



AWARENESS ON AIDS AMONG WOMEN IN RURAL AREA

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted on assessment of awareness on AIDS among women at selected rural area in Madurantakam Tk, Kancheepuram Dt. The women aged between 18-45 years and those who were interested to participate in this study were included for the study at rural area in Pullipakkam village. A descriptive study design was adopted for this study and a total of 100 samples were recruited by using purposive sampling technique. The structured tool was used to collect the data on demographic variables and awareness on AIDS. The findings revealed that 64% of the women had an inadequate score, 32% had moderately adequate score and only 4% of the women had adequate score regarding awareness of AIDS with the mean value of 11.5 and standard deviation of 12.2. These findings unveiled that majority of women have inadequate score which mandates structured teaching programme to create awareness about AIDS.

KEYWORDS : Assessment, AIDS, Awareness, women

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016) HIV in the United States stated that **One in four people living with HIV in the United States is a woman.** Women of all ages, races, and ethnicities can get HIV, but some women are more at risk than others. Almost one in eight Americans with HIV doesn't know his or her HIV status. Men often report risky behaviors, such as having sex with other men. But a woman's risk may be determined by the often unknown behavior of their partner or partners.

AIDS was first recognized by the U.S. centers for Disease control and prevention in 1981 and its cause, HIV, identified in the early 1980's. Over two and a half decades have passed since the first diagnosis of AIDS in America. While there were a handful of women among the first cases, AIDS was thought to primarily affect gay men. As years passed, women began to emerge as the changing face of AIDS. The proportion of HIV and AIDS cases among women has more than tripled from 7% in 1985 to an alarming 26% in 2008. In 2008, the United States centers for disease control and prevention estimate that approximately 280,000 women were living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. as per 2008 reported by the Indian governments AIDS organization NACO (National AIDS Control Organization), the estimate in July 2007, was 2.3 million people in India living with HIV. Of these, an estimated 39% were female and 3.5 were children. However, Women remain undiagnosed, or not in care, and UNAIDS estimates that between 14.2 and 16.9 million women were living with HIV worldwide in 2007, accounting for half of the estimated 33 million HIV positive people.

Although treatments for AIDS and HIV can slow the course of the disease, there is no known cure or vaccine. Antiretroviral treatment reduces both the mortality and the morbidity of HIV infection, but these drugs are expensive and routine access to antiviral medication is not available in all countries. Due to the difficulty in treating HIV infection, preventing infection is a key aim in controlling the AIDS pandemic, with health organization promoting safe sex and needle exchange programmes in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus.

Statement of the problem: Assessment of awareness on AIDS among women at selected rural area in Madurantakam Tk, Kancheepuram Dt.

OBJECTIVES:

Assessment of level of awareness on AIDS among women.

Inclusion criteria

The women age between 18-45 years

The Women those who were interested to participate in this study.

Research methodology

A descriptive study design was adopted in this study.

Setting: The study was conducted at rural area in madurantakam tk.

Samples: All women who were interested to participated and able to read and write regional language. Sample size 100

Sampling Technique: purposive sampling technique was adopted for selecting the samples.

Tool Description and scoring: The tool consisted of two parts.

Part A: Background variables: questionnaire to assess the background variables such as the age, education, working status, income per month, type of family, marital status and source of information.

Part B: Structured Questionnaire was used to measure the level of awareness on AIDS. The questionnaire had 25 items Which has options as 'yes' and No, Where 'yes' carries '1' marks and 'No' carries, "0" mark. The total score is 25 and it is categorized as inadequate, moderately adequate and adequate.

Reliability & validity of the tool:

The tool was evaluated by the experts for content validity. Reliability was established by Cronbach's alpha (0.83)

DATA COLLECTION

The study was conducted in the selected rural area at Madurantakam Tk. A total of 100 samples were recruited purposively for this study. After obtaining the informed consent the study respondents were given self administered questionnaire and the data were recruited regarding AIDS among women.

Data analysis: Descriptive statistics were used to calculate frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation.

The statistical analysis showed that 64% of the women had an inadequate score, 32% had moderately adequate score and only 4% of the women had adequate score regarding awareness of AIDS. The mean and standard deviation of awareness on AIDS were 11.5 and 2.12 respectively. The

findings illustrated that there is a need for structured teaching programme for women especially in rural setting.

CONCLUSION:

Health education is an important aspect to prevent the diseases and promote the health of the individual and society. Awareness should be given based on the sex education along with its implication to the students, which paves the way for them to be more adaptive and be clear about the consequences as well as the advantages they face.

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