

Knowledge and attitude towards HIV infection/AIDS among nursing students of college of nursing in Jaffna

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HIV (AIDS) is one of the major health outbreaks which causes mortality in global level with more than 1.1 million deaths occurs annually. In Sri Lanka as of December 2011, there were 1453 reported HIV cases in the country, out of that 253 have died. 60% of reported HIV cases are males, among them half of the prevalence are from Colombo. (UNAIDS). Nurses have fear to give care to HIV (AIDS) infected people during their clinical practice, due to their misconception and misbeliefs of HIV (AIDS). In future nursing students have to be worked in hospitals and they have responsibility to provide qualitative care to the HIV (AIDS) infected patients. Therefore enhance the knowledge level and attitude level of the students regarding HIV/AIDS is very important to eradicate fear related HIV/AIDS infected patients.

To assess the knowledge and attitude towards HIV/AIDS among nursing students. A cross sectional study, was carried out among all nursing students at College of Nursing Jaffna. The data was collected by using self-administered questionnaire which consists 25 knowledge questions and 15 attitude questions and data were analysed by using SPSS 21 statistical software.

In this study 92 students were participated. The study results revealed that 60.9% of students had good knowledge level and 39.1% of students had adequate knowledge level with Mean of 36.98 (SD±6.37). The attitude toward HIV/AIDS was adequate among participants 31.5% of students had good level of attitude, 65.2% of students had average level attitude and 3.3% of students had poor attitude level with Mean of 44.54 (SD±9.796).

This study concluded that College of Nursing students had good knowledge on HIV/AIDS and average level of attitude. All most all students have knowledge on HIV/AIDS, its mode of transmission, and prevention.

Keywords: Knowledge, Attitudes, HIV, Nursing, Jaffna