



## HIV/AIDS AWARENESS AMONG COLLEGE FRESHER'S

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**ABSTRACT** The rapid changes in the world expose the youth in to various dreadful actions and exposed to the risk of being victims of several health hazards. HIV is a major hazard to health care professionals. The objectives of the study is to find significance differences in HIV/AIDS awareness of college fresher's with respect to their gender, location and discipline of the study. Hypotheses were formulated on the basis of objectives. A self-constructed tool was used to collect data from 250 first year graduate students from various colleges of Arts and Science in Thanjavore district. Validity and reliability of the tool was established. Survey method was followed in this study. Results reveal that the significance difference in HIV/AIDS awareness of college fresher's with respect to their gender, location and discipline of the study.

**KEYWORDS :** HIV/AIDS awareness and College fresher's

**Background of the Study**

HIV is a major hazard to health care professionals. HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune deficiency Syndrome). HIV which harms the immune system by destroying the white blood cells which fights against infection. A person is said to have AIDS when their immune system is too weak to fight off infection, and they develop certain defining symptoms and illnesses

The rapid changes in the world expose the youth in to various dreadful actions where they are also exposed to the risk of being victims of HIV/AIDS. As of 2015, 36.7 million people were living with HIV and about 35 million people died globally. As per 2015 statistics of World Health Organization (WHO) 2,116,581 where estimated people living with HIV among which 856,487 were females and 1,260,094 were males. Total number of people diagnosed is 1,523,481 which are 72% of people living with HIV diagnosed. 1,170,006 people were enrolled in care on that 570,449 were females and 5,999,557 were males.

**Need and Significance of the study**

According to a UNAIDS/ UNICEF report, in the 2009 alone, there were 890,000 new HIV infections amongst young people aged between 15 to 24 years. This proves that this age group is very vulnerable and needs to be educated about the causes and the ways in prevention.

The old advice 'prevention is better than cure'. Education and awareness of HIV/ AIDS is important weapon to prevent and fight against the fear of the disease.

Providing the young people with vaccine of 'awareness vaccine' of educating them which offers them a real chance at productive life hence, the study awareness of HIV/Aids is felt need of the hour.

**Objectives of the study**

To find the significance differences in HIV/AIDS awareness of college fresher's with respect to their gender.

To find the significance differences in HIV/AIDS awareness of college fresher's with respect to their location.

To find the significance differences in HIV/AIDS awareness of college fresher's with respect to their discipline of the study.

**Hypotheses of the study**

The following hypotheses were formulated on the basis of the objectives.

1. There is no significant difference between men and women college fresher's in HIV/AIDS awareness.
2. There is no significant difference between urban and rural college fresher's in HIV/AIDS awareness.
3. There is no significant difference between arts and Science College fresher's in HIV/AIDS awareness.

**Operational definition**

**HIV/AIDS Awareness:** is termed as knowledge about HIV/AIDS i.e on the aspects of mode of transmission, symptoms, tests and protection from HIV/AIDS.

**College fresher's:** the students those who enrolled in 1<sup>st</sup> year of study in college after completion school education.

**Methodology**

Survey method was followed in this study.

**Sample and sampling**

Sample of 250 first year graduate students from various colleges of Arts and Science in Thanjavore district where chosen as sample for the study. Simple random sampling technique was adopted for the collection of the data.

**Tool and its description**

In the present study HIV/AIDS awareness scale was used. It is a self-constructed tool with 35 items. The responses were framed in three point "Likert" type scale. The scale is divided in to three dimensions like (i) mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS, (ii) symptoms and examinations of HIV/AIDS and (iii) preventive and precautionary measures for HIV/AIDS. Dimensions 1, 2 and 3 consist of 13, 10 and 12 items respectively. The tool was validated by adopting content and constructs validity methods. Reliability was established by test, re-test method. Hence, the scale is three point 'Likert' type scale the test scores range from 105- 71 is high awareness, 70-36 is average awareness and the score 35 and below is low awareness on HIV/AIDS.

**Hypotheses wise Analysis**

**1. There is no significant difference between men and women college fresher's in HIV/AIDS awareness.**

**Table 1: Gender wise awareness on HIV/AIDS among college fresher's**

Gender	N	Mean	SD	't'	Level of Significance	Remarks
Men	125	76.38	27.16	4.60**	0.00	S
Women	125	61.48	23.91			

\*\* P<0.01, S - Significant

From the table 1 it was found that the 't' value (4.60) of college fresher's awareness on HIV/AIDS is significant. Hence, the null hypothesis is not accepted. It is concluded that there is a significant difference between men and women college fresher's in their awareness on HIV/AIDS.

The mean score favors men students which indicate that the men college fresher's are having more awareness on HIV/AIDS.

**2. There is no significant difference between urban and rural college fresher's in HIV/AIDS awareness.**

**Table 2: Location wise awareness on HIV/AIDS among college fresher's**

Location	N	Mean	SD	't'	Level of Significance	Remarks
Urban	170	77.65	24.39	8.58**	0.00	S
Rural	80	50.40	21.145			

\*\* P<0.01, S - Significant

From the table 2 it was found that the 't' value (8.58) of college fresher's awareness on HIV/AIDS is significant. Hence, the null hypothesis is not accepted. It is concluded that there is a significant difference between urban and rural college fresher's in their awareness on HIV/AIDS.

The mean score favors urban students which indicate that the urban college fresher's are having more awareness on HIV/AIDS.

### 3. There is no significant difference between arts and science first year graduate students in HIV/AIDS awareness.

**Table 3: Discipline wise awareness on HIV/AIDS among college fresher's**

Discipline of the study	N	Mean	SD	't'	Level of Significance	Remarks
Arts	125	61.58	23.81	4.61**	0.00	S
Science	125	76.28	27.26			

\*\* P<0.01, S – Significant

From the table 3 it was found that the 't' value (4.61) of college fresher's awareness on HIV/AIDS is significant. Hence, the null hypothesis is not accepted. It is concluded that there is a significant difference between arts and science college fresher's in their awareness on HIV/AIDS.

The mean score favors science students which indicate that the science college fresher's are having more awareness on HIV/AIDS.

#### Findings of the study

The findings of the study indicate that men college fresher's are having more awareness on HIV/AIDS than their counter part of female college fresher's. Likewise, urban college fresher's and science stream college fresher's are having more awareness on HIV/AIDS than their counter parts of rural and arts college fresher's respectively.

#### Suggestions

Awareness campaign on symptoms, test, protection and prevention of HIV/AIDS program can be conducted. Youth need to be made more aware about prevention and symptoms. In addition to health education sex education, seminars, symposium, panel discussion to enhance their level of awareness in mode of transmission, symptoms, tests, preventive measures and precautionary measures can be educated.

#### Conclusion

December 1<sup>st</sup> of every year since 1988, is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS. It is the eighth official campaigns marked by WHO. Theme for 2016 AIDS awareness is "Hands up for HIV prevention". Let us join hands to educate for preventing and protecting the society from HIV/AIDS. Make HIV/AIDS free world.

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