



## Knowledge and Perception on Rti and Aids Among Urban Slum Dwellers: A Study in Ap

### KEYWORDS

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### RTI/STI AND STD/AIDS

Many studies conducted on the knowledge and perception on RTI and STC were not focused on the slum dwellers. Hence the present study aims to fill this gap.

### STUDY AREA

The study was carried out in all the three regions of Andhra Pradesh, to make the findings applicable for the entire state. Since, it is difficult to cover the entire state due to paucity of time and funds, one city from each of the regions viz, Tirupati from Rayalaseema, Vijayawada from Coastal Andhra and Hyderabad from Telangana region, were purposively selected for the study.

### SAMPLE FRAME AND SIZE

The sampling unit for the study was the couples in the reproductive age group of 15-49 years having one or more conceptions. For the selection of sample from the slums in three cities, cluster sampling was followed.

All the notified slums in each of the selected three cities were listed based on this information collected from the Municipalities/Corporations. In each city, slums were classified into three categories based on the number of households viz, small, medium and big. From each city a sample of 225 households were selected randomly giving due representation to the above stated three categories of slums. In case of more than one couple in any given household, the youngest couple was considered. Thus the total sample for the study was 675 couples from the three cities covering 225 from each.

The respondents here were the females among the couple.

### 1. Prevalence of RTI/STI

The percent distribution of women with RTI/STI problems presented in Table- 1 revealed that almost all women reported to have at least one RTI/STI problem. It is found that heavy white discharge, blood strained/greenish yellow white discharge, Vaginal itching, lower abdominal pain, foul smelling discharge were the major RTI/STI problems experienced by women in all the three slum areas.

**Table- 1: Percent distribution of women by prevalence of RTI/STI**

Problems	Tirupati N=225	Vijayawada N=225	Hyderabad N=225
Vaginal itching	22.7	16.4	12.9
Heavy white discharge	26.2	28.9	25.8
Blood stained/greenish yellow white discharge	24.0	17.8	11.6
Burning sensation in the genital parts	13.8	11.6	6.77
Heavy discharge which stains the under Cloth/vaginal ulcer	13.3	9.8	8.4
Foul smelling discharge	11.6	9.8	7.1
Pain during intercourse/pain after Intercourse	13.3	9.8	7.1

Bleeding after inter-course	12.4	12.9	8.9
Lower abdominal pain	18.2	9.8	12.9
Fungal infection (Patches) in the vagina	4.9	0.4	3.6

Percentage may not be equal 100 due to multiple responses

### 2. Reason for getting RTI/STI

The major reasons for getting RTI/STI as reported by women presented in Table- 2 revealed that un-hygienic, hard work and extra marital sex were the major reasons for getting RTI/STI.

**Table- 2: Percent distribution of women by reasons for getting RTI/STI**

Reason	Tirupati N=225	Vijayawada N=225	Hyderabad N=225
Un-hygienic	45.8	19.6	17.3
Don't know	45.3	20.0	28.9
Due to hard work	36.9	17.8	15.1
Due to extramarital sex	15.1	13.8	9.3
Others	12.4	12.0	8.0

Percentage may not be equal 100 due to multiple responses

### 3. Opinion on the increasing trend of RTI/STI

The opinion of women on the increase in the prevalence of RTI/STI now a day presented in Table- 3, revealed that majority of women (57.7 per cent) opined that the prevalence of RTI/STI is showing increasing trend now a days. Substantially higher proportion of women in Vijayawada (70.7 per cent) reported the same increase in the prevalence of RTI/STI now a day's compared to 55.1 per cent in Tirupati.

**Table- 3: Percent distribution of women by opinion on the increasing trend of RTI/STI**

Opinion	Tirupati N=225	Vijayawada N=225	Hyderabad N=225	All N=675
Yes	55.1	70.7	47.3	57.7
No	44.9	29.3	52.7	42.3

### 4. Prevention of RTI/STI

The prevention strategy to avoid RTI/STI as reported by women is presented in Table- 4. Avoiding extra marital sex (66.4 per cent) safe sex (14.5 per cent) and hygienic practices (7.3 per cent) were the major suggestions made by women to avoid RTI/STI. Similar results were observed for all the three slum areas.

**Table- 4: Percent distribution of women by suggestions on prevention of RTI/STI**

Suggestions	Tirupati N=225	Vijayawada N=225	Hyderabad N=225	All N=675
Safe sex	8.0	16.0	19.6	14.5
Avoid extra marital sex	73.8	64.9	60.4	66.4
Maintain hygienic practices	1.8	9.8	10.2	7.3
Don't know	16.4	9.3	9.8	11.9

**5. HIV/AIDS**

In order to assess the knowledge of women on HIV/AIDS they were asked whether they ever heard about AIDS. The responses of women presented in Table- 5 revealed that three fourth of women had heard about AIDS. The proportion of women who heard of AIDS was higher at 81.8 per cent in Tirupati compared to 77.8 per cent in Vijayawada and 65.3 per cent in Hyderabad.

