A cross sectional study was conducted in 200 randomly selected women attending ANC clinic at S.R.T.R medical college, Ambajogai. Pregnant women between 18 to 44 years were included in the study. Participants were explained about the objectives of the study and an informal verbal consent was obtained from them. Participants were interviewed using a predesigned and pretested questionnaire.

Results

Out of 200 women interviewed 125 (62.5%) felt that anybody can be suffered with HIV/AIDS. only 15(7.5%) women correctly know about the rout of transmission of HIV/AIDS. (Table 1)

Out of 200 antenatal women 175 (87.5%) women felt that it is necessary to have knowledge about HIV/AIDS.158 (79%) women told that they are ready to permit a relative with HIV/AIDS to stay at home and seek medical care.107 (53.50%) women told that HIV patient should be isolated to prevent HIV/AIDS. 139(69.5%) women are willing to discuss HIV/AIDS with their family, friends or neighbours. (Table 2)

Only 22(11%) women told that their partner use condom and 21(10.5%) women told that their husband is using condom for family planning purpose. out of 22 women 17 (8.5%) women told that their husband get condom from private medical shop.(Table 3)

For 78.5% antenatal women television was the main source of information followed by newspaper (32%). (Table 4)

Table no.1 Distribution of ANC women according to level of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS

Sr. No.	Knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS	Yes (%)	No (%)	No response (%)	Don't know (%)	Total (%)
1	Heard about HIV/AIDS	178(89)	05(2.5)	17(8.5)	00(0)	200(100)
2	HIV/AIDS is a fatal disease	166(83)	10(5)	20(10)	04(2)	200(100)
3	Anybody can get infection of HIV/AIDS	125(62.5)	51(25.5)	04(2)	20(10)	200(100)
4	Causative agent of HIV/AIDS	15(7.5)	05(2.5)	21(10.5)	159(79.5)	200(100)
5	Route of Transmission of HIV/AIDS	145(72.5)	05(2.5)	22(11)	03(1.5)	200(100)
6	Any test for HIV/AIDS	147(73.5)	24(12)	27(13.5)	02(1)	200(100)
7	Any drug to cure HIV/AIDS	43(21.5)	126(63)	29(14.5)	02(1)	200(100)

Table No. 2: Distribution of ANC women according to attitude about HIV/AIDS.

Sr. No	Attitude about HIV/AIDS	Yes	NO	No response	Don't know	Total
1	Necessity to have knowledge about HIV/ AIDS	175(87.50%)	10(5%)	06(3%)	10(5%)	200(100%)
2	Permission to a relative with HIV/AIDS to stay at your home and seek medical care	158(79%)	16(8%)	14(7%)	12(6%)	200(100%)
3	Ready to do HIV/Testing	187(93.5%)	05(2.5%)	01(0.5%)	07(3.5%)	200(100%)
4	Want to discuss HIV/ AIDS with family, friends, relatives, neighbour	139(69.5%)	27(13.5%)	30(15%)	04(2%)	200(100%)
5	Person with HIV/AIDS be isolated to prevent it's spread	107(53.5%)	12(6%)	30(15%)	51(25.50%)	200(100%)

Table No. 3 Distribution of ANC women according to practices about HIV/AIDS

Sr. No.	Practices about HIV/AIDS	Responses						Total
1	Use of condom by partner	Yes	22(11%)	No	176(88%)	No response	02(1%)	200(100%)
2	Purpose of using condom	Family planning	21(10.5%)	No response	178(89%)	Don't know	01(0.5%)	200(100%)
3	Place of getting condom	Family planning center	1(0.5%)	Hospital	04(2%)	Medical shop	17(8.5%)	200(100%)

Table No. 4. Distribution of ANC women according to source of information about HIV/AIDS

Sr No.	Source of information	Number (%)
1	Television	157(78.5%)
2	Radio	63(31.5%)
3	Public Posters	30(15%)
4	Newspaper	64(32%)
5	Health care persons	21(10.5%)
6	Family/Friends	29(14.5%)

Discussion

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is increasingly affecting women and young girls, especially where heterosexual sex is the main mode of transmission. Out of the estimated adults living with HIV, 38.4% were females. Women are less educated, more overworked, underpaid and financially dependent on men. They fail to make use of protective measures (condoms) which are male driven and also they lack the power to negotiate with their partner. Ironically they are faithful but are infected by their single partner.6

Information, education and communication (IEC) continues to be important strategy in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This IEC strategy is implemented through use of mass media, inter -sectoral collaboration, training, involvement of NGO's and research.7

These efforts appear to be having an impact. In the present study about 89% antenatal women had heard about HIV/AIDS which is similar to the findings of SebantiGoswamiet al8 who reported that 87.13% antenatal women had heard about HIV/AIDS. Alexandra Rogers et al9in their study among pregnant women in rural Southern India revealed that 94% of women had heard about HIV/AIDS.

In the present study 72.5% antenatal women knew about route of transmission of HIV/AIDS correctly. Patel P B et al2in their study also revealed that 78% of antenatal women identified sexual intercourse as a route of transmission of HIV.

In the current study, 78.5% antenatal women reported high rates of access to information on HIV/AIDS from television followed by newspaper 32% and radio 31.5%.A Shrotri et al10observed that television was the main source information (78%) on HIV/AIDS. Present study finding corroborate with the same. K S Negiet al11in their study revealed that television was the commonest (73.5%) source of information. Present study findings corroborate with the same. Though media was the main source of information on HIV/AIDS in the present study main concern is that there was very low level of acquision of knowledge from health workers.

Although HIV/AIDS is mostly seen in at risk groups' i.e. commercial sex workers, injectable drug users and truck drivers but now it is also seen in general population through the bridging population.so HIV testing of this population is very important. But due to social stigma people hesitate to get tested. In the present study when we asked to the antenatal women about their willingness to do HIV testing, 93.5% antenatal women were ready to do their HIV testing .V N Addo4observed similar findings that about 90% pregnant women are ready to do their HIV testing.

In another study in rural southern India9revealed that 85% pregnant women expressed their willingness to be tested.

In the present study 53.50% antenatal women thought that persons with HIV/AIDS should be isolated to prevent its spread .This shows that there is an urgent need to increase the knowledge about HIV/AIDS so that people living with HIV/AIDS can live more productive and healthy lives.

Antenatal women in the present study were not aware that condom is also useful in preventing the sexually transmitted diseases. Use of condom according to them is only for family planning purpose .Most of them was also not aware that condom is available free of cost at government health facility. Only 1(0.5%) women told that her partner used to get condom from government health facility before pregnancy.

Conclusion

Increasing the knowledge about HIV/AIDS by using mass media and IEC (Information education and communication) activities will be helpful in reducing incidence of HIV/AIDS.

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