

Sources of General Knowledge, Information About Hiv/Aids and Preferences to Discuss Sex-Related Topics Among Students of Arts and Commerce Junior College



Medical Science

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ABSTRACT

607 students of Arts and Commerce Junior College took part in this observational study. 344(56.67%) students belonged to Arts and 263(43.33%) belonged to commerce faculty. 238 (39.21%) were males while 369(60.79%) were females. In the whole group, the number of female students is more than the number of male students. In the Arts faculty, the proportion of female students is more than the double as compared to the proportion of the male students. In the commerce faculty, the proportion of male and female students is almost equal.

It is observed, Television (80.44%), Newspapers (77.51%) and Friends (57.40%) are the major sources of general knowledge to the students of both the faculties. Newspapers (69.77%), Television (65.97%), Friends (50.57%) and Family Doctor (44.11%) are again the major sources of information about HIV/AIDS to them. Most of the students discuss sex related topics with Friends (89.14%), Parents (27.15%) and Teachers (19.66%). 22.47% Girls and 11.61% Boys said, they discuss this topic with sisters and brothers respectively.

INTRODUCTION

A student is a Learner, or who attends an Educational Institution.⁽¹⁾ Students can be children or teenager, who are going to school, but it may also be other people who are learning, such as in college.⁽²⁾ Today, there are many faculties in which students can enroll for learning as per their choice or it may depend on their parents also. Students obtain general knowledge through various ways like friends, parents, media etc. Such general knowledge is essential for day to day life, career advancement, competitive examinations and also for the development of the skills. Junior college students are adolescents in true sense. They should get appropriate information about HIV/AIDS, which is important for Health promotion. Opt SK et al⁽³⁾ observed, college students were knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS in their study in USA. At present there are various sources of information about HIV/AIDS available to the students. These adolescents are sexually active and discuss sex related topics among themselves. So, it is necessary to study these issues to guide them properly and to improve their Skill, Knowledge, Health and overall development.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This cross-sectional study was conducted among the students of Arts and Commerce Junior college in a Metropolitan City. Necessary permissions were obtained to conduct the study. All the students who were present on the day of study were included in the study group. Necessary instructions were given to the participants. The pretested, structured, close ended questionnaire was given to each participant. Half an hour was given to them to fill the proforma. The data was analyzed using Z test. The results were interpreted at 5% level of significance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

607 students took part in the study. 344(56.67%) students belonged to Arts and 263(43.33%) belonged to commerce faculty. Of the 344 students belonging to Arts faculty, 106(30.81%) were males and 238(69.19%) were females. The proportion of female students is more than the double as compared to the proportion of male students in the Arts faculty. Of the 263 students belonging to commerce faculty, 132 (50.19%) were males while 131 (49.81%) were females. The proportion of males and females is almost equal. The percentage of male students in commerce faculty is more than that of the students of Arts faculty while the percentage of female students is more in Arts faculty compared to female students in commerce faculty. (Table-1)

Of the 607 students of both the faculties, 547(90.12%) have mentioned one or more sources of general knowledge. Television (80.44%), News papers (77.51%), Friends (57.40%), Teachers (49.36%) and Parents (35.10%) are the major sources of

general knowledge to the students. 60(9.88%) students have not answered this question. The difference in the proportion of students who have not attempted the question in both the faculties is statistically significant. 58(19.93%) students of Arts and 134(52.34%) from commerce faculty said, Parents(p<0.05) is the source of General Knowledge to them. 99(34.02%) Arts students and 171(66.80%) commerce students answered Teachers(p<0.05) is the source of general knowledge to them. The overall distribution is shown in Table-2.

81(13.34%) students have not answered question related to sources of information on HIV/ AIDS. But, on the basis of answers given by the remaining students, News papers(69.77%), Television(65.97%), Friends(50.57%), Family Doctors(44.11%), Books/Magazines(23.57%), Radio(22.43%) and Teachers(19.77%) are the major sources of information on HIV/AIDS to them. Students have mentioned more than one option to this question. 05(01.83%) students of Arts and 40(15.81%) from commerce faculty answered awareness programmes (p<0.05) is the source of information about HIV/AIDS to them. 94(34.43%) students of Arts and 138(54.55%) from commerce faculty said Family Doctor (p<0.05) is the source of information to them about HIV/AIDS. The distribution is shown in Table-3.

534(87.97%) students have mentioned one or more Preferences to discuss sex-related topics. Majority i.e. 89.14% students preferred friends is the best option to discuss sex-related topics. 62(26.05%) boys and 120(32.52%) girls mentioned, they discuss this topic with their brothers and sisters respectively. 145 (27.15%) students discuss sex-related topics with parents while 105(19.66%) discuss with Teachers. 225 (80.07%) students of Arts and 251(99.21%) from commerce faculty discuss sex-related topics (p<0.05) with their friends. The distribution of preferences is shown in Table-4.

