

The Internet, the Main Source of HIV/ AIDS Information on Students

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Abstract— HIV continues to be a major public health problem at global level, receiving more than 35 million lives so far. In 2016, at the global level, 1 million people died of HIV related causes. It is important to understand nursing students' knowledge and attitudes towards people living with HIV because the educational preparation of nurses has been known to affect the attitudes of the nurse and the effectiveness of the care provided to people living with HIV.

Purpose of the study: Identification of the main source of Internet access to HIV / AIDS information for students of the Public Health Faculty.

Method and Material: This study was conducted at the University "Ismail Qemali" at the Faculty of Public Health. A sample of 337 nursing students agreed to take part in the study, giving an answer. Data was collected using an anonymous questionnaire consisting of three self-administered instruments, socio-demographic factors, knowledge and attitudes. The return of a completed questionnaire is considered as consent to participate in the study.

Results: General Nursing students had good knowledge about HIV and AIDS, and a positive attitude toward people with AIDS. However, students in different years of study on some questions presented contradictory results from the overall score of the knowledge level. 43% of respondents believed that mosquitoes could transmit HIV and 27.5% believed that the virus could be transmitted by eating and drinking from the same plate or glass of a person with HIV positive. Most respondents (32.9%) are taught about HIV / AIDS through journals / newspapers / the Internet. 40.3% of the population surveyed have no information on the type of lymphocytes that affects / mainly affects HIV. For the question of which diagnostic tests that are used for the diagnosis of HIV 23.7% do not have information and are expressed that they do not know. 36% of year-old students think that the nursing practice to be followed is: staff should only take protective measures for HIV patients and 43.4% think that AIDS is a treatable disease if diagnosed at an early

stage. 16.9% of all nursing students said that AIDS is developing as soon as the person is infected with HIV. Participants report a willingness to take care of people with HIV / AIDS, but there are also those in low percentage who refuse.

Conclusions: Nursing students have presented a good knowledge and presented the necessary attitudes for people with HIV and AIDS. There is a need for continuous education of nursing students on HIV-AIDS in the plan for treating the disease not only in the biological but also in the spiritual, social-family, psychological and in the framework of reducing discrimination.

Keywords— Internet, Information, HIV/ AIDS, Nursing, Students.

I. INTRODUCTION

HIV / AIDS is a global pandemic. HIV has become one of the greatest health challenges of our time. The situation is particularly grim in some parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, despite the fact that HIV prevention programs have been initiated in every country in the region². The number of people infected with the virus, and with AIDS, continues to grow. Preventive efforts to date have included efforts to secure a safe blood supply, launching massive public awareness campaigns on HIV and AIDS in an effort to promote widespread behavioral change and creating broader marketing and distribution of HIV condoms. There is encouraging evidence that behavioral interventions can be effective. Public awareness about the AIDS epidemic is extremely high throughout Africa and condom sales have risen sharply across the continent in recent years. Other promising findings include a recent reduction in the prevalence of HIV-1 infection among young men in rural Uganda and evidence that treatment of SST in rural Tanzania could reduce HIV transmission³. But many interventions have been experimental and small-scale and so are not enough to change the course of the epidemic⁴. At the same time, the detection of a vaccine or effective treatment is hindered by a number of scientific, economic, ethical and

