
A Situational Analysis of Awareness of HIV/AIDS in Secondary School Students

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Abstract

Awareness concerning HIV/AIDS in new generation is need of the day. It is essential to promote this awareness in school adolescents. Therefore, this paper explores the existing situation of consciousness about HIV/AIDS in students of secondary schools. The recommendation of the paper provides a pathway to promote the awareness about HIV/AIDS in the students. Secondary school curriculum can be upgraded in the light of conclusion of the study to overcome this disease. The paper is supportive in developing the strategies concerning awareness about HIV/AIDS in the teacher training programs. This study focuses to explore knowledge concerning HIV/AIDS in school students. For this purpose, purposive sampling technique is adopted to achieve study aims and objectives. Participants of study were senior school educators, 10th class students and employed graduates of community in each district of the Punjab province of Pakistan.

Keywords: HIV, Secondary, School, Students, Pakistan

Introduction:

In 1987, the first case of HIV/AIDS was identified in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. AIDS/HIV cases have been found with rapid increase within the few years. In 1990, 56 cases were reported and in 1993, 240 cases were testified while in 1995, 1021 cases of HIV/AIDS were confirmed respectively. WHO/UNAIDS confirmed that until 1996, 80,000 Pakistani people have been found careers HIV/AIDS. In Pakistan, factors of HIV/AIDS include poverty, low literacy, lack of awareness, unsafe sexual relations and unsafe injection practices are included (Nasir, 2015). Lalani (2011) reported that the most serious spread approaches of HIV/AIDS include are transgender, lack of awareness, male and female sex workers, commercial sex and sex education as taboo. Raheel et al (2007) conducted a study in Pakistan to evaluate the youth awareness about HIV/AIDS. He concluded that adolescents with higher secondary education have awareness about HIV/AIDS. Shabir (2018) directed a research on investigation of awareness and performs amongst the youth about HIV/AIDS in central Punjab (Pakistan). The study concluded that there Developing countries have the highest rate of HIV/AIDS. The victims of HIV/AIDs are about 90 percent of the total because of illiteracy, hunger and medical (Bhurgri, 2006). WHO (2018) reports that number of HIV careers is increasing in Pakistan within passage of time and it needs to promote the awareness about this disease in the new generation (The Nation, 2018). Within the passage of time, newborn factors are rapidly contributing in spreading this disease in the country and such causes are a big questioning for the medical practitioners that how to overcome

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this disease (Tahir, 2010). The medical treatment of this disease is very challenging because of lack of education about family planning (Bertozzi, 1970). Hussain (2018) concluded in a study on this disease increasing rate in the country that major causes concerning HIV/AIDS are found as saliva, blood transfusion and unprotected sexual relations. Secondly, illiteracy is also the major cause of this severe situation. The study recommended to launch awareness programs through electronic and print media in Pakistan to overcome the HIV/AIDS in Pakistan (P-1060). On World AIDS Day (2019) Mr. Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan expressed that the state has ensured comprehensive medical facilities to overcome this disease (Tribune, 2019).

Research Methodology

As a tool of research, interview and questionnaire was adopted. To analyze the collected data through questionnaire, chi square was used while for the analysis of collected data from interviews, thematic content analysis was used. Convergent parallel research design was used to achieve the objectives of the study. To meet objectives of study, convergent parallel design was applied. The researchers have used convergent parallel design for the analysis of data collected from questionnaire and interviews. In this way, findings of study was achieved.

Selection of Participants

For selection of participants, purposive sampling is adopted. Data is collected from educators, students and community members. For the collection of data, unstructured interview was used. The interviews were conducted face to face. 5 senior educators, 5 students of 10th class and 5 employed graduates of community members from the two districts were selected. In purposive sampling, researchers adopts to explore what necessarily to be known (Bernard, 2002). The researcher met with participants of study personally. To ensure that this study contributes to a greater richness in the specific field of research, the educators have been selected from the senior staff of the schools familiar with and experienced in dealing with secondary school students. The criteria for the selection of participants were full-time male senior educators, enrolled students and working graduates with teaching experience in public sector secondary schools. The list of senior male educators was collected from the school education department ([www.http://schools.punjab.gov.pk/](http://schools.punjab.gov.pk/)). Prior permission was taken from the school Principals for the interviews of concerned educators.