Similar results were observed by various Authors. Ada R.C.Nwokoch et al⁽⁴⁾ observed, the main source information on HIV/AIDS to students is Media in Nigeria. Anahita Tavooshi et al⁽⁵⁾ observed, Television is most important source of information about AIDS to the students in Iran. A.E.Oyo-Ita et al⁽⁶⁾ observed mass media was the main source of information on HIV/AIDS to the secondary school Adolescents in Nigeria.

Table – 1 Sex and Faculty wise distribution of the students

Sex	Faculty	
	Arts (n=344)	Commerce (n=263)
Male	106 (30.81%)	132 (50.19%)
Female	238 (69.19%)	131 (49.81%)

Table – 2 Sources of general knowledge to the students

Variables	Total (n=607)	Arts (n=344)	Commerce (n=263)	Z and P value
No response	060(9.88%)	053(15.41%)	007(2.66%)	5.85 p<0.05
Respondents	547(90.12%)	291(84.59%)	256(97.34%)	5.85 p<0.05
Television	440(80.44%)	207(71.13%)	233(88.59%)	5.26 p<0.05
Newspapers	424(77.51%)	205(70.45%)	219(83.27%)	3.61 p<0.05
Friends	314(57.40%)	141(48.45%)	173(65.78%)	4.16 p<0.05
Teachers	270(49.36%)	099(34.02%)	171(66.80%)	8.09 p<0.05
Parents	192(35.10%)	058(19.93%)	134(52.34%)	10.22p<0.05
Radio	170(31.08%)	060(20.62%)	110(41.82%)	5.45 p<0.05
Magazines/Books	133(24.31%)	048(16.49%)	085(32.32%)	4.35 p<0.05
Internet	074(13.53%)	025(8.59%)	049(18.63%)	3.41 p<0.05
Others	019(3.47%)	008(2.75%)	011(4.30%)	0.97 p>0.05

Table – 3 Sources of Information about HIV/AIDS

Variables	Total (n=607)	Arts (n=344)	Commerce (n=263)	Z and P value
No Response	081(13.34%)	071(20.64%)	010(3.80%)	6.79 p<0.05
Respondents	526(86.66%)	273(79.36%)	253(96.20%)	6.79 p<0.05
Newspapers	367(69.77%)	184(67.40%)	183(72.33%)	1.24 p>0.05
Television	347(65.97%)	160(58.61%)	187(73.91%)	3.77 p<0.05
Friends	266(50.57%)	122(44.69%)	144(56.92%)	2.82 p<0.05
Family Doctors	232(44.11%)	094(34.43%)	138(54.55%)	4.73 p<0.05
Magazines/Books	124(23.57%)	061(22.34%)	063(24.90%)	0.69 p>0.05
Radio	118(22.43%)	047(17.22%)	071(28.06%)	2.98 p<0.05
Teachers	104(19.77%)	056(20.51%)	048(18.97%)	0.44 p>0.05
Parents	064(12.17%)	032(11.72%)	032(12.65%)	0.33 p>0.05
Other Health Personnel	049(9.32%)	023(8.42%)	026(10.28%)	0.73 p>0.05
Awareness Programmes	045(8.56%)	005(1.83%)	040(15.81%)	5.75 p<0.05
Internet	040(7.60%)	011(4.03%)	029(11.46%)	3.18 p<0.05
Relatives	030(5.70%)	014(5.13%)	016(6.32%)	0.59 p>0.05

Table – 4 Preferences to discuss Sex-related Topics

Variables	Total n=607	Arts n=344	Commerce n=263	Z and p Value
No response	073(12.03%)	063(18.31%)	010(3.80%)	6.05 p<0.05
Respondents	534(87.97%)	281(81.69%)	253(96.20%)	6.05 p<0.05
Friends	476(89.14%)	225(80.07%)	251(99.21%)	7.81 p<0.05
Parents	145(27.15%)	061(21.71%)	084(33.20%)	2.98 p<0.05
Sisters	120(22.47%)	078(27.76%)	042(16.60%)	3.14 p<0.05
Teachers	105(19.66%)	062(22.06%)	043(17.00%)	1.48 p>0.05
Brothers	062(11.61%)	035(12.46%)	027(10.67%)	0.65 p>0.05
Other Relatives	042(7.87%)	018(6.41%)	024(9.49%)	1.31 p>0.05

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