logistical obstacles and are unlikely to be developed soon⁵. Sub-Saharan Africa is the most affected region. In 2010, about 68% (22.9 million) of all cases of HIV and 66% of all deaths (1.2 million) occurred in this region⁶. This means that about 5% of the adult population in the area is infected⁷. Here, unlike other regions, women make up about 60% of cases². The ratio of women living with HIV / AIDS has remained stable, 50% of the infected are women, the largest number of infected women is in Africa Subseharians (59% of all people living with HIV) and the Caribbean (53%). Nowadays, at least 6.6 million people receive HIV treatment in low and middle income countries⁸. South Africa has the largest population of HIV-infected people in every country in the world at 5.9 million². In Tanzania, HIV / AIDS is reported to have a 6% proliferation among Tanzanian adults aged 15-49 in 2007-2008. This figure is lower than 2003 when the prevalence of HIV / AIDS in the country was 8.8%⁹. South and Southeast Asia (a region of about 2 billion people since 2010, over 30% of the world's population) has about 4 million cases (12% of all people living with HIV) with about 250,000 deaths in 2010³. Approximately 2.5 Millions of these cases are in India, however, where prevalence is only 0.3% (somewhat higher than that found in Western and Central Europe or Canada)². Prevalence is lowest in East Asia by 0.1%³. In 2008, about 1.2 million people in the United States had HIV; 20% did not realize they were infected¹⁰. During the 10-year period from 1999 to 2008, there were about 17,500 deaths for year South and Southeast Asia (a region of about 2 billion people since 2010, over 30% of the world's population) has about 4 million cases (12% of all people living with HIV) with about 250,000 deaths in 2010³. Approximately 2.5 Millions of these cases are in India, however, where prevalence is only 0.3% (somewhat higher than that found in Western and Central Europe or Canada)². Prevalence is lowest in East Asia by 0.1%³. In 2008, about 1.2 million people in the United States had HIV; 20% did not realize they were infected¹⁰. During the 10-year period from 1999 to 2008, there were about 17,500 deaths per year ⁵. In the United Kingdom, since 2009, there were about 86,500 cases and 516 deaths¹¹. In Australia, since 2009, there were about 21,171 cases and about 23 deaths. In Canada since 2008 there were about 65,000 cases and 53 deaths. In the United Kingdom, since 2009, there were about 86,500 cases and 516 deaths¹¹. In Australia, since 2009, there were about 21,171 cases and about 23 deaths¹². In Canada since 2008 there were about 65,000 cases and 53 deaths¹³.

II. METHODOLOGY

This cross-point, quantitative, descriptive type study was conducted in 317 students of the first, second and third bachelor general nurses at the Faculty of Public Health during the period January-May 2017. The informed consent was obtained at the time of collecting data and securing confidentiality and anonymity. For carrying out this study, a self-administered questionnaire was used, which preserved the anonymity of the participant in the study and the confidentiality of his data, consisting of 29 closed questions: 5 of which are socio-demographic data, while 17 are formulated in such a way as to fulfill the purpose of the study

of student knowledge and 7 other questions are formulated in such a way as to fulfill the purpose of the study on attitudes towards HIV/ AIDS patients. Statistical data analysis was performed in SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences, version 18.0).

III. RESULTS

A. Demographic Characteristics

Gender	Number of students of the first year	%	Number of students of the second year	%	Number of students of the third year	%
Female	92	92%	98	89.1%	112	88.2%
Male	8	8%	12	10.9%	15	11.8%
Total	100	100%	110	100%	127	100%

Table 1: Distribution of Students by Gender

We note that the majority of the students who participated in the study were female, respectively 92% from first year , 89.1% from second year and 88.2% from third year, while males make up the sample minority.

Age	Number of students of the first year	%	Number of students of the second year	%	Number of students of the third year	%
18 years	46	46%	0	0%	0	0%
19-20 years	50	50%	70	63.6%	46	36.2%
Over 20 years	4	4%	40	36.4%	81	63.8%
Total	100	100%	110	100%	127	100%

Table 2: Distribution of Students by Age

If we refer to Table 2, we note that 19-20 years of age (49.2%) predominate in the study, compared to 18 years of age (13.6%) and those over the age of 20 (37.2%).

Sexually active	Number of students of the first year	%	Number of students of the second year	%	Number of students of the third year	%
Yes	55	55%	48	43.6%	51	40.1%
No	45	45%	62	56.4%	76	59.9%
Total	100	100%	110	100%	127	100%

Table 3: Distribution of Students By Sexual Activity

Referring to Table 3 on sexual activity it appears that first year is more active than the other two years, while third year is more inactive. The population surveyed results to be 54.4% sexually active, while 45.6% are active, respectively the first year 55% active and 45% inactive; second year 43.6% active and 56.4% inactive; third year 40.1% active and 59.9% inactive.

Civil Status	Number of students of the first year	%	Number of students of the second year	%	Number of students of the third year	%
Single	91	91%	97	88.1%	110	86.6%
Married	9	9%	13	11.9%	17	13.4%
Total	100	100%	110	100%	127	100%

Table 4: Distribution of Students by Civil Status

Meanwhile, in Table 4, depending on the status of civil status, first year results 91% single and 9% married, while the second year is 88.1% single and 11.9% married and third year 86.6% single. 13.4% of the sample taken in the study declare that they are married.

