

Influence of Class, Type of School and Religion on the Knowledge of HIV/AIDS among Secondary School Students in Ondo East and Ondo West Local Government of Ondo State, Nigeria

Bimbola Kemi Odu and Otutu Temilola Idowu

Department of Guidance and Counselling, University of Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

Abstract: This study investigated the influence of class, type of school and religion on the knowledge of HIV/AIDS among secondary school students in Ondo East and Ondo West Local Government Areas. Three research hypotheses were raised, 500 students were sampled using stratified sampling technique. T-test analysis was used to test the hypotheses. Results were held significant at the 0.05 probability level. There was a significant difference between students in single and mixed sex schools in their knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Based on the findings, it was recommended that Religious leaders should teach their members the right attitudes on issues concerning sex. Government should not relent their effort in their enlightenment campaigns of HIV/AIDS.

Key words: Influence of class, school and religion, secondary school students, HIV/AIDS, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

HIV stands for Human Immune Deficiency Virus. It is the causative germ of AIDS. HIV attacks the defence system of the human body so that it can no longer work effectively. AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It is the name given to the condition that occurs when HIV has weakened the body defence system and the person begins to fall ill by opportunistic diseases.

Information is the fact or knowledge a person has on a thing or knowledge someone has concerning a phenomenon. As a matter of fact, seminars are organized to get everybody well informed about HIV/AIDS. There are jingles on the radio, television station, advertisement on various newspaper, billboards and distribution of pamphlets, handbill and exercise books. It is expected that when one has knowledge of a subject, the accompanying behaviour will be logical this however is not so. Observation and experience have shown that the promiscuous attitudes of secondary school students and the high level of early sexual debut have been very alarming.

The total population of Nigeria as recorded by 1991 census was 88,992,220 (National Population Commission, 1991). According to World Health Organisation (WHO, 1997) out of this density, adolescent between the ages of 10 and 19 years were estimated to number 18.8 Million out of the 88 Million. As a result, potential threat

to this group of people can be seen as that of the whole nation. Since, they have today and tomorrow. Adolescence is opined to be a period of intense sexual drive and experimentation (Akinboye, 1985). Since, the secondary school students form the bulk of the people in this age group, they are therefore a vulnerable group at risk of contracting HIV which could lead to AIDS.

Statement of the problem: The observed lack of balance in the sex knowledge and advancement in sexual behaviour among adolescent in Ondo State seem to justify a need of carry out empirical study on the impact of class type and religion on the knowledge of secondary school student in Ondo west and East local Government Area. Earlier seminars have been organized to get everybody well informed about HIV/AIDS. There are jingles on the radio, television station. Various advertisement on newspapers, billboards and pamphlets have been provided to secondary school students Governmental organization have sensitized students.

Central to preventive measure is a programme of HIV/AIDS education. Research like Caldwell and Caldwell (1977) and Odu (2003) have indicated that sufficient knowledge and information on AIDS prevention and transmission is in most communities in Nigeria. However, it seems there is lack of balance between the sex knowledge and the advancement in the sexual practices of secondary school students. Hence, there is a need to understand the impact of class, religion and type of

school on the knowledge of secondary school student. Knowledge is power, investigating knowledge of HIVAIDS could be a means of avoiding the disaster of AIDS epidemic in the Nigeria communities. The following general question was raised what to do secondary school student know about meaning transmission and prevention of HIVAIDS.

The purpose of the study: The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of class, type of school and religion on the knowledge of secondary school adolescents in Ondo West and East local Government Areas of Ondo State.

To be able to find solution to the problem of hand the follow null.

- There is no significant difference between Christian and Muslim in their knowledge of HIVAIDS.
- There is no significant difference between JSS and SSS students in their knowledge of HIVAIDS.
- There is no significant difference between students in single sex school and student in mixed sex school in their knowledge of HIVAIDS.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research design: Descriptive research design of the survey type was used in this study.

Population: The population of this study consisted of all student in the public secondary schools in Ondo East and West Local Government area of Ondo State.

Sample and sampling technique: There were 44 public secondary school in Ondo West and Ondo East Local Government area of Ondo State. Five hundred student were selected from a total of 44 public secondary schools. Stratified and simple random sampling techniques were used in selecting the simple based on type of school, religion and class. Fifty five boys and girls were selected from all the schools.

Four hundred and five Christian and 89 Muslim, 259 from JSS and 239 from SSS class, 450 from mixed schools and 50 from single schools.

Research instrument: The research instrument used was a self designed questionnaire titled "student knowledge and attitude questionnaire. The questionnaire has two section. Section 1 and 2. section one consists of Biographic date of respondent. Section 2 dealt with items which could measure the knowledge and attitude of students about and toward HIVAIDS.

Validity of the instrument: The instrument was given to research experts and others in Guidance and Counseling Department and those in Test and Measurement who made necessary corrections on the instrument and certified it as been valid before it was finally produced for administration one the respondents.

Reliability of the instrument: The reliability of the instrument was done by administrating the questionnaire on 25 secondary school student, who were not part of the sample used for the study. The administration was done twice within an interval of 2 weeks. The two sets of responses were compared statistically using Pearson product moment correlation. This yielded a reliability co-efficient of 0.83 which was considered high enough for reliability.

Administration of the instrument: The instrument was administered on respondents by research assistants. Personal contact by the principal researcher and research assistants enhanced a better understanding of the items in the instrument. Out of 580 questionnaire sent out 519 copies were collected out of which 500 were valid.

Data analysis: Data collection for the study were analysed using frequency count; percentages statistics. All hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance using t test statistics.