**Table- 5 : Percent distribution of women by knowledge about AIDS**

Heard about AIDS	Tirupati N=225	Vijayawada N=225	Hyderabad N=225	All N=675
Yes	81.8	77.8	65.3	75.0
No	18.2	22.2	34.7	25.0

**6. Knowledge of safe sex**

The percent distribution of women according by their knowledge on safe sex presented in Table- 6 showed that in all only 28.9 percent were aware of safe sex. The proportion aware of safe sex was more in Tirupati (43.1 percent) compared to 28 per cent in Hyderabad and 15.6 per cent in Vijayawada.

**Table-6: Percent distribution of women by knowledge on safe sex**

Knowledge on safe sex	Tirupati N=225	Vijayawada N=225	Hyderabad N=225	All N=675
Yes	43.1	15.6	28.0	28.9
No	52.4	71.6	65.8	63.3
Uncertain	4.4	12.9	6.2	7.9

**7. Safe sex by education and SLI**

The percent distribution of women by knowledge on safe sex according to education and standard of living presented in Table- 7 and 7.1 revealed that the proportion of women knowing safe sex increased with education and standard of living. It is observed that the knowledge of safe sex increased from 28.2 per cent among illiterates to 48.5 per cent among those who have studied up to middle and secondary. The chi-square test of significance indicates the differences were statistically significant. In the case of standard of living, the proportion knowing safe sex increased from 31.5 per cent among women with low standard of living to 70 per cent among women with high standard of living. The chi-square test of significance also indicated that the differences were statistically significant.

**Table- 7: Percent distribution of women by knowledge about safe sex according to education**

Standard of living	Know about safe sex		All N=675
	Yes	No	
Low	31.5	68.5	428
Medium	43.6	56.4	227
High	70.0	30.0	20
Chi-square	19.108	d.f - 2	p<0.000

**Table- 7.1 : Percent distribution of women by knowledge about safe sex according to SLI**

Education	Know about safe sex		All N=675
	Yes	No	
Illiterate	28.2	71.8	284
primary	35.4	64.6	164
Middle and Secondary	48.5	51.5	227
Chi-square	22.52	d.f - 2	p<0.000

**8. Prevention of AIDS**

The percent distribution of women by methods of preventing AIDS is presented in Table-8. Avoiding of extra marital sex and premarital sex was the main suggestions reported by women to prevent HIV/AIDS. Use of condom, a scare of getting infected blood/use of disposable needle, syringes etc were the other suggestions reported by the women. The region wise comparison indicated that the women in Tirupati were more knowledgeable than women in Vijayawada and Hyderabad.

**Table- 8 Percentage distribution of women by knowledge on prevention of AIDS**

Methods of Prevention of AIDS	Tirupati N=225	Vijayawada N=225	Hyderabad N=225
Use condoms	53.0	28.4	34.7
Avoid extra marital/premarital sex	61.8	29.3	47.8
Avoid insertion of infected blood/use disposable Needle, syringes, blades	21.8	10.2	11.6
Don't know	15.1	12.9	11.1
Others	16.9	9.8	9.7

Percentage may not be equal 100 due to multiple responses

**9. Knowledge of prevention on AIDS according to education**

The knowledge on prevention of AIDS is comparatively higher among literates than illiterates. The proportion of women aware of prevention of AIDS decreased with increase in education. Similarly, the proportion knowing the use of condom as a method of prevention has also increased with the education of women. Thus education seemed to have significant influence on creating awareness among women regarding the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

**Table- 9 percent distribution of women by knowledge on prevention of AIDS and Education**

Prevention	Illiterate	Primary	Middle and Secondary
Use condoms	25.5	32.5	35.6
Avoid extra marital/premarital sex	38.3	34.5	37.0
Avoid insertion of infected blood/use disposable Needle, syringes, blades	12.1	11.5	11.2
Don't know	9.2	9.3	10.1
Others	14.9	12	6.0

**10. Opinion on door delivery of Condoms**

The opinion of women on the delivery of condoms at their home is presented in Table- 10. It is observed that in all, only 39.4 per cent had approved the delivery of condom at home and majority (52.3 per cent) disapproves it. The proportion that approved the delivery of condom at home was highest at 49.3 per cent in Vijayawada compared to 46.2 per cent in Hyderabad and 22.7 per cent in Tirupati.

**Table- 10 Percentage distribution of women by opinion on door delivery of condom**

Opinion	Tirupati N=225	Vijayawada N=225	Hyderabad N=225	All N=675
approve	22.7	49.3	46.2	39.4
Disapprove	77.3	30.7	48.9	52.3
Can't say	—	20.0	4.9	8.3

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