



Original Article

Auto Rickshaw Drivers: Knowledge on HIV/AIDS

Abstract:

Introduction: Since first cases of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) was reported in 1981, infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) has grown to pandemic proportions, resulting in an estimated 65 million infections and 25 million deaths. Among 346 auto rickshaw drivers 95.7% heard about HIV but only 50% knew that it is STI. Though just 50% had correct knowledge about three route of transmission but only 36% were aware about the fourth one i.e infected mother to her fetus.

Objectives: Objective of the study was to assess the knowledge on “HIV/AIDS” among Auto Rickshaw Drivers (ARDs). And to find out the association between knowledge and demographic variables.

Methods and Materials: A descriptive study was done among Auto Rickshaw Drivers (ARDs). Data were collected from 100 ARDs from old & new bus stand, railway station area in Durg (C.G.) by self administered questionnaire. Samples were selected by convenience sampling method. The reliability of the knowledge questionnaire ($r=0.86$) was established. The pilot study was conducted on 20 samples and was found feasible. Analysis of data was done by using inferential and descriptive statistics.

Results: Result of the study denotes that Mean knowledge score on HIV/ AIDS of ARDs was 6.70 (± 1.89) but mean score on myths on HIV/ AIDS was 9.33 (± 1.01). Overall mean knowledge score was 16.03 (± 2.43). Majority of the ARDs had good knowledge (72%). There was significant association of knowledge only with educational qualification ($p=0.005$) and monthly income ($p=0.004$).

Conclusion: Present study concludes that the knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS among Auto rickshaw drivers of Durg (C.G.) was good.

Key Words: HIV/ AIDS; ARDs; Knowledge; Durg; Chhattisgarh.

Naushad Ali

In-charge staff in casualty; M. Sc. (N); Apollo BSR; Nehru nagar; Bhilai; Chhattisgarh.

Corresponding Author:

Naushad Ali

Email: naushad.alit38@gmail.com

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Introduction

Since the first cases of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) was reported in 1981, infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) has grown to pandemic proportions, resulting in an estimated 65 million infections and 25 million deaths.¹ A total 346 auto rickshaw drivers were studied. Majority 331 (95.7%) of them have heard about HIV and around 50% knew that it is STI. Of the four routes of transmission, around 50% had correct knowledge about three route of transmission but the fourth one i.e infected mother to her foetus correct knowledge was seen in only 36%. 54% auto drivers ask for new needles before injection, 5% had sex with FSW and 5% had multiple sex

partners. In the present sample of Auto drivers, though majority had heard of HIV / AIDS, they didn't have correct knowledge about transmission of HIV / AIDS and safe sex practices. Hence health education on HIV / AIDS along with safe sex and condom promotion needs to be inculcated among them.²

A cross sectional study among 600 Auto rickshaw drivers was done. Result showed 384 (64.0%) had heard about HIV/AIDS. Awareness level increased with increase in educational status. Out of 384, 74.2% drivers knew that unprotected sex is the main mode of transmission. TV (63.0%) was the common media as source of information. Only 36.2% knew that the disease is not curable.³

Hypothesis

H0: There will be no significant association between knowledge and demographic variable on "HIV/AIDS" among auto rickshaw drivers.

Methodology

A descriptive study was done to assess the knowledge on "HIV/AIDS" among Auto Rickshaw Drivers (ARDs). Data were collected from 100 ARDs from old & new bus stand, railway station area in Durg (C.G.) by self administered questionnaire. Samples were selected by convenience sampling method. The reliability of the knowledge questionnaire ($r=0.86$) was established. Knowledge questionnaire includes 22 multiple choice questions. The pilot study was conducted on 20 samples in railway station Rajnandgaon (C.G.). Analysis of data was done by using inferential and descriptive statistics.

Result

Table 1: Describing other demographic variables n=100

S. No.	Items	f	%	
1	Religion	Hindu	62	62
		Muslim	28	28
		Shikh	5	5
		Christian	5	5
2	Marital Status	Unmarried	23	23
		Married	77	77
3	Educational Qualifications	The primary school qualification (1-5th standard)	25	25
		Middle school qualification (6-8th)	35	35
		High school qualification (9-10th)	26	26
		Higher secondary qualification (11-12th)	10	10
		Graduate qualification	4	4
4	Monthly In-come	Less than 5000 Rs	39	39
		5001 Rs-10, 000 Rs	55	55
		10,001 Rs-20,000 Rs	6	6
5	Family Type	Nuclear-family	46	46
		Joint family	54	54

Table 1 contd...

