



Original Article

HIV/AIDS Knowledge and Attitude Assessment among Indian Students: A Questionnaire - based Study

Hina Handa, Shweta Chaturvedi, Kavita Badi

Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, People's Dental Academy, People's University, Bhopal, India

How to cite: Hina Handa et al., HIV/AIDS Knowledge and Attitude Assessment among Indian Students. *Int J Soc Rehab* 2024; 9(1): 26 -32. doi: <https://doi.org/10.56501/intjsocrehab.v9i1.1211>

Received: 06-04-2024

Accepted: 16-04-2024

Web Published: 29-04-2024

ABSTRACT

Background: HIV/AIDS has rapidly evolved into a global pandemic, impacting approximately 40 million individuals worldwide. The majority of those affected are adults in developing nations, accounting for 95% of global HIV infections and 90% of related fatalities. Access to oral health care and dental services remains a significant unmet need for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, largely due to poverty and the discrimination faced from dental professionals who may be reluctant to provide treatment. The World Health Organization has emphasized that all dentists are obligated to treat individuals infected with HIV; therefore, a dental practitioner's positive and proactive approach is often linked to their level of knowledge on the subject. **Material and methods:** A total of 60 interns and post graduate students were given a self-administered questionnaire. The questionnaire elicited information on self-rated HIV/AIDS knowledge, and attitudes. **Results:** The study showed that interns (11%) and post graduate students expressed higher 82.5% willingness to treat patients with HIV/AIDS. Secondly, 72% of the interns group expressed their need for the investigation in suspected patient while 16% of the intern group were non opiated for the same. **Conclusion:** Students must be made well aware of the importance of treating HIV/AIDS patients and help the society from this drastic disease.

Keywords: HIV, Awareness, Knowledge

Address for correspondence:

Dr. Hina Handa

Professor

Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology,

People's Dental Academy, People' University, Bhopal, India

Email – hinadanda06@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

HIV/AIDS, recognized as a social disease, rapidly escalated to a pandemic, impacting 40 million individuals worldwide. The primary victims of this affliction are adults in developing nations, who account for 95% of global HIV infections and 90% of related fatalities. While there is currently no effective cure for this disease, it can be significantly mitigated through information, education, and communication (IEC) initiatives aimed at promoting behavioral changes. The HIV/AIDS pandemic persists in its spread, with around 1,600 new cases reported daily. [1]

Over 95% of individuals infected with HIV currently reside in the developing world, with Africa accounting for 70% of the global HIV-infected population. Furthermore, 90% of all HIV/AIDS-related fatalities, predominantly among adults, have taken place in developing nations.[1]

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which is the causative agent of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), has been responsible for an estimated 25 million deaths worldwide. Over the past 27 years, it has also led to significant demographic shifts in the countries most severely impacted by the epidemic.[2]

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that between 40% and 50% of individuals living with HIV exhibit oral lesions that are closely linked to HIV infection (WHO, 2005; Shangase, Feller & Blignaut, 2004). These oral lesions serve as significant indicators for assessing the severity and progression of HIV infection in patients with HIV and AIDS.[3]

Oral health is regarded as a fundamental and inseparable component of an individual's overall health. It is both unethical and illegal for dental care providers to refuse treatment to patients who are HIV-positive or have AIDS.[4] The aim of the present study to survey to assess HIV/AIDS knowledge and attitudes among students of our college.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was performed under 60 intern students and post graduate student in the department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, People's Dental Academy Bhopal. A total of 60 interns were given a self-administered questionnaire. The questionnaire elicited information on self-rated HIV/AIDS knowledge and attitudes. Questionnaire was formulated after the review of other questionnaires used in the literature by Aggarwal,[5] and for the assessment of knowledge and behavior.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis was done by using SPSS 11.5 to analyze the data. The data were tabulated The descriptive analysis of the responses was carried out and the results were expressed in the form of percentages.

RESULTS

(Figure 1) shows that every suspected patient should be investigated for HIV. Among the suspected individuals 72%-completely agree,16% where neutral ,12% -partially agree and 0%- individuals shows disagree.

(Figure 2) shows that every suspected patient should be investigated for HIV. Among the suspected individuals 72%-completely agree,16% where neutral ,12% -partially agree and 0%- individuals shows disagree.

(Figure 3) shows that HIV leads to oral mucosal disorders among the suspected individuals 57%-completely agree where 6%-Neutral,37% -Partially agree,0%- individuals shows disagree.

