

## ABSTRACT

# Knowledge and Attitude of College Students Regarding HIV/AIDS

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Today we live in an age of 'information'. As the news about Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome's (AIDS) arrival in India hit the headlines in the media there was an obvious denial among the people to acknowledge the facts and fatal consequences of the pandemic. It has been estimated that there are about one million people with HIV infection in India. Most of us still think that we are far away from it and are not at risk. Ignorance and indifference about HIV and AIDS still prevail among the campuses of colleges and universities wherein hundreds and thousands of young people gather, mingle and interact with each other everyday. The inquisitive young people oscillate between pornography and peers to know more and more about sexuality for want of authentic information and education. In such a condition it is the primary duty of the educational policy makers and the health care professionals to help them out of their anxiety and confusion by providing proper information.

The study was undertaken in order to determine to what extent the college students are oriented to the acute problem of AIDS and to ascertain their attitude towards the disease. This would help in realising the facts and thereby provide suggestions to educate the college students in this area.

### Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the knowledge of college students regarding HIV/AIDS.
2. To assess the attitude of college students towards HIV/AIDS.
3. to determine the relationship between the knowledge and attitude regarding HIV/AIDS.
4. To compare the knowledge related to HIV/AIDS between arts and science students.
5. To compare the attitude related to HIV/AIDS between arts and science students.
6. To find out the sources of information of college students regarding HIV/AIDS.

### Sampling Technique

A total of 100 students of Arts and Science groups doing their Pre-University programme were selected for the study. Stratified random sampling was used in order to select the sample.

### Tool and Technique

The data was collected by using a self-administered structured knowledge questionnaire and a Likert-type attitude scale which was prepared for the purpose, covering the major areas of AIDS.

Data collected were analysed by using descriptive as well as inferential statistics.

### Major Findings

1. The major source of information for the students about AIDS was

from television (94%).

2. Knowledge level of many subjects were found to be average but inadequate in terms of prevention of disease.
3. In the specific content area the subjects obtained highest mean percentage of knowledge score in the area of mode of spread and diagnosis (86% each) and lowest for the management of the disease (42.12%).
4. Majority of the students had a favourable attitude.
5. The students who had a higher level of knowledge with regard to HIV/AIDS also had a favourable attitude.
6. There was no significant difference between the knowledge score of Arts and Science students.
7. The arts and science students had almost a similar attitude regarding HIV/AIDS.

"One of the real dangers of AIDS is that it will produce a new virus-HIL 'Highly Inefficient Laws'. The only vaccine is knowledge. The only sure cure is prevention by behavioural modifications of decisions made at moments immediately prior to sexual or drug use activities" says Justice Michael Kirby.

AIDS is not a remote problem but it is right here at our doorsteps and can blow up into a problem of uncontrollable proportions if not addressed right now.

**Help AIDS Victims  
Cope with their Problems**

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