

## A PRE EXPERIMENTAL STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIV/AIDS AMONG ADOLESCENTS OF SELECTED SCHOOLS OF RURAL AREA OF DIST. JALANDHAR, PUNJAB

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### ABSTRACT

HIV/AIDS is viewed as a major pandemic which poses serious challenges to mankind on a global scale. HIV is a behavior related disease in which awareness and knowledge with regard to HIV and AIDS could influence the course of its spread. It is now considered as one of the leading causes of global morbidity and mortality. Adolescents and youth need information in order to make such responsible choices in terms of sexual behaviour. A pre experimental study was conducted to assess the knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among the adolescents of selected schools of rural area dist. Jalandhar. The objectives of the study were to assess the pre test knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among adolescents of selected schools of rural area, to assess the post test knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among adolescents of selected schools of rural area, to compare the pre test and post test knowledge of adolescents of selected schools of rural area and to find out association between pre test knowledge score of adolescents regarding HIV/AIDS with selected demographic variables. Sample size was 50 (25 from 9<sup>th</sup> class and 25 from 10<sup>th</sup> class) and convenient sampling technique was used. A self structured multiple choice questionnaire was used to assess the knowledge of adolescents regarding HIV/AIDS. Results showed that in pre test knowledge score 88.34% respondents have below average knowledge, 11.16% respondents have average knowledge and no respondent has good knowledge and in post test knowledge score 90% of respondents have average knowledge, 8.40% of respondents have good knowledge and 1.60% of respondents have below average knowledge.

**Key Words:** HIV/AIDS, Adolescents, Knowledge score, rural schools.

### ABOUT AUTHORS



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**INTRODUCTION:**

HIV is the (human immunodeficiency virus), retrovirus that can lead to acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome (AIDS). It is a condition resulted by a deficiency in the body's immune system. It is a syndrome which shows a pattern of different symptoms with varieties of manifestations in different cases. It is acquired because it is an infectious disease caused by a virus which can spread from person to person through a variety of routes<sup>1</sup>. It has been reported that young people from significant segment of those attending sexually transmitting infection clinics are infected by HIV<sup>2</sup>. Adolescents aged 10-19 years of age accounting for nearly 23% of population in India are exposed to the risk of being victims of HIV/AIDS<sup>3</sup>.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To assess the pre test knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among adolescents of selected schools of rural area.
2. To assess the post test knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among adolescents of selected schools of rural area.
3. To compare the pre test and post test knowledge of adolescents of selected schools of rural area.
4. To find out association between pre test knowledge score of adolescents regarding HIV/AIDS with selected demographic variables.

**DESCRIPTION OF TOOL**

The tool was divided into 2 sections:

**Section 1: Socio demographic variables:**

It consists of age, gender, class, parents education, parents occupation, heard about HIV/AIDS, any seminar attended by adolescent.

**Section 2: Self structured questionnaire related to knowledge of HIV/AIDS**

It consist of 28 multiple choice questions to assess the knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS Each multiple choice question having one correct answer. Each correct answer carries 1mark and wrong answer carry 00 mark. The criterion measure for knowledge score was good (19-28), average (10-18) and poor (1-9).

Results

**Table 1 Pre test knowledge of Adolescents regarding HIV/AIDS**

Knowledge level	Score	Percentage
Good	19-28	0.00%
Average	10-18	11.16%
Below average	0-9	88.34%

**Table 2 Post test knowledge of Adolescents regarding HIV/AIDS**

Knowledge level	Score	Percentage
Good	19-28	08.40%
Average	10-18	90.00%
Below average	0-9	01.60%

**Table 3 Comparison between pre test and post test knowledge score**

Level of knowledge	Score	Pre test		Post test	
		n	Percentage	n	Percentage
Good	19-28	00	00.00	05	08.40
Average	10-18	07	11.16	54	90.00
Below average	0-9	53	88.34	01	01.60

Results showed the effectiveness of structured teaching programme regarding HIV/AIDS.

**CONCLUSION**

The basic knowledge of HIV/AIDS is deficient among many students. Adolescents are more vulnerable and are less aware of the knowledge to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS. The structured teaching programme should be designed at school levels for preventing and protecting adolescents from the HIV/AIDS.

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