



Study On Knowledge about HIV-AIDS among 1st Year Mbbs Students of a Private Medical College, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Dr. Deepak Padhi

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ABSTRACT

Background: Globally, as of 2021, there are 38.4 million people who live with HIV. The largest number of HIV cases in the world exists in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2022, the number of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in India were found to be 24 lakhs. In Odisha, the number of people living with HIV is 0.49 lakhs. The objective of this study was to study the knowledge about HIV- AIDS among 1st Year MBBS Students of a Private Medical College in Bhubaneshwar, Orissa.

Materials and Methods: The study was a cross-sectional study conducted in Hitech Medical College from 1st July 2022 to 31st July 2022. A pre-designed, pretested, anonymous, self-administered semi-structured questionnaire was used among 104 medical students. Data entry was done in Microsoft Excel and Data analysis was done on SPSS.

Results: There were 63.4% of males and 36.6% of females involved in the study. The mean age of the participants was 18 years. About 88.5% of the students knew that the common cause of contracting HIV were multiple sex partners. About 86.5% of the students also knew that AIDS had no cure. About 88.4% of the students responded that blood tests were available for the detection of HIV.

Conclusion: In this study, we found that most 1st-year MBBS students had awareness of the mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS but had little knowledge about the prevention of HIV. A special module on HIV/AIDS knowledge should be included in the Foundation Course of 1st year MBBS Students to enhance their knowledge about HIV/AIDS.

I. INTRODUCTION

AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) is a deadly disease that causes death worldwide by breaking down the immune system. HIV is a public health problem that affects people globally and nationally.

HIV was first identified in the 1980s in the USA (1). The scientific committee first reported HIV in a healthy homosexual men. (2) Globally the prevalence of HIV is 38.4 million according to World Health Organisation. (3) The most common subgroups that are known are HIV-1 and HIV-2(4). Asia is the second largest region to have people with HIV infection after Sub-Saharan Africa (5).

In India, the prevalence of people living with HIV is 2.35 million and the adult prevalence is 0.22% in 2019(6). Maharashtra had the highest number of people living with HIV (3.96 lakhs), while Odisha had around 0.49 lakhs of people living with HIV(7).

Though the early 2000s saw a steady decline in the overall HIV rates due to various health awareness programs yet there is an alarming recent rise in the incidence of HIV among gays, bisexuals and men having sex with men (MSM)(8). This is currently posing the biggest challenge for the healthcare system to address and curtail the spike. Attributing the spike in cases among MSM is due to a lack of fear of HIV-related death, condomless sexual acts, online pornography, and geospatial networks leading to easy instant access for sexual partners. Mostly young well-educated adolescents and men succumb to the infection(9).

It is considered that a major portion of India is free from infection, and preventive strategies would be the main support in preventing the infection. Communication for behavior change is one of the most important elements of preventive strategies. With this background, a study was conducted to study the knowledge about HIV- AIDS among 1st Year MBBS Students of a Private Medical College in Bhubaneshwar, Orissa.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A Cross-Sectional Descriptive Study was carried out at Hitech Medical College and Hospital, Bhubaneswar from 1st July 2022 to 31st July 2022. This cross-sectional descriptive study was undertaken using a pre-designed, pretested, anonymous, self-administered, semi-structured questionnaire via google forms and 104 students participated in the study. Data were entered in Microsoft excel and Statistical Analysis was carried out in SPSS by calculation proportion for univariate variables and Chi-square test for Bivariate variables. Statistical Analysis was carried out in SPSS Version 2022 by calculating proportion & Chi-square test.



III. RESULTS

Table 1 - Gender distribution of the participants involved in the study

SEX	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Male	66	63.5
Female	38	36.5