(Figure 4) shows that AIDS can be cured completely among the suspected individuals 78% shows completely agree,10% shows partially agree,12% shows neutral ,0%- individuals shows disagree

(Figure 5) shows that Special precautions need be taken to treat such patients among the suspected individuals 65% shows completely agree,33% shows partially agree,2% shows neutral ,0%- individuals shows disagree.

(Figure 6) shows that people with HIV should be provided isolated waiting and operatory areas. Among the suspected individuals 75% shows completely agree,25% shows partially agree,0% shows neutral ,0%- individuals shows disagree.

(Figure 7) shows that people with HIV should be provided isolated waiting and operatory areas. Among the suspected individuals 75% shows completely agree,25% shows partially agree,0% shows neutral ,0%- individuals shows disagree.

(Figure 8) shows students should be educated and trained to treat HIV/AIDS patients. Among the suspected individuals 95% shows completely agree,3% shows partially agree,2% shows neutral ,0%- individuals shows disagree.

(Figure 9) shows that right to refuse to treat an HIV/AIDS patient. Among the suspected individuals 85% shows completely agree,15% shows partially agree,0% shows neutral ,0%- individuals shows disagree.

(Figure 10) shows that education system emphasize on adequate learning of HIV VIRUS and its diseases among them 75% shows completely agree,17% shows partially agree,8% shows neutral ,0%- individuals shows disagree.

