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Awareness about prevention and transmission of HIV/AIDS in slum area of Ahmedabad city

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Abstract
Introduction: As HIV/AIDS epidemic shifts from the high risk group to bridge population and from them to general population, awareness of general population towards HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission is a growing issue to be concern.
Aims & Objectives:
To study knowledge and attitude of study participants towards HIV/AIDS in slum area of Ahmedabad.
Methods and Material: A cross sectional study was carried out in randomly selected Parmeshvar park na chhapra, Gajanand society, Juni Bhogilal ni chali in Asarwa. A total of 146 respondents were interviewed by using predesigned & pretested proforma.
Results: out of 146 respondents, about 95% had heard about HIV/AIDS. Most common source of information was TV and 89% knew mode of transmission was blood transfusion. In the study 18% had undergone for testing of HIV/AIDS.

Keywords: HIV/AIDS, knowledge and attitude.

1. Introduction
Recognized as an emerging disease only in early 1980s, AIDS has rapidly established throughout the world [1]. India has the third highest number of estimated people living with HIV in the world. According to the HIV Estimations 2012, the estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS in India was 20.89 lakh, with an estimated adult (15-49 age group) HIV prevalence of 0.27% in 2011 [2]. HIV destroys body immune mechanism or immune system against infection and threatens life. AIDS is a killer disease- no cure is known and no vaccine is available against it [3]. HIV/AIDS epidemic shifts from the high risk group to bridge population and from them to general population [1]. In India, consistent level of prevalence is being maintained in both high risk and low risk group. During the year 2005, the proportion of rural infection was 58.7% against urban 41.3%. It signifies the spread of infection in rural population [3]. The program for HIV/AIDS prevention and control run by GOI with the main objectives of NACP-IV: to reduce new infections and provide comprehensive care and support to all PLHIV and treatment services to all those who require it [2].

Aim and objectives
To study knowledge and attitude of study participants towards HIV/AIDS in urban area of Ahmedabad.

Materials and Methodology
Study design: Cross sectional study
Study period: December 2013 to March 2014
Study area: Parmeshvar park na chhapra, Gajanand society, Juni Bhogilal ni chali, asarwa, ahmedabad which were randomly selected.
Study group: Total of 146 respondents were interviewed.
Data collection: Predesigned & pretested proforma was used.
Study method: Verbal consent was taken from each respondent for this study. A personal interview was carried out with predesigned questionnaire. Information regarding source, mode of transmission, symptoms and signs, places for testing, prevention of HIV/AIDS was collected. Data was compiled & Analysis was done in Microsoft excel 2007 & epi info version 7.

Results
In the study, total 146 respondents were interviewed in which 102(69.86%) were female and 44(30.14%) were male. Around 50% of the respondents were in the age group of 20-39 years of age.43.84% of respondents were educated up to secondary school level and 51.37% was housewife and 74% were married.(table 1)

Table 1: Socio Demographic Distribution of respondents.

	No. of respondents (N=146)	Percentage
Age in Years		
10-19	27	18.49
20-29	43	29.46
30-39	32	21.92
40-49	27	18.49
50-59	10	6.85
60-69	4	2.74
≥70	3	2.05
Sex		
Female	102	69.86
Male	44	30.14
Education		
Illiterate	10	6.85
Primary	34	23.29
Secondary	64	43.84
Higher Secondary	21	14.38
Undergraduate	2	1.37
Graduate	15	10.27
Occupation		
Housewife	75	51.37
Service	46	31.51
Student	23	15.75
Retired	2	1.37
Marital Status		
Married	109	74.66
Unmarried	35	23.97
Widow	2	1.37

