

**Knowledge, attitude, and practice regarding sexually transmitted disease among adolescent girls**Dr. Rekha Acharaya¹, Dr Rattiram Meena²¹ Department of preventive and social medicine, Sardar Patel medical college, Bikaner² Medical and health department, Government of Rajasthan**ABSTRACT**

Background- To study the knowledge, attitude, and practice regarding sexually transmitted disease among adolescent girls

Methods- A cross-sectional study was conducted among the adolescent girls. The study included girls high schools of standard 8th to 12th of Bikaner city. Data were collected with prior informed consent was taken from participants before the questionnaire was administered.

Results- 65.00% girls who did not know anything about the ways to prevent AIDS, whereas 21.00% girls believed that safe sex is one of the mode for prevention of AIDS. Use of disposable syringe and safe blood transfusion were believed to be mode of prevention by 2.0% and 2.00% girls respectively.

Conclusion- Reproductive health is an important area of concern in adolescent health and is intimately connected with the issues such as HIV/AIDS prevention. It is also a sensitive area due to socio-cultural taboo of discussion about sexuality in the Indian society

Keywords: STD, Girls, KAP

INTRODUCTION:

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 150–300 million new cases of curable sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) occur annually worldwide. Improvement of reproductive health education and the social status of women are now seen as necessary tool for further progress in fertility reduction.¹

The National Family Health survey data revealed that over 50% of girls, many below the age of 18 years. Teenage pregnancies being high-risk pregnancies result in unsafe abortions, low birth rates, and high maternal morbidity and mortality. Among all, 40% HIV infection is centered on teenagers,²⁻³

So the study was conducted with the objectives to study the socio-demography of adolescent girls and to study their attitude; knowledge; and practice toward sexually transmitted diseases.

Materials and Methods

Type of study- Cross-sectional study

Sample size- 200 girls

Sampling technique- simple random sampling

Data collection- A cross-sectional study was conducted among the adolescent girls. The study included girls high schools of standard 8th to 12th of Bikaner city. Data were collected with prior informed consent was taken from participants before the questionnaire was administered.

Statistical Analysis- Data was recorded as per Performa. The data analysis was computer based; SPSS-22 was used for analysis. For categoric variables chi-square test was used. For continuous variables independent samples's *t*-test was used. *p*-value <0.05 was considered as significant.

Results

Table 1: Socio-demographic information of participants (N = 200)

Age in yrs	12.24±2.31
Joint family : Nuclear family	112 : 88
Mother education(House wife : Working)	168 : 32
Mother's literacy status (Literate : Illiterate)	172 : 28

Table 2: Distribution of adolescent girls according to their knowledge, attitude, and practice of sexually transmitted disease

Characteristics		No of participants	Percentage
Heard about STD	No	92	46.00
	Yes	108	54.00
Awareness regarding AIDS	No	58	29.00
	Yes	142	71.00
Mode of transmission of STD/AIDS	Sex	62	32.00
	Blood transfusion	4	2.00
	Syringe	6	3.00
	Vertical transmission	2	1.00
	Multiple response	80	40.00
	Do not know	46	23.00
Preventive measure of AIDS	Safe sex	42	21.00
	Safe blood transfusion	4	2.00
	Use of disposable syringe	4	2.00
	Multiple response	20	10.00
	Do not know	130	65.00

This study found that mother was the main source of information regarding different aspects of STD with 83.00%. Friends, sister, teachers, and books and magazines are also individual sources with 8.00%, 4.00%, 3.00%, and 2.00%, respectively.

Discussion

In this study, the mean age at participants was 12.24±2.31 years and the median age at menstruation was 12 years, which is matching with the study conducted by Deb and Mishra.⁴

Mean age of menarche reported by other studies were; 13.48 years from rural Tamil Nadu,⁵ 13.1 years from Rohtak,⁶ 13.2 years from Rajasthan⁷ 13 years from Tirupati,⁸ 12 years from West Bengal,⁹ 10.8 years from Mumbai,⁹ and 13.6 years from Punchkula, Haryana. The age of menarche is declining by 0.9 years per decade.¹¹⁻¹³

This study enquired about the awareness on features of STD and observed that 70.00% did not know any feature of STD. These findings matched with those of the study conducted in New Delhi.¹⁴ It was 34% found in study carried out at Kerala.¹⁵ Study found that most of girls (40%) had said about more than one mode of transmission of STD/AIDS. The Srinagar study¹⁶ revealed that a little less than half of the adolescents (43.04%) had no idea about the possible mode of transmission. There were 65.00% girls who did not know anything about the ways to prevent AIDS, whereas 21.00% girls believed that safe sex is one of the mode for prevention of AIDS. Use of disposable syringe and safe blood transfusion were believed to be mode of

prevention by 2.0% and 2.00% girls respectively. In a study at New Delhi, the findings showed that 77% girls were aware of the link between high-risk behavior such as multiple sex partner and HIV.¹⁷

Conclusion

Reproductive health is an important area of concern in adolescent health and is intimately connected with the issues such as HIV/AIDS prevention. It is also a sensitive area due to socio-cultural taboo of discussion about sexuality in the Indian society

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