

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF AIDS AWARENESS AMONG URBAN AND RURAL ADULTS

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to know AIDS awareness among rural and urban adults. The sample consisted 60 adults (30 rural 30 urban) of district Una (H.P). To assess the AIDS awareness among rural and urban adults a questionnaire consisted of 30 items was prepared by investigator. For analysis of data t-test was applied. Results reveal that significant difference was found among (i) urban and rural adults (ii) urban and rural male adults (iii) urban and rural female adults.

INTRODUCTION

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is the late stage of infection caused by HIV (Human Immune Deficiency Virus). An HIV infected person (Medically known as an HIV positive person) is one who has the Human Immune Deficiency virus in her /his body. However, he/she will appear to be perfectly healthy and will be asymptomatic for many years. An asymptomatic HIV infected person does not have AIDS until his/her T lymphocyte count falls to 200 or less. All persons with AIDS are infected with HIV infection have AIDS. AIDS is only the end stage of this infection. These HIV are of two types. HIV1 and HIV2. Both virus belong to same family, but vary in their genetics make up. HIV1 was discovered in France in 1983 and is more prevalent in Europe and the Americans.

Whereas HIV₂ was discovered in 1986 and appears to more prevalent in Africa. Both HIV1 and HIV2 have been detected in India and both leads to AIDS.

SYMPTOMS OF AIDS

A person is diagnosed with AIDS when they have developed an AIDS related

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condition or symptom called opportunistic infection or an AIDS related cancer. The infection is called opportunistic, because they take advantage of the opportunity offered by a weak immune system. It is possible for someone to be diagnosed with AIDS even if they have not developed an opportunistic infection.

AIDS can be diagnosed when the number of immune (CD4) system cells in the blood of an HIV Positive, person drops below a certain level. HIV is transmitted by bodily fluid such as blood, system, breast milk and vaginal secretions. It causes diseases by infecting CD4 + helper, T-Cells, a type of white blood cells, that normally co-ordinates the immune response to infection and cancer.

DEFINITIONS

According to Sat Sharma (2007) "Aids includes all HIV-infected people who have fewer than 200 CD4 + cells micro litre of blood".

According to Ponnac Unanka (2008) "HIV/AIDS – Human Immune deficiency virus. A virus disability the immune system, either of two. Strains of retro virus HIV1 or HIV2 that destroys the immune system helper T-cells the loss of which causes AIDS.

SYMBOLS OF AIDS – RED RIBBON

"Symbol is used internationally to represent fight against AIDS".

1st December is celebrated is international AIDS day.

The researchers show their keenness to study about this infection as Pandey (1997) who conducted AIDS: a preliminary awareness survey, at 15 locations in 6 states and covered 514 respondents found that (i) among the sexually active adults in the age group 20-46 a significant percent of men and women did not know about HIV2 a large percentage of male and female were aware about infection and spread of the disease and a virus is the pathogen and there is no known cure for the disease. (iii) More than 85 percent of the respondent revealed that there is no AIDS patient living in their area and (iv) of the 100 truck drivers interviewed 67 drivers admitted that they had visited female sex workers and about 38 had suffered from sexually transmitted diseases. As sandygreem et al (2008) conducted a study and found that pregnant women in

semy have poor knowledge about specific mother to child HIV transmission, they do not know about the means of receiving mother to child HIV infection. The information in the public hear program need to be improved. As Gakhar (1996) studied an overall Central programme and give route of transmission symptoms, test for AIDS detection, treatment and preventive measures for the AIDS. As Kalasagat et al (2006), conducted that AIDS awareness in the slum areas of Chennai is very poor. Corresponding awareness in the small areas will be much conventional E.C. methods targeting General population through mass media are not reaching the slum areas.

NEED OF THE STUDY

There are various dangerous diseases in the world, but these are under treatment. AIDS is very dangerous like other dangerous diseases but it has no under treatment. Our adults are facing this problem. They should have full knowledge regarding this. Central and State Governments both are trying to aware the public of the world, but due to lack of education in some areas people are not aware about this dangerous disease. So the researcher wants to know about AIDS awareness among the adults of rural and urban areas by conducting research.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study AIDS awareness among rural and urban adults.
2. To study AIDS awareness among rural and urban female adults regarding AIDS awareness.
3. To study AIDS awareness among rural and urban male adults.

HYPOTHESIS

1. There is no significant difference between rural and urban adults regarding AIDS awareness.
2. There is no significant difference between rural and urban female adults regarding AIDS awareness.
3. There is no significant difference between rural and urban male adults regarding AIDS awareness.

SAMPLE

The sample consulted of 60 adults, urban (15 male and 15 female) and 30 rural (15 male and 15 female) from Una district of H.P.

TOOLS

To assess the AIDS awareness among adults a questionnaire consisted of 30 items was prepared by investigator was applied.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

To compare the AIDS awareness among rural and urban adults t-test was applied.

ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

In the present study the data was collected through the questionnaire developed by investigator. The information gathered through this questionnaire, was scored and tabulated. The data was analysed and interpreted according to sex and by respondents, using statistical criterion, such as mean, standard deviation and t-ratio. The details of analysis, interpretation of data, discussion and results are presented below:

TABLE I
t-value for AIDS awareness among rural and urban adults.

Group	N	M	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
Rural Adults	30	6.33	3.9	3.94	0.05
Urban Students	30	8.8	2.64		

The mean difference in AIDS awareness among rural and urban adults is significant at 0.05 level. Hence H_0 is rejected. Table No.1 reveals that urban adults have much awareness (M=8.8) than rural adults (M=6.33)

TABLE 2
t-value for AIDS awareness among rural and urban male adults.

Group	N	M	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
Rural Adults	15	7.1	2.6	2.52	0.05
Urban Adults	15	9.3	2.2		

The mean difference in AIDS awareness among rural and urban female adults is significant at 0.05 level. Hence HO2 is rejected. Table No.2 reveals that urban female adults have much (M=9.3) AIDS awareness than rural female adults (M=7.1)

TABLE 3
t-value for AIDS awareness among rural and urban male adults.

Group	N	M	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
Rural Adults	15	2.8	2.7	2.83	0.05
Urban Adults	15	2.8	3.9		

The mean difference in AIDS awareness among rural and urban male adults is significant at 0.05 level. Hence HO3 is rejected. Table No.2 reveals that urban adults have much (M=3.9) AIDS awareness than rural adults (M=2.7)

CONCLUSIONS

The study reveals that

1. Urban adults have much awareness than rural adults.
2. Urban female adults have much awareness than rural female adults.
3. Urban male adults have much awareness than rural male adults.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The results of the study would be very helpful for the members of the society, State Governments as well as Centre Governments to make plan to stop the spread of this disease and save the adults from this dangerous disease and increased the AIDS awareness by introducing various programmes in the rural areas. It would be also helpful to increase the life span of human beings of India like other countries. In order to create awareness among adults the following activities should be organised.

1. Seminars, workshops and declamation should be conducted to make the people aware about the AIDS.
2. To develop audio-visual aids, interactive exhibitions, permanent and temporary exhibitions.

3. To organize health care program.
4. Introduce AIDS education as compulsory subject.
5. Outside agencies or organizations should make a positive contribution to AIDS education by offering lectures and talks within schools and public.

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