Table 2: Awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Heard about HIV/AIDS	**No. of respondents (N=146)**			χ^2	**P value**
	MALE	**FEMALE**	**TOTAL**		
yes	44 (30.14%)	95 (65.07%)	139 (95.21%)	-	-
no	0 (0%)	7 (4.79%)	7 (4.79%)		
	MALE (N=44)	FEMALE (N=95)	Total no. of respondents (N=139)	χ^2	P value
Source of HIV/AIDS information					
TV	26 (18.70%)	51 (36.70%)	77 (55.40%)	-	-
Advertisement	11 (7.91%)	23 (16.55%)	34 (24.46%)		
Relative	3(2.15%)	16 (11.52%)	19(13.67%)		
News Paper	4 (2.87%)	5 (3.6%)	9(6.47%)		
Mode Of Transmission of HIV/AIDS					
Needle Sharing	44 (31.65%)	77 (55.4%)	121(87.05%)	-	-
Blood Transfusion	43 (30.9%)	81(58.31%)	124(89.21%)	3.64	0.05
HIV+ve Mother To Child	37 (26.61%)	76(54.68%)	113(81.29%)	0.33	>0.05
Sharing Of Cloths	0 (0%)	9(6.47%)	9(6.47%)	-	-
Hand Shaking	0 (0%)	5(3.60%)	5(3.60%)	-	-
Unsafe Sex	44 (31.65%)	91(65.47%)	135(97.12%)	-	-
Coughing	0 (0%)	5(3.60%)	5(3.60%)	-	-
Mosquito Bite	1 (0.71%)	8 (5.76%)	9(6.47%)	0.99	>0.05
Hugging	1 (0.71%)	3 (2.17%)	4(2.88%)	0.06	>0.05
Sharing of Knives	32 (23.02%)	54 (38.85%)	86(61.87%)	3.21	>0.05
By Talking to HIV Patients	2 (1.44%)	2 (1.44%)	4(2.88%)	0.06	>0.05
Symptoms and signs of HIV/AIDS					
Cough for Long Time	15 (10.7%)	43 (31.03%)	58(41.73%)	1.5	>0.05
Diarrhoea for Long Time	17 (12.23%)	30 (21.58%)	47(33.81%)	0.66	>0.05
Fever for Long Time	19 (13.66%)	41 (29.5%)	60(43.16%)	-	-
Weight Loss	37 (26.61%)	66 (47.49%)	103(74.10%)	3.34	>0.05
Hair Loss	18 (12.94%)	38 (27.34%)	56(40.28%)	0.01	>0.05
Knowledge about Place for testing of HIV/AIDS					
Civil Hospital	38 (27.34%)	74 (53.23%)	112(80.57%)	1.37	>0.05
V. S. Hospital	4 (2.87%)	14 (10.09%)	18(12.96%)	0.42	>0.05
Private Hospital	2 (1.44%)	6 (4.32%)	8(5.76%)	0.006	>0.05
Don't Know	0 (0%)	1 (0.71%)	1(0.71%)	-	-
Knowledge about Prevention of HIV/AIDS					
By Use of Condom	36 (25.89%)	79 (56.84%)	115(82.73%)	0.03	>0.05
By Use of Oral Pills	8 (5.76%)	34 (24.46%)	42(30.22%)	4.42	<0.01
By Use of Disposable Needle	31 (22.30%)	69 (49.64%)	100(71.94%)	0.07	>0.05
By maintenance Personal Hygiene	17 (12.23%)	51 (36.69%)	68(48.92%)	2.72	>0.05

Table 3: Distribution of respondents undergone testing of HIV/AIDS

Ever undergone HIV testing	MALE	FEMALE	No. of respondents (N=139)	χ^2 (P value)
Yes	2 (1.44%)	24 (17.27%)	26 (18.71%)	8.48
No	42 (30.21%)	71 (51.08%)	113 (81.29%)	<0.01
Reasons for Testing			No. of respondents (N=26)	χ^2 (P value)
Pregnancy	0 (0%)	20 (76.93%)	20 (76.93%)	-
Due to illness	2 (7.69%)	3 (11.54%)	5 (19.23%)	
Without Reason	0 (0%)	1 (3.84%)	1(3.84%)	

Out of 146 respondents, 139 (95%) respondents had heard about HIV/AIDS and in 139 respondents, most common source of information was TV (55.40%). Awareness about different modes of transmission was following that 87% knew that it was transmitted by needle sharing, 89% knew by blood transfusion, 81% by PPTCT, 6% by sharing of cloths, 3% by hand shaking, 97% by unsafe sex, 61% by sharing knives. approximately 40% knew about signs and symptoms of HIV/AIDS like diarrhoeas, cough, fever for long time, weight loss.80% respondents knew that testing for HIV/AIDS was done in Civil hospital. 82% respondents knew that HIV/AIDS can be prevented by use of condoms. (Table 2)

Table 3 shows that about 18% among the respondents had ever undergone for testing of HIV/AIDS and among them 76% respondents were undergone testing during their pregnancy and 19% due illness and 4% without any reason.

Discussion

In our study, 95% respondents had heard about HIV/AIDS while in the similar study done by YADAV *et al.* it was 61%.The findings of our study regarding mode of transmission was through blood transfusion (89%), through unsafe sex (97%), through needle sharing (87%), PTCT (81%) while in the similar study done by YADAV *et al.* it was 91%, 92%, 87% and 83% respectively and another study done by Srivastava *et al.* it was 72%, 76%, 76% and 54% respectively.

Our study revealed that 6.47% of the respondents believed that mosquito bite could transmit the disease while 2.88% respondents thought that it could spread by sharing cloths. Similar findings have been reported in the study done by srivastva *et al.* that was 20.5% and 13.8% respectively. In our study 82.73% respondents knew that disease could be prevented by using condoms while similar study done by Yogita Rai *et al.* it was approximately 90% in both science and arts students.

Conclusion

In our study, 80% of respondents had knowledge that disease could be transmitted by blood transfusion, needle sharing and unsafe sex but with that also myths regarding disease transmission present in few respondents that it could be transmitted by mosquito bite, by sharing of cloths, hugging. In the study it was found that 80% knew that it could be prevented by using condoms and 70% knew that it could be prevented by using disposable needle. 30% respondents was believed that it could be prevented by using oral contraceptive pills. 80% respondents knew that testing of disease done in civil hospital.

Recommendations

To increase the knowledge of community regarding HIV/AIDS and correction of myths regarding its transmission should be done by various media like TV, newspapers, posters at hospitals, bus stop, railway station.

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