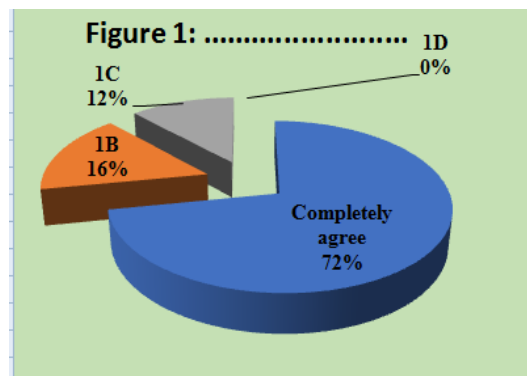


Figure.1: Shows Every suspected patient should be investigated for HIV

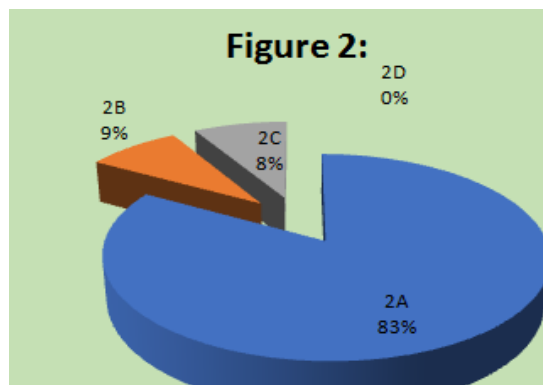


Figure.2: Shows HIV/AIDS patients be made to live with others in the same place

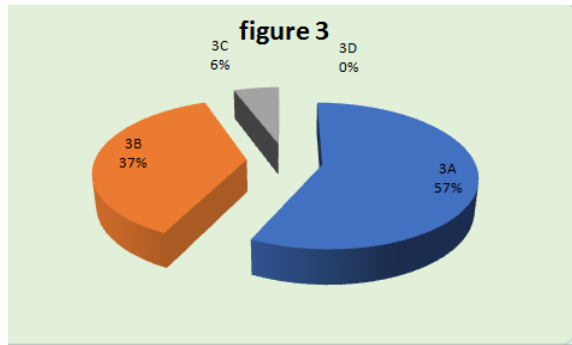


Figure.3: Shows HIV lead to oral mucosal disorders

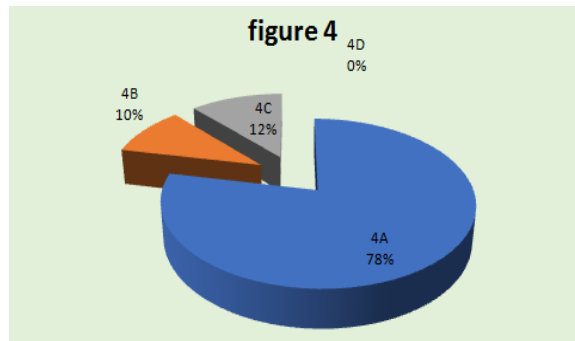


Figure.4: Shows AIDS can be cured completely

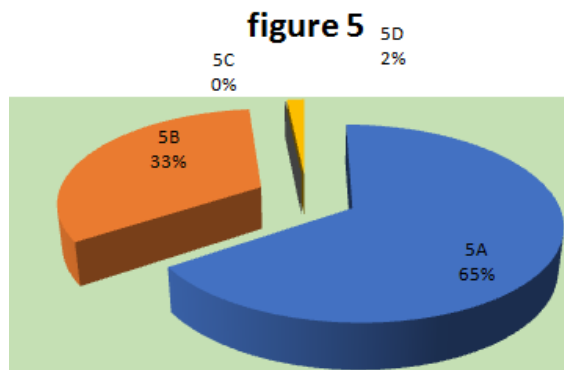


Figure.5: Shows Special precautions need to be taken to treat such patients

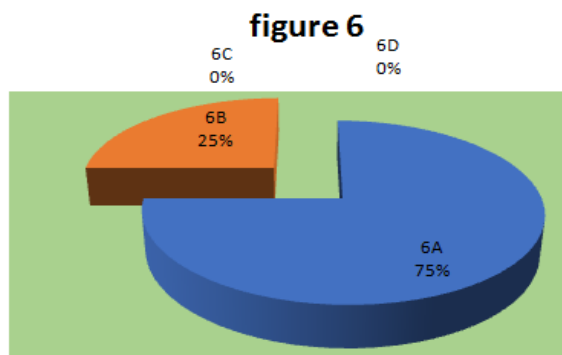


Figure.6: Shows people with HIV should be provided isolated waiting and operatory areas

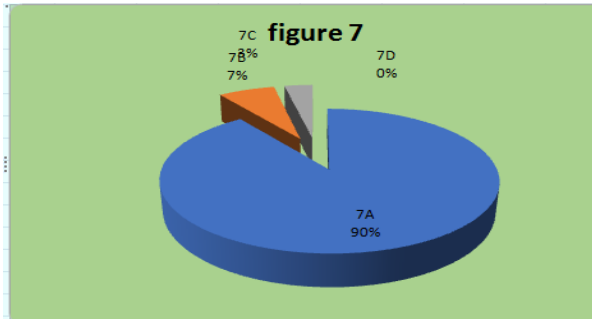


Figure.7: Shows Diagnostic instruments used in HIV patients should be separately sterilized

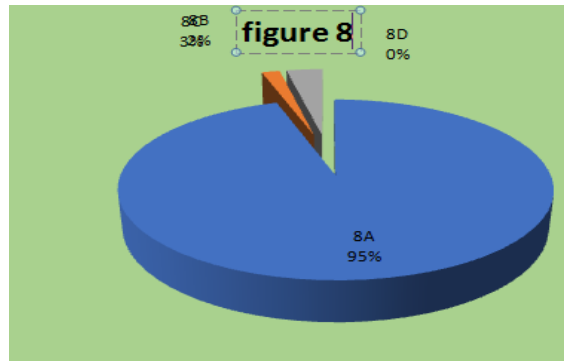


Figure.8: Shows students should be educated and trained to treat HIV/AIDS patients

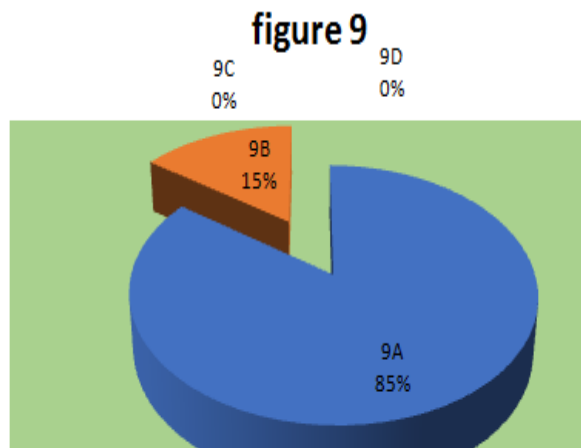


Figure.9: Shows right to refuse to treat an HIV/AIDS patient

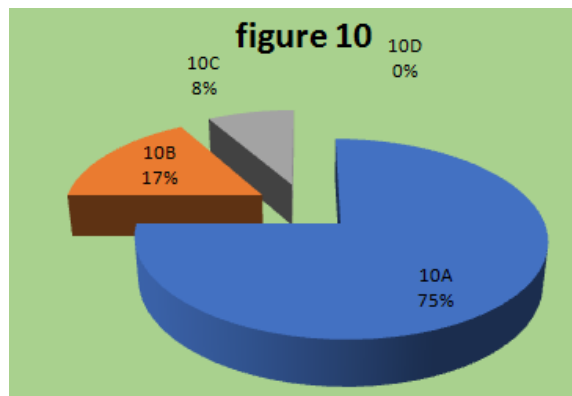


Figure.10: Shows Education system emphasize on adequate learning of HIV VIRUS and its diseases

DISCUSSION

The findings of the current study indicated that 11% of interns and 82.5% of postgraduate students demonstrated a greater willingness to provide treatment for patients with HIV/AIDS. Additionally, 72% of the interns expressed a desire for further investigation in cases of suspected patients, while 16% of the intern group remained neutral on this matter.