S. No.	Items	f	%	
6	Family Members	1-2	7	7
		3-4	42	42
		5-6	33	33
		7 above	18	18
7	Native place	Durg	75	75
		Out of Durg	25	25
8	Do you have any previous knowledge about HIV/AIDS	Yes	94	94
		No	6	6
9	Do you stay along with you wife	Yes	9	9
		No	91	91
10	Do you go to prostitute regularly	Yes	5	5
		No	95	95
11	Do you have multiple sex partners	Yes	8	8
		No	92	92
12	Do you have physical relationship with women other then you wife	Yes	15	15
		No	85	85
13	Do you use condom while each intercourse	Yes	27	27
		No	73	73
14	Do you ever receive blood transfusion	Yes	10	10
		No	90	90
	If yes, was it taken from	Authorized donor / Authorized Blood bank	10	10
		Unauthorized donor / Unauthorized Blood bank	90	90

Table 1 shows that the majority of the ARDs were Hindu (62%) and (28%) were Muslim. Maximum of them were married (77%) and had passed Middle school qualification (35%). Fifty five percent of them had monthly income of 5001 Rs-10, 000 Rs. Majority of them were from Joint family (54%) whereas (46%) were from Nuclear-family. Maximum 3-4 Family Members (42%) are present in their family. Seventy five percent of ARDs were from Durg. Majority of them (94%) had previous knowledge on HIV/AIDS. Ninety four percent of them stay with their wife. Those who were not staying with their wife, 5% of them used to go to prostitution and have multiple sex partners. Eighty five percent of them have physical relationship with the women other than their

wife. Majority of them (73%) use condom while having intercourse. Only 10% received blood transfusion in life and it was from authorized donor only.

Table 2: Describing knowledge score n=100

S. No.	Knowledge question	Mean	Median	Mode	SD	Range	Minimum	Maximum
1.	Section-I (Knowledge on HIV/AIDS)	6.70	7.00	7.00	± 1.89	7.00	3.00	10.00
2.	Section-II (Myths on HIV/AIDS)	9.33	10.00	10.00	± 1.01	3.00	7.00	10.00
3.	Total knowledge score	16.03	16.00	18.00	± 2.43	9.00	11.00	20.00

Table 2 describes that in Section-I, mean Knowledge score on HIV/AIDS of ARDs was 6.70 (± 1.89) with median 7.00 and mode 7.00 but in Section-B, on knowledge on Myths on HIV/AIDS mean score was 9.33 (± 1.01) with median 10.00 and mode 10.00. Total mean knowledge score was 16.03 (± 2.43), median 16.0 and mode 18.0.

Table 2: Response of Knowledge Questionnaire n=100

S. No.	Items	Correct Response (%)	Wrong Response (%)
SECTION-A			
1	What is the Full form of HIV?	26	74
2	Which is Causative organism of HIV/AIDS?	54	46
3	In which group HIV/AIDS is most prevalent?	39	61
4	What is the mode of transmission of HIV/AIDS?	47	53
5	By which of the following HIV/AIDS does not spread?	76	24
6	What are the common symptoms of HIV/AIDS patient?	81	19
7	How HIV/AIDS can be diagnosed?	89	11
8	How AIDS can be prevented?	35	65
9	What should be the responsibilities of HIV/AIDS patient's family member?	81	19
10	Which therapy used for treatment of HIV/AIDS	32	68
11	Which national Programme is running in India for control of HIV/AIDS?	37	63
12	How long HIV/AIDS patients should take medicines?	75	25
SECTION-B			
13	Is AIDS spread by touching the HIV infected patient?	100	00
14	Is AIDS spread by kissing the HIV patients?	86	14
15	Is AIDS spread by using public toilet?	97	3
16	Is AIDS spread by shaking hand with HIV patients?	98	2
17	Is AIDS spread by seating with HIV infected patient?	97	3

Table 2 contd...