Location of Schools

From the two districts, public sector secondary schools were randomly selected. Data has been collected from the given districts of Punjab province. Unfortunately, natives of the rural areas of the districts included in the Punjab province are not well educated and have no more awareness about HIV/AIDS.

No. of Schools and Participants

Five (05) educators, five (05) students from public sector male secondary schools and five (05) employed graduate community members are selected through purposive sampling

from each selected school.

Data Collection & Analysis

In this study, researcher used thematic content analysis for the collected data through interviews to achieve the objectives. The primary source of data collection was interviews. The basic concern was to collect the data concerning the homosexual relations in the students and its effects in the form of HIV/AIDS. Janesick (2004) described that "interviewing is a convention of two peoples to interchange data as well as thoughts through queries and answers, resultant in conversation and mutual building of importance regarding a specific subject" (p.72). In this research, interviews have been used as a tool of collecting data because detailed data was required by the researcher to meet the objectives. Rubin (2005) recommended that in-depth interviews would be conducted if clarification regarding the question of researcher is required. Therefore, to explore the vision of participants of study, unstructured interview was used in collection of qualitative data. The investigator personally go to the participants in secondary schools and community in each district of the Punjab. The participants were informed about the nature of interviews before the starts of formal meetings. Participants have given a chance to assess as well as exact the matters of the meeting after it has been recorded (TerreBlance & Kelly, 1999).

Results

Table 1 Awareness of causes of HIV/AIDS in participants

	SA	A	UD	DA	SD	Total	χ^2
Responses	28	16	-	-	-	44	131.68*
Percentage	95.64	4.36	-	-	-	100	

As per table 1 displays that the calculated χ^2 value was found to be 131.68, which is bigger than the table value at 0.05 level. Therefore, the statement awareness of causes of HIV/AIDS in participants is accepted.

Table 2 Awareness of Symptoms of HIV/AIDS in Participants

	SA	A	UD	DA	SD	Total	χ^2
Responses	20	18	-	06	-	44	156.9*
Percentage	3.21	3.19	-	91.61	-	100	

According to table 2 depicts that the calculated χ^2 value was found to be 156.9, which is bigger than the table value at 0.05 level. Therefore, the statement awareness of symptoms of HIV/AIDS in participants is rejected.

Table 3 Awareness of Prevention of HIV/AIDS in Participants

	SA	A	UD	DA	SD	Total	χ^2
Responses	3	3	-	9	-	15	176*

Percentage	3.21.	3.19	91.61	-	100
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Table 3 presents that the calculated χ^2 value was found to be 176, it is bigger than the table value at 0.05 level. Hence, the statement awareness of prevention of HIV/AIDS in participants is rejected.

Table 4 Participation in Awareness Programs of HIV/AIDS in Participants

	SA	A	UD	DA	SD	Total	χ^2
Responses	-	-	-	11	04	15	93.5*
Percentage	-	-	-	65.91	11.64	100	

According to table 4 presents that the calculated χ^2 value was found to be 93.5, it is bigger than the table value at 0.05 level. Thus, the statement *participation in awareness programs of HIV/AIDS in participants* is rejected.

Table 5 Arranging Awareness Programs of HIV/AIDS in Participants

	SA	A	UD	DA	SD	Total	χ^2
Responses	06	28	10	12	03	44	60.54*
Percentage	13.64	63.64	22.72	64.64	12.64	100	

As per table 5 reveals that the calculated χ^2 value was found to be 60.54, it is larger than the table value at 0.05 level. Thus, the statement *arranging awareness programs of HIV/AIDS in participants* is rejected.

Conclusion:

Study concluded that participants have no more awareness about HIV/AIDS. Some students even cannot explain causes, symptoms and prevention of HIV/AIDS. There is an urgent need to launch the awareness programs about HIV/AIDS at secondary school level. The awareness programs should be launched at district level.

Ethics & Confidentiality of the Study:

Authors have completed this study keeping in view ethics of research and confidentiality of the collected data from the participants.

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