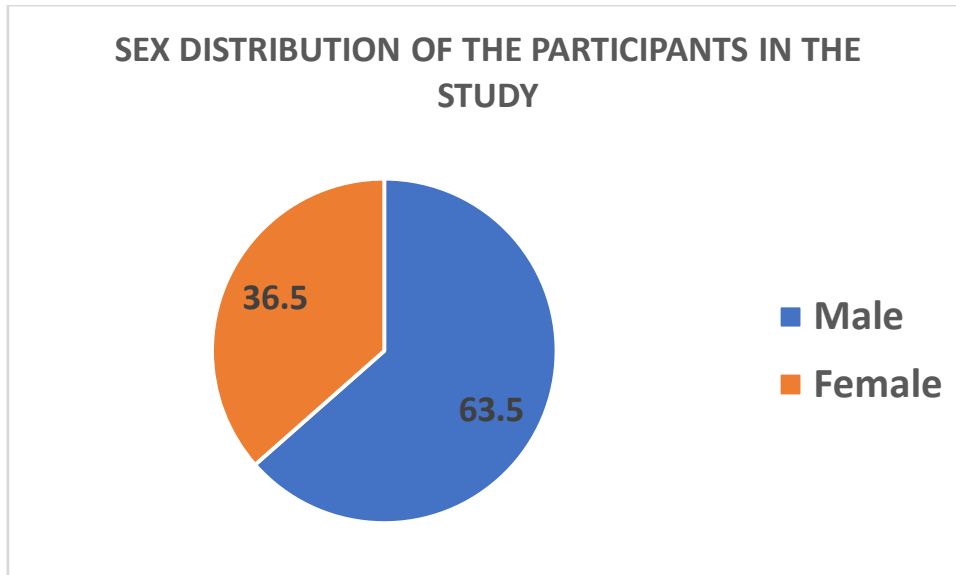
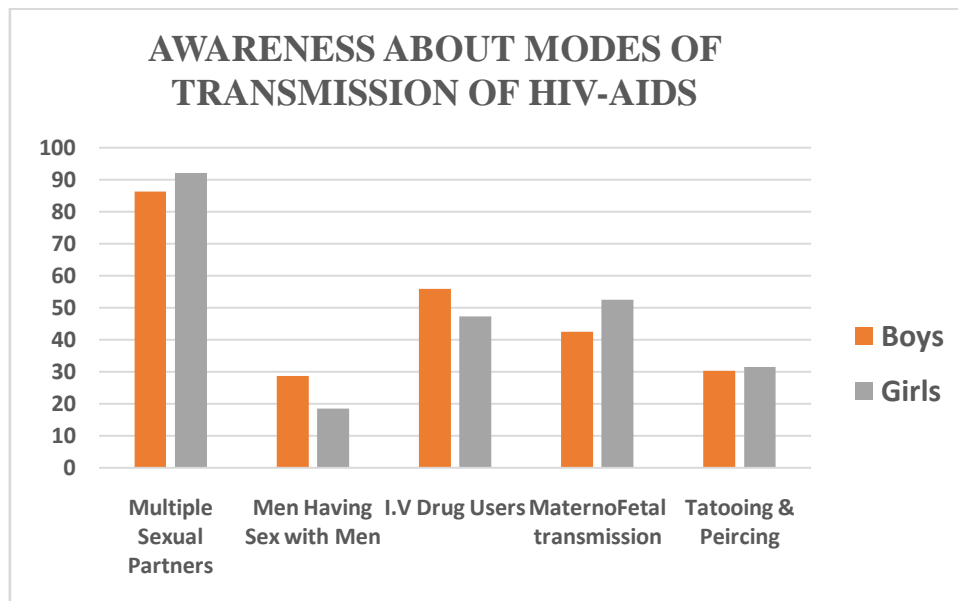


Table 2 - Awareness about modes of transmission of HIV/AIDS

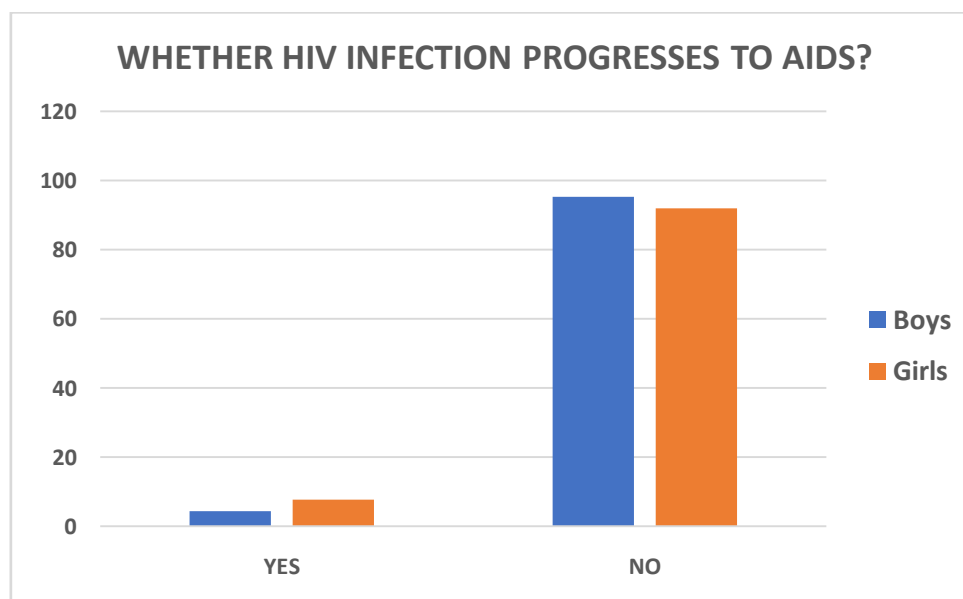
Awareness	Gender				Total	Statistical analysis
	Boys		Girls			
	No	%	No	%		
Multiple Sexual Partners	57	86.3	35	92.1	92(88.5%)	Chi square=2.2898, df=4, P value = 0.8077, Stat. Not Significant
Men Having Sex with Men	19	28.7	7	18.4	26(25%)	
I.V Drug Users	37	56	18	47.3	55(52.9%)	
MaternoFetal transmission	28	42.4	20	52.6	48(46.2%)	
Tattooing & Piercing	20	30.3	12	31.5	32(30.8%)	
Total	66(63.5%)		38(36.5%)		104	



Out of the total 104 students who responded, 66 (63.5%) were boys while the rest were girls. The majority of students 92 (88.5%) answered most common cause of contracting HIV was by multiple sexual partners.

