

**KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF STD AND AIDS AMONG ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN URBAN SLUMS OF RAIPUR CITY .(C.G.)****Dr RASHMIGOUR PATEL***Associate Professor.Department of Community Medicine. SreeBalaji Medical College and Hospital,Chennai.Bharat University.***ABSTRACT**

Title:-Knowledge and Awareness of STDs and AIDS among adolescent girls in urban slums of Raipur city. Background:-Sexually transmitted diseases and AIDs are very important health challenges for adolescents. Many national and international governmental and nongovernmental health agencies are running programmes to reduce the incidence of these. We can provide an insight to the reproductive and sexual health needs of adolescents by assessing their knowledge, attitude and practice about these diseases. Objectives-.To assess knowledge, awareness and practice regarding STDs and AIDs. Methodology:-Study design-Cross sectional study done in the year 2004. Sample size-4000 adolescent girls'. Inclusion criteria- Girls of age group 10 to 19 years residing in urban slums. Sampling method-Cluster sampling method to choose clusters of 40 slums from list of 215 slums in Raipur city, 100Subjects selected by house to house survey from each slum. Material- Predesigned and pretested questionnaire Analysis-Proportion analysis using standard SPSS and chi square test. Results: - Knowledge about STDs and AIDs was present in 43.6 % of respondents.

KEYWORDS: Knowledge,, Urban slums,AIDs, Sexually transmitted diseases, Adolscent girls.**Dr RASHMIGOUR PATEL***Associate Professor.Department of Community Medicine.SreeBalaji Medical College and Hospital,Chennai.Bharat University.*

INTRODUCTION

STDs and AIDs are social stigma. People have lots of fear regarding these diseases, so they usually hide and don't like to about this disease to anyone. Adolescents are more vulnerable to this as Adolescence is "Period of turmoil marked by a desire for independence, a quest for sexual identity and maturity and a casting off of parental images and values to solidify one's own personality structure".¹ STI's pose significant risk for adolescents. The highest rates of infection for STI's including HIV, are found among young people age 20 to 24 years; the next highest rate occurs among adolescents age 15-19 (Noble et al, 1996).² Each year, one out of every 20 adolescents contracts an STI, some of which can cause lifelong health problems (such as infertility) if left untreated. WHO estimates that half of all people infected with HIV are younger than age 25 and in developing countries, upto 60% of all new infections occur among 15 to 24 year olds. Every day, 7000 people worldwide acquire the virus, which amounts to around 2.6 million new infections over one year among youth.²

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1) To assess knowledge and awareness of AIDs and STDs among Adolescent Girls.
- 2) To assess association of knowledge regarding AIDs and STDs with educational status of the subjects.

MATERIAL & METHODS

A cross sectional study was designed to be conducted in urban slums of Raipur city in the year 2008-09. Slum is defined as an overcrowded residential area with unfit human occupation due to poor services, structural defects, incurably damp with poor light, ventilation and drainage system and inadequate provision for storage and cooking of food. The total population of Raipur city is 3009042 with 1520024 as males and 149018 females. Total no of slums in the city are 215 with 435787 population and 47936 as adolescent girls population in this area. Cross sectional survey was done on 4000 adolescent girls of the urban slums of Raipur city. For this study 40 urban slums were selected from the total 215 by cluster sampling method and from each of these slums 100 subjects were taken for study from house to house survey as per the criteria of the study and interviewed by means of pretested and predesigned proforma. The collected data were analyzed using SPSS and chi square test was applied for significance. The variables collected are age, education, occupation and questions of AIDs and STDs, about mode of transmission, treatment and prevention of diseases and safe sex practice, etc. 10 such questions were framed and 10 marks given for right answer and zero for a wrong answer. Thus, all those who scored >50 were considered as having satisfactory and <50 as having poor knowledge.

RESULTS

- 4000 girls out of total 47,936 residing in urban slums were studied and for this 40 slums were selected for study out of total 215 slums in the city. 3376 families were covered for study by house to house survey.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 39% were of age group 10-13 yrs followed by 35.3% of 17-20 yrs age groups 25.7% of 14-16 yrs of age group.
- 82.2% of adolescents were literate and 17.8% illiterate. Out of total literate 59.3% educated upto middle school and 22.9% up to high school and higher Secondary school and 55.7% of respondents were students, 17% homemakers, 18.9% unemployed and only 8.4% were employed as housemaids or labourers.
- Social class structure (as per Updated B. G. Prasad Socioeconomic Classification) of respondents indicates that majority of respondents of study area i.e. 56.8% belonged to class IV followed by 26.7% in class V and only 3% in class II and no one in class I.
- Only 43.6% of adolescent respondents were well aware of STD and AID and 56.4% had poor knowledge regarding STD and AIDs, its method of transmission, its treatment and prevention and safe sex i.e., preventing STD and AIDS using condom.
- Statistically, significant association was found between education and knowledge status of respondents regarding STDs and AIDs as applying chi square test the value of $\chi^2 = 298.42$ at p value = 0.05. This implies importance of education to increase awareness.