S. No.	Items	Correct Response (%)	Wrong Response (%)
18	Is AIDS spread by sharing having food and wearing clothes of HIV patients?	95	5
19	Is AIDS spread by Mosquito bite?	77	23
20	Is AIDS spread by sneezing?	85	15
21	Is AIDS spread by talking with HIV/AIDS patient?	98	2
22	Is AIDS spread by hugging HIV patient?	100	00

Table 2 denotes the responses in regard to the knowledge questionnaire which was asked to them. Responses show that majority of them did not know the full form of HIV/AIDS (74%), group in which the disease is prevalent (61%). They were not aware of the preventive methods (65%), as well the program running in India to control it (63%). But in so many other aspects they had good knowledge as around half of them (54%) know about the causative organism, mode of transmission (76%); even they were aware about the common symptoms of HIV/AIDS patients (81%). Eighty nine percent of them were aware about the diagnostic test of HIV/AIDS. Though maximum of them did not know about the therapy used to treat it (68%) but were sure about how long a HIV/AIDS patient should continue the medicines (75%). While asking question on myths on HIV/AIDS, it was found that majority of them had correct response as it is given in the above table.

Table 3 Chi square table showing association between knowledge and selected demography variables. n=100

Sl No	Demography Variables		Knowledge Category			df	Chi-square value	p value
			Fair	Good	Total			
1	Educational Qualifications	The primary school qualification (1-5th standard)	14	11	25	4	0.1502	0.005*
		Middle school qualification (6-8th)	9	26	35			
		High school qualification (9-10th)	4	22	26			
		Higher secondary qualification (11-12th)	1	9	10			
		Graduate qualification	0	4	4			
2	Monthly Income	Less than 5000 Rs	16	23	39	2	5.997	0.004*
		5001 Rs - 10,000 Rs	10	45	55			
		10,001 Rs - 20,000 Rs	2	4	6			

* significant at 0.05 level of significance

Table 3 shows that there was significant association of knowledge with educational qualification ($p < 0.5$) and monthly income ($p < 0.5$). But there was no association of knowledge with other demographic variable. Thus null hypothesis ($H_0:2$) was partially accepted.

Discussion

A study was conducted among three hundred and thirty seven truck drivers, in transit from Mombasa to destinations within east and central Africa were interviewed on their knowledge on AIDS and sex practices using a pre-defined questionnaire. Nearly all of them, 99%, had heard of AIDS through mass media and from friends. When asked for a definition of AIDS, 87% responses described it as a sexually transmitted disease (STD) which causes body wasting and death. The majority were aware of the correct risk reducing behaviours: 76% knew that use of condoms can prevent the transmission/acquisition of STDs but only 32% had ever used them.⁴

A studies was carried out among the 346 auto drivers in urban area of Akola during July 2012 to Dec 2012. Convenience sampling method was used for selection of study participants. Semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect the information. Majority 331 (95.7%) of them have heard about HIV and around 50% knew that it is STI. Of the four routs of transmission, around 50% had correct knowledge about three route of transmission but the fourth one i.e infected mother to her foetus correct knowledge was seen in only 36%.⁵

Present study differs with the first study in sample but similar with the second study sample. It revealed that majority of them did not know the full form of HIV/ AIDS (74%), group in which the disease is prevalent (61%). They were not aware of the preventive methods (65%), as well the program running in India to control it (63%). But in so many other aspects they had good knowledge as around half of them (54%) know about the causative organism, mode of transmission (76%); even they were aware about the common symptoms of HIV/ AIDS patients (81%). Eighty nine percent of them were aware about the diagnostic test of HIV/ AIDS. Though maximum of them did not know about the therapy used to treat it (68%) but were sure about how long a HIV/ AIDS patient should continue the medicines (75%).

Recommendations

- This study can be replicated on a large sample there by findings can be generalized.
- Similar study can be conducted in different settings and different target population.
- A similar study can be done in the large group of ARDs.
- A future study can be conduct in rural setting.
- A comparative study can be done between auto rickshaw drivers and bus drivers.
- A study may be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of planned health teaching program.

Legal issues

A formal permission was obtained from the central authority of auto rickshaw drivers association Durg (C.G.) and participants consent was taken before collection of data.

Acknowledgement

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