RESULTS

Question 1: What is students knowledge about HIVAIDS meaning, transmission and prevention of HIVAIDS?

This question was answered using the responses of responders on knowledge of HIVAIDS using frequency counts and percentages.

Table 1 shows student know the meaning of HIV/AIDS. The result presented above shows student understands that HIV can be transmitted from either to child, through the use of unscreened blood contaminated with HIV and through the use of an injection needle already used by an infected person. However, many still believe people can contact HIV/AIDS through sharing of meals.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference between Christians and Muslims in their knowledge of HIV/AIDS? This hypothesis was tested using t-test analysis to determine the difference between Christian and Muslim in their knowledge of HIV/AIDS.

Table 1: What student know about meaning, transmission and prevention of HIVAIDS

Knowledge of HIVAIDS prevention and transmission	Yes	(%)	No	(%)
HIV stands for immune Deficiency	264	52.8	236.0	47.2
A pregnant woman can transmit HIV to her unborn child	453	33.0	335.0	67.6
HIV can be transmitted through sharing of meals	444	91.6	56.0	11.2
HIV can be transfused through the transfusion of unscreened blood contaminated with HIV	391	78.2	10.9	21.8
A person can contact HIV by getting injection with needle already used by some one that is infected with HIV	458	91.6	42.0	8.4
A person can get HIV through casual kissing, hugging and shaking of hands	170	34.0	330.0	66.0

Table 2: T-test summary of Christian and Muslim students in their knowledge of HIVAIDS

Variable	No of cases	SD	df	tc	Ti
Christian	405	41.95	3.8		
Muslim	89	42.26	492.0	0.6	1.96

p>0.5

Table 3: T-test summary of students class in their knowledge of HIVAIDS

Variable	No of cases	Mean	SD	df	tc	ti
JSS	259	41.73	4.21	496	1.185	1.96
SS	239	42.19	4.59			

p>0.05

Table 4: T-test summary of student in single sex and mixed sex school in their knowledge of HIVAIDS

Variable	No of cases	Mean	SD	df	tc	tt
Mixed school	450	41.77	4.53	498	2.789	1.96
Single school	50	43.58	2.22			

p<0.05

Table 2 shows t calculated (0.6) is lower than table value (1.96), Null hypothesis is accepted, therefore there is no significant in the knowledge of Christian and Muslim student in their knowledge of HIVAIDS.

Hypothesis 2: There is significant difference between JSS and SSS students in their knowledge of HIVAIDS? This hypothesis was tested using t test to determine the difference between JSS and SSS students in their knowledge of HIVAIDS.

Table 3 shows t calculated (1.185) is less than table value (1.96), there, the null hypothesis is uphold i.e., there is no significant difference between JSS and SS student in their knowledge of HIVAIDS.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference between student in single sex school and student in mixed school in their knowledge of HIVAIDS? This hypothesis was tested using t test to determine the difference in their knowledge of HIVAIDS.

Table 4 shows that t calculated (2.789) is greater than table value (1.96) which shows that the result is significant, hence the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, there is significant difference between student in mixed sex and single sex school in their knowledge of HIVAIDS.

DISCUSSION

The study had examined the effect of class type of school and religion on the knowledge of secondary school student in Ondo East and Ondo West Local Government Areas of Ondo State, the findings of the study based on a thorough examination of the level of knowledge of secondary school students show that many student 40% were not aware of the meaning and ways by which HIVAIDS can be prevented or transmitted. The result of the finding shows very many of the student were aware about very HIVAIDS is transmitted, but it is still disturbing that few of the student did not believe that HIVAIDS can be transmitted through unscreened blood. Here than 70% of the students have good knowledge of how HIV can be transmitted.

Result of hypothesis 1 shows there is no significant difference between Christian and Muslim student in their knowledge of HIVAIDS. This findings disagrees with the result nation HIVAIDS Reproductive Health Survey (2003), which reported a high level of knowledge among Christians than Muslims. The result might be 50 because both Muslim and Christians obtain their knowledge of HIVAIDS equally from the same source.

The findings of hypothesis 2 revealed that there is no significant difference between JSS and SS student in their knowledge of HIVAIDS. The result of this finds goes/ against that of the NARHS (2003) which indicated a higher level of knowledge based on level of education system hence their level of knowledge might be similar.

The findings of hypothesis 3 shows there is significant difference between the knowledge of student in mixed sex and single sex school. This present findings disagrees with that of Odu (2003), who indicate no significant difference in the knowledge of married and the unmarried women in Ekiti State. This finding is slightly different from that of national HIVAIDS Reproductive Health Survey (NARHS, 2003) who also indicated a significant difference between single sex school and mixed school. The difference might have aroused from the way in which the different studies were conducted.

The implication of the study is that secondary school student have high knowledge of transmission and

prevention of HIV/AIDS one expect these students to behave in accordance to their level of knowledge. The situation of lack of balance between the level of knowledge and advancement is sexual behaviour call for better way of HIV/AIDS handling prevention so that the aim of the National AIDS prevention may be achieved in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

Considering the findings of this study it can be concluded that knowledge of student that has to do with prevention and transmission of HIV/AIDS is high in Ondo East and Ondo West Local Government of Ondo State. However misconception about some aspect still persist. Efforts of Government and Non Governmental organizations in organizing seminars and other enlightenment campaigns in being rewarded.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this research work, items recommended that since there is evidence of good knowledge of HIV/AIDS among student, HIV/AIDS campaigners should not relent in their efforts at getting the whole populace well informed about the deadly disease.

Efforts should also be made by religious; organizations, while counsellors should be well equipped to guide properly and counsel students in schools so as to avoid HIV Virus.

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