DISCUSSION

There were 215 slums in Raipur city with 47936 population of adolescent girls. So in this study it was decided to cover 10% of population of adolescent girls in slum area in 40 slums by house survey in each slum covering total 3376 families and 4000 subjects slightly less than 10%. RTI and AIDS are potential threat to this group and need emphasis in educational curriculum beside awareness programmes. In Chhattisgarh, according to the data obtained from National Family Health Survey in 1988-99, only 19.6% of women are aware of AIDS.³ Reddi Rami P et al (1992) in a prospective based study at Pondicheri observed that only 30% adolescent were illiterate.⁴ Bhende A A (1994) carried out a study in slum area of Mumbai observed that proportion of illiteracy was 16.5% in adolescent girls.⁵ The proportion of the girls that dropped out of school after primary school was 18.9%. Dr. (Mrs.) Krishnakar and Prof. (Mrs.) P. Singh (1999) in a study in urban health and training centre of Cuttack on adolescent girls found that 40.73% of adolescent girls were aware of maintaining hygiene of reproductive tract. 37.96% had knowledge about symptoms of reproductive tract infection. 77.77% had heard about AIDS but no one had any knowledge about syphilis and gonorrhoea and other STDs. 19.64% were aware of use of condom to prevent spread of AIDS. TV was the

most important source of information for this population.⁶DrKirtiBorwarkar, Dr. P.C. Mahajan, Dr. A. Agrawal (2000) in a study in adolescent school girls found that 58% of girls identified AIDS and RTIS and none knew about STDs.⁷Tushar Rai, Pradeep Aggarwal and S.D. Kendal(2009) in a study in adolescents of urban slums of Dehradun city found that 51.2% of the adolescents were having knowledge about STD's. Majority of (91.4%) adolescent knew

about AIDS as type of STD. Attitude cum practice towards prevention of STD was found to be 72.9% by use of condoms.⁸ Above studies show somewhat similar data as present study ,as done in Indian cities.As for present study literacy status is associated with knowledge of STD and AIDs, so women education should be promoted for better reproductive health of female.

Table 1
Demographic profile of Respondents

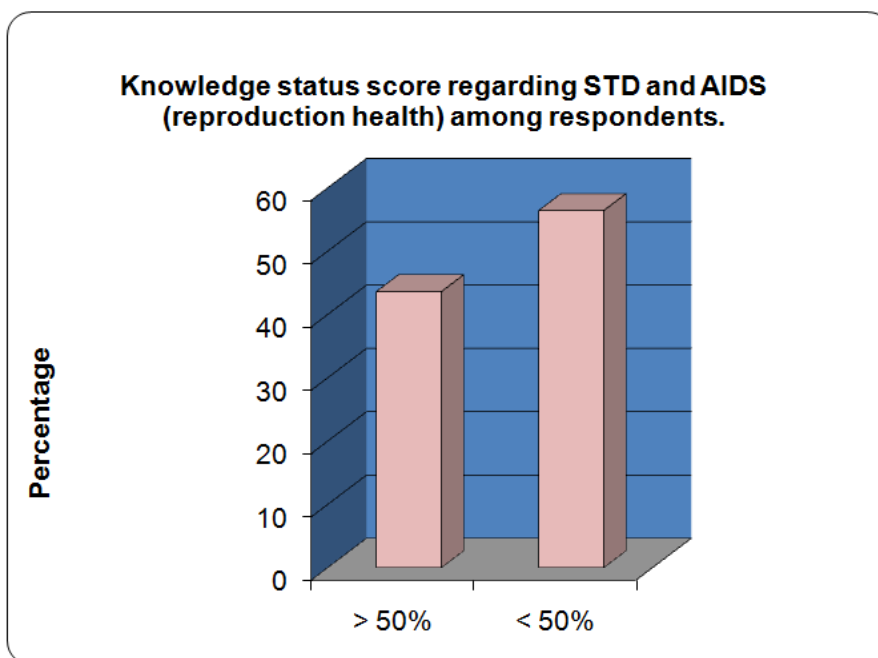
Age	Number	Percentage	Mean
10-13	1560	39%	
14-16	1028	25.7%	15.2
17-19	1412	35.3%	
Education			
Illiterate	712	17.8%	
Middle school	2372	59.3%	
High School	916	22.9%	
Social Class			
Class II	120	3%	
Class III	540	13.5%	
Class IV	2272	56.8%	
Class V	1068	26.7%	
Knowledge regarding STD and AIDs			
>50% (satisfactory)	1744	43.6%	
<50%(Poor)	2256	56.4%	

Table 2
Association of Knowledge status score regarding STD & AIDs with literacy.

Educational status	Knowledge status score		Total
	> 50	< 50	
Illiterate	136	576	712
Primary	506	618	1124
Middle, high & Higher Sec.	1102	1062	2164
Total	1744	2256	4000

Above observation shows statistically significant association between literacy and knowledge status regarding STD & AIDs as $\chi^2 = 298.42$ at p value = 0.05

Figure1



CONCLUSION

Reproductive health status of adolescent girls of urban slums of Raipur City grave. This effect is partly explained by lower standard of living due to low socioeconomic condition leading to poor nutrition among adolescents. Poor education leads to increasing unawareness regarding menstrual hygiene, STD and AIDS and family planning methods. Adolescent pregnancy and child bearing also has emerged as an issue of increasing concern in the region. Overall reproductive health status is poor amongst adolescent residing in slum areas. This may be due to poor source of education, low level of sanitation, poor housing conditions, low standard of living, overcrowding and lower access of medical facility in this region.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

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