In our study 75% agreed that diff wards should be their for HIV Positive patients while in a study conducted by Vijaylaxmi Nimma[6] it was found that 36% said they have to be kept at different places.

In response to the question of whether healthcare professionals should have the right to refuse treatment to HIV patients, our study revealed that 85% of interns believe they possess such a right. According to Vijayalaxmi Nimma (2014), 48% of participants expressed that they did not feel obligated to treat individuals with HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, 95% of our interns reported having a higher level of knowledge and information about the disease. Another study indicated that 87.9% of participants expressed a strong desire to receive training aimed at enhancing their ability to provide effective treatment for patients with HIV/AIDS.

In our research, 57% of participants concurred that HIV is associated with oral mucosal diseases, while 37% expressed partial agreement. Among interns, 11% demonstrated a higher willingness to treat patients with HIV/AIDS, with a notable 82.5% of postgraduate students indicating the same. According to Seacat JD et al. (2009)[7], increased education correlates with heightened awareness. Furthermore, Shaikh H and Hossain MB found that 33% of dentists are either willing or agree to treat HIV patients in clinical settings, whereas 68% exhibit reluctance and prefer to refer HIV patients elsewhere [8,9].

CONCLUSION

1. It is essential to ensure that students understand the significance of providing care for individuals living with HIV/AIDS and to contribute positively to society in combating this serious health issue.
2. A dedicated dental unit should be established within a hospital specifically for the treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS, where dental students can gain valuable experience by working with these patients.
3. Educational instruction and the acquisition of knowledge can enhance the quality of care provided.
4. An assessment of students' psychological perspectives revealed their awareness and readiness to treat HIV patients. The findings indicate that many students lack comprehensive knowledge regarding the various transmission methods of HIV. Their willingness to provide care is influenced by their psychological state; students with strong beliefs and emotional maturity tend to exhibit a greater desire to treat these patients, whereas those with limited information and inadequate understanding demonstrate lower motivation to engage in such care.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES

1. Singh SK, Saxena A, Krishna GA (2007). Profile of HIV infection / AIDS related knowledge among female students of Kanpur district, India. Kathmandu University Medical Journal, Vol. 5, No. 1, Issue 17, 27-31
2. Sofola OO and Savage KO. An assessment of compliance of Nigerian dentists with the universal precaution guidelines for infection control. Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology. 2003; 24: 737-740.
3. Yengopal, V. Naidoo, S. & Chikte, U.M. (2001) Infection Control among Dentists in Private Practice in Durban. South African Dental Journal 2001, 56, pp. 580-584.
4. Seacat JD, Litt MD, Daniels AS. Dental Students Treating Patients Living with HIV/AIDS: The Influence of Attitudes and HIV Knowledge. Journal of Dental Education. 2009; 73: 437-444.
5. Aggarwal A, Panat SR. Knowledge, attitude, and behavior in managing patients with HIV/AIDS among a group of Indian dental students. Journal of Dental Education. 2013 Sep;77(9):1209-17.
6. Vijayalaxmi N, Reddy L, Swapna LA, Reddy S, Ramesh T, Padmareddy M. Are you willing to treat patients with HIV/AIDS? An anonymous survey among staff and students of dental institution. Oral Health and Dental Management. 2014 Sep 1;13(3):745-8.
7. Seacat JD, Litt MD, Daniels AS. Dental students treating patients living with HIV/AIDS: the influence of attitudes and HIV knowledge. Journal of dental education. 2009 Apr;73(4):437-44.
8. Shaikh H, Shankar S, Vinay S (2011). Knowledge and attitudes of undergraduate dental students in the oxford dental college hospital and research centre, Bangalore toward patients with HIV/AIDS. JIADS 2(1):1-5.
9. Hossain MB, Kabir MA, Ferdous H. Knowledge of HIV and AIDS among tertiary students in Bangladesh. International Quarterly of Community Health Education. 2006 Oct;26(3):271-85.



Published by MM Publishers
<https://www.mmpubl.com/ijsr>

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

Copyright © 2024 Hina Honda, Shweta Chaturvedi, Kavita Badi