The main source of information	Number of students of the first year	%	Number of students of the second year	%	Number of students of the third year	%
Magazine Newspaper Internet	29	29%	37	33.6%	45	35.4%
School books	21	21%	23	20.9%	25	19.6%
Television Radio	11	11%	22	20%	16	12.5%
Promoting public health	15	15%	8	7.2%	12	9.4%
Friends Parents	4	4%	13	11.8%	10	7.8%
Other sources	20	20%	7	6.5%	19	14.9%
Total	100	100%	110	100%	127	100%

Table 5: Distribution of Students by Source of Information

Sample distribution based on the source of information, Table 5, shows that magazines / newspapers / internet account for 32.9%, followed by 20.5% schoolbooks. Meanwhile, public health promotion results to have received 10.4% of the sample, 14.5% from television / radio and 8.2% by friends / parents. 21.7% said they received information from other sources.

Who is involved in sexually transmitted diseases ?	Number of students of the first year	%	Number of students of the second year	%	Number of students of the third year	%
Gonorrhoea	47	47%	45	41%	13	10.2%
Flu	2	2%	0	0%	0	0%
Chlamydia	5	15%	29	26.4%	1	0.8%
Measles	9	9%	4	3.6%	0	0%
A&C	27	27%	32	29%	113	89%
Total	100	100%	110	100%	127	100%

Table 6: Recognition of Sexually Transmitted Diseases by Students

Table 6 identifies types of IST. First year and second considered only Gonorrhoea (47/41%) or only Chlamydia (15 / 26.4%), while 89% of third year identified both. Knowledge about students about HIV immunity.

What are those lymphocytes that are mainly affected by HIV?	Number of students of the first year	%	Number of students of the second year	%	Number of students of the third year	%
TD4	6	6%	6	5.4%	22	17.3%
CD4	20	20%	53	48.2%	68	53.5%
None of them	4	4%	21	19.1%	1	0.8%
I don't know	70	70%	30	27.3%	36	28.4%
Total	100	100%	110	100%	127	100%

Table 7: Knowledge About Students About HIV Immunity.

The students' knowledge about HIV damage is shown in Table 7, where most students do not know the answer to this question (40.3%), while the exact answer was 41.8% of the sample taken in the study. Namely, 20% from first year, 48.2% from second year and 53.5% from third year.

Which of these practices is correct?	Number of students of the first year	%	Number of students of the second year	%	Number of students of the third year	%
Staff should take protective measures against all patients	64	64%	101	91.8%	125	98.4%
Staff should take protective measures only for HIV patients	36	36%	9	8.2%	2	1.6%
Total	100	100%	110	100%	127	100%

Table 8: Actions to be Taken by Nursing Staff and Students' Knowledge of Them.

Actions to be taken by nursing staff and the knowledge of future prospective students are presented in Table 8 where the vast majority, 86% of students have given the correct answer that the practice to be applied is always: staff should take protective measures against all patients, respectively 64% of the 1st year, 91.8% of the second year and 98.4% of the third year.

IV. DISCUSSION

For our analysis and assessment, we focus on a sample of 337 nursing students. However, given that the study population was with nursing students, their knowledge of HIV / AIDS was inaccurate and insufficient for future health care professionals. The results of the study also showed that nursing students are sexually active, but some of them have no information that the use of condoms prevents HIV and AIDS. Moreover, the overwhelming majority of respondents reported magazines / newspapers / the Internet as primary sources of information regarding HIV and AIDS. Nursing students are expected to receive information mainly from schools and healthcare professionals during their distribution in practice and not by mass media or the internet. It should be

noted that although participants have received information mainly from television and the Internet, there is still a lack of knowledge about STI, HIV and AIDS. This result illustrates the current situation in society. The majority of the students who participated in the study were women, respectively 92% of I, 89.1% from II year and 88.2% year III, while males were the sample minority [Table 1]. This is in line with other studies conducted in less developed countries where resources from where information can be obtained are lacking. The population surveyed results to be 54.4% sexually active, while 45.6% are active, respectively the first year 55% active and 45% inactive; second year 43.6% active and 56.4% inactive; third year 40.1% active and 59.9% inactive [Table 3]. The students had some knowledge of contraception methods, but this has not resulted in sufficient use of such methods, especially considering their vital importance for preventing unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and STI in sexually active students (Your sexual health: Sexual knowledge, attitudes and Behaviours among student at a university in turkey) ²⁶. The majority of the students found to be single. A small fraction of them are married [Table 4]. Results shows that magazines/newspapers/ internet account for 32.9%, followed by 20.5% schoolbooks [Table 5].

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