Table 3 – Whether all HIV infection progresses to AIDS?

RESPONSE	Gender				Total		Statistical Analysis
	BOYS		GIRLS		No.	%	
	No.	%	No.	%			
YES	3	4.5	3	7.8	6	5.7	Chi square=0.498, df=1, p-value = 0.481, Stat. Not Significant
NO	63	95.4	35	92.1	98	94.2	
Total	66		38		104		

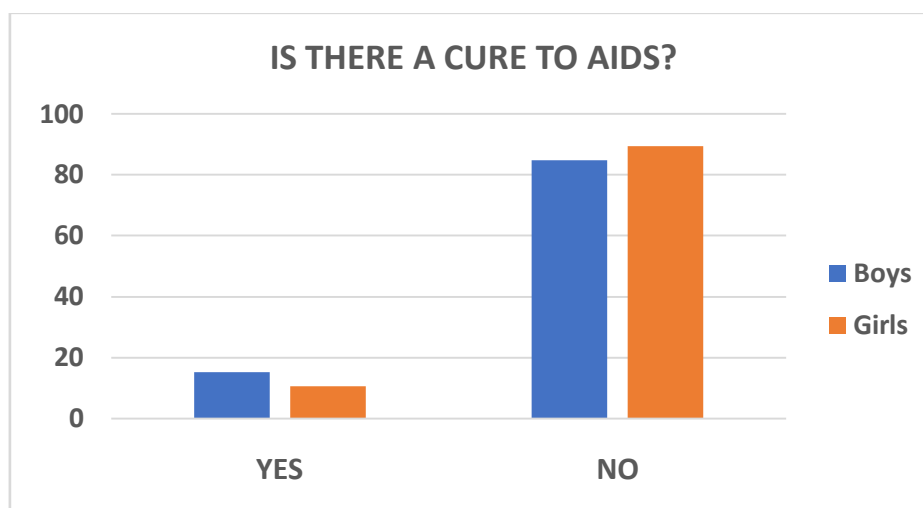


94.2% of the students didn't know HIV progresses to AIDS.



Table 4 – Is there a cure for AIDS?

RESPONSE	GENDER				Total		Stat. Analysis
	BOYS		GIRLS		No.	%	
	No.	%	No.	%			
YES	10	15.1	4	10.5	14	13.4	Chi square=0.443, df=1, p-value = 0.506, Stat. Not Significant
NO	56	84.8	34	89.4	90	86.5	
Total	66		38		104		



86.5% of the students knew that no cure for HIV existed.

IV. DISCUSSION

HIV is a public health problem existing throughout the world. The knowledge about HIV among people is very low. This study assessed the knowledge of HIV among 1st-year MBBS students at Hitech Medical college, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

In our study, 88.5% of students knew that the most common mode of transmission of HIV was having multiple sex partners which are good as compared to the study conducted by Pratibha et al where only 69.6% of the students knew the most common mode was having multiple sex partners. (10)

In our study, 94.2% of the students did not know HIV progresses to AIDS, which is not good as compared to a study conducted by Kotina et al where 25% of the students only didn't know HIV progresses to AIDS. (11)

In our study, 86.5% of the students knew that there was no cure for HIV, which is not good as compared to a study conducted by Sankaranarayanan et al where 92% of the students knew there was no cure for AIDS. (12)

The knowledge not being so good among 1st-year MBBS Students is a public health concern for the country as they are the future of the country. For reducing the spread, testing should be made

compulsory for international travel to other countries, and awareness among the people should be implemented at all levels of the health system. Some specific preventive strategies include using condoms while having sex, avoiding sexual behavior with multiple partners, and antenatal testing is very essential for preventing HIV transmission in our country. The National AIDS Control Programme or NACP should ensure the implementation of the strategies proposed happens in tribal, rural, and urban areas which will reduce the infection rate of the disease reducing its prevalence. Special modules on HIV should be implemented by National Medical Council in this regard.

V. CONCLUSION

In this study, we found that most 1st-year MBBS students had knowledge of the mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS but had little knowledge about the prevention of HIV. The statistical analysis of the responses indicates that none of them had significant knowledge & awareness about the transmission, prevention & treatment of HIV & AIDS. Only 61.5 % responded correctly that a person cannot get HIV by donating blood. Only 77.8 % of respondents agreed to disclose the HIV-



positive status of a patient to his/her partner. A special module on HIV/AIDS knowledge should be included in the Foundation Course of 1st year MBBS Students to enhance their knowledge about HIV.

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