



## A Study of Awareness on HIV/AIDS of Adolescents of Mehsana District in North Gujarat area

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### Abstract:

*The aim of the present study was to find out awareness and knowledge on HIV/AIDS of adolescent in rural area of Mehsana district in Gujarat. The sample of the study consisted of 400 adolescents (200 males and 20 females). The focus of the study was RURAL area of some villages in Mehsana district and North Gujarat Region. Data collection procedure included random sampling method. Data analysis comprised of calculating frequencies and percentage. From the study it was found that majority of the adolescents do not have knowledge and awareness regarding HIV/AIDS.*

**Keywords:** Adolescent, Awareness of HIV/AIDS, Knowledge

### 1. Introduction

There are an estimated 190 million (aged 10-19) in India, comprising over fifth of the entire population. Research in various parts of the world is finding that young men's sexual health needs may be more prevalent than commonly thought and that young men frequently ignore such infections or rely on home remedies or self treatment. Epidemiological research in a rural area in India with 233 men aged 15-44 (40.3% in the 15-24 age range) from all social classes found that 80.7% of the men had some reproductive related morbidity. 22.3% of which were STD. The rates of reproductive health morbidity from men were nearly identical to rates found among women in research carried out by the same authors (Bang, et al. 1997)

Among all the sequelae these relatively high rates of STDs among adolescent's boys is the increased risk of HIV infection. Presently an estimated one in four of all persons infected by HIV/AIDS in the world is a young man under age 25 (Green. 1997)

Given this fact that a high percentage of cases of HIV are contracted via sexual transmission during adolescence research and programme development in the HIV/AIDS prevention has turned towards young men. In particular, research from the HIV/AIDS prevention field has provided many of the insights on the sexual scripts and behaviour of young men reported previously as well as on pattern of negotiation or lack thereof in couples and on the identity construction and behaviour of men who have sex with other men. It is also important to mention the association of HIV and Hepatitis B and C with increased injectable drug use and unprotected sex among men who have sex with men. An issue that was emerged in the U. S. and Australia (Personal Correspondence, John Howard. 1998). The objective has is to study the awareness and knowledge on HIV/AIDS of adolescents in rural area of Mehsana district, North Gujarat.

### 2. Methodology

The total sample of the present study comprised of 400 sample of the consisted of 200 male and 200 female adolescents. The focus of the study was villages in nearest in Mehsana district, and North Gujarat area.

All the adolescents selected were 13 years to 19 year age from a rural area of Mehsana district, mainly school dropout, married or unmarried. The method of sampling was in purposive nature as the data collected was descriptive in nature. Frequency and percentage.

### 3. Data Analysis

**Table 1: Awareness of the Respondents Regarding HIV/AIDS**

Sr.	Category	Percentage	
		Girls	Boys
	Yes	18.89	68
	No	83.33	67
	If Yes, Specify	-	-
1	It is harmful and infected disease	17.98	19.66
2	By this illness and death occur	2.05	14.26
3	If occurs by sexual intercourse with AIDS infected person	2.41	7.84
4	In this semen is presented	1.18	10.54
5	It is dangerous than cancer	2.05	8.33
6	Do not know	5.17	38.45

Table 1 shows that 18.89% was Girls and 68% of boys said that they know about HIV/AIDS. Only 7.84% of boys said that it occur by sexual intercourse with AIDS infected person.

**Table 2: Awareness of the Respondents Regarding Transmission of HIV/AIDS**

No.	Category	Percentage(%)	
		Girls	Boys
1	Homosexual intercourse	7.75	56
2	Heterosexual intercourse	8.54	34.85
3	Needle/Blade/Skin puncture	6.24	27
4	Mother to child	1.58	23.66
5	Transmission of infected blood	6.25	38.65
6	Do not know	88	66.21

Table 2 shows that 88% of Girls and 66.21% of boys said that they do not know about transmission of HIV/AIDS.

**Table 3: Source of Information about HIV/AIDS**

No.	Category	Percentage(%)	
		Girls	Boys
1	Brother/Sister	6.32	2.15
2	Other relatives/friends	8.25	56.27
3	Teacher/doctor & school/book	2.14	21.36
4	Slogan/Pamphlets/posters	1.08	12.65
5	Newspaper/magazines	5.25	43
6	T.V./Radio	34	38.40

Table 3 shows that 56.27% of the boys and only 8.25% of the girls get the information from the friends so, findings reported that AIDS Awareness is particularly poor among rural adolescents.

#### 4. Conclusion

Hence, it was concluded for the present study that majority of the boys know about HIV/AIDS compare to the girls majority of the girls and boys said that they do not know about transmission of HIV/AIDS from the one person to another.

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