

A Study of AIDS Awareness among Educated Working Mothers of Adolescents in Teaching Profession of Rural and Urban Areas

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Abstract: The study was conducted that educated working mothers of adolescents in teaching profession those belong to urban and rural area have more knowledge about AIDS. The study was delimited to Ludhiana and Gurdapur district of Punjab. The sample consisted of 100 educated working mothers especially in teaching profession out of which 50 in urban areas and 50 in rural areas, were selected on the basis of random sampling. The tool was employed Aids Awareness Test by Dr. Ravinder Kaur (Ex Principal of Malwa Central College of Education for Women, Ludhiana to assess the knowledge of AIDS among educated working mothers of adolescents. It revealed that there exist significant differences. It revealed that mean score of educated working mothers of adolescents in teaching profession in urban was higher than that of rural areas indicating that the educated working mothers of adolescents in teaching profession in urban areas are more aware about AIDS than their counterparts in rural areas.

Keywords: Aids Awareness, Educated working mothers teaching profession, adolescents, rural and urban

1. Introduction

Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is posing a serious challenge to the conceptual foundations and the practice of development planning worldwide. Nearly half of the new HIV infections are occurring in young people. HIV/AIDS is retarding economic growth by destroying human capital by mainly affecting the young adults in the age group of 15–24 years who are in their most productive ages of life.

India having a large population with low literacy levels leading to a low level of awareness of HIV/AIDS, the disease is posing an alarming threat on the public health scenario. At the same time, discussing sex has been a taboo in the Indian societal set-up. Adolescence is shrouded in myths and misconceptions about sexual health and sexuality. With the influence of infotainment media and the breakdown of traditional family structures, sexual behaviour among adolescents is in flux. In the absence of any organized institution for imparting sex education, young people tend to learn about sexual and reproductive health from unauthorized and unreliable sources resulting in perpetuation of myths and misconceptions about puberty, masturbation, night emissions, sexual intercourse, safe sex, reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), etc.

The Joint Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS(UNAIDS) estimate that of the more than 30 million people living with the HIV which causes the AIDS, at least one third are young people aged 10-24. Everybody, 7000 of them get HIV, that is about 2.5 million annually or five every minute. New infections are largely among the under 25 years age group including a large proportion of women.

To prevent the spread of HIV, it is seen that education provides young people with the knowledge required, helping them to make responsible choices and adopt healthy life styles. Respecting and protecting the rights of young people and empowering them to take care of themselves is crucial

in controlling the epidemic. The role of doctors, counselors and school teachers is very important. Most young people are fully aware of the prevailing moral and cultural norms in their societies; they generally know what adults want them to do. However, they are often overcome by other influences and their own personal needs. Few services have been designed to meet the social needs of adolescents. Knowledge changes attitude and, in turn, the behaviours of future adults who may, in turn, influence their own children. As parents seem to be reluctant in educating their wards on AIDS and related issues, particularly sex, especially educated mothers & teachers can prove to be the potential source of communication for their children's, and students both, in rural and urban areas.

Balaganesh, G. *et.al.* (1993) conducted a study on the awareness about AIDS/sexually transmitted disease in Indian community, both, rural and urban. They found that 67% rural population and 91.5% urban population were aware about AIDS. Doordarshan, News Media, NGOs like Lion Club, Chittoor District AIDS Committee and Mahila Yojana etc., seem to have played a considerable role in creating awareness about AIDS in, both rural and urban communities

Mittal, M. *et. al.* (1995) conducted a study regarding AIDS awareness amongst women of an urban slum in New Delhi, in close vicinity of Maulana Azad Medical College. Out of total 210 women interviewed, only 5.7% had heard about AIDS.

Singh (2010) studied Aids Awareness and educating adolescents about contraception techniques: a sociological study of parents and teachers. For this study 60 parents and 60 teachers were interviewed from 10 different Govt. Senior Secondary schools in district Sangrur, Punjab, India. The random sampling technique was used. The knowledge of AIDS among parents was found partial. Mothers showed lesser knowledge of AIDS in comparison to fathers. Teachers showed comprehensive knowledge of AIDS.

Objective of the Study

- To compare AIDS Awareness among educated working mothers of Adolescents in teaching profession of rural and urban areas.

Hypothesis

- There exists no significant difference of between rural and urban educated working mothers (teaching profession) of adolescents in AIDS Awareness.

Sample: The study was conducted on the sample of 100 educated working mothers of adolescents in teaching profession out of which 50 belonging in urban area and 50 belonging in rural area, were selected on the basis of random sampling. The study was delimited to Ludhiana and Gurdaspur District.

Tool for collection data

The tool was employed Aids Awareness Test by Dr. Ravinder Kaur (Ex Principal of Malwa Central College of Education for Women, Ludhiana to assess the knowledge of AIDS among educated working mothers of adolescents

Procedure:

The present study aims to find out the awareness among educated mothers about sexually transmitted disease Aids. For this purpose Descriptive Survey method was employed. Scale of aids awareness was administered to the mothers of adolescent of those who were working in teaching profession of rural and urban areas after obtaining prior permission from the higher authorities of teaching profession in rural and urban areas in Ludhiana and Gurdaspur district. The data collected was analysed with the help of suitable statistical techniques

2. Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Significance of the Difference between Means of AIDS Awareness of Educated Working Mothers of Adolescents in Teaching Profession in Urban and Rural Areas

| S. No. | Group | N | M | S.D | SE _M | t-value |
|--------|-------|----|-------|------|-----------------|---------|
| 1. | Urban | 50 | 77.46 | 6.79 | .96 | 3.42** |
| 2. | Rural | 50 | 71.76 | 8.17 | 1.15 | |

**significant at .01 level

Table 1 revealed that the mean scores of AIDS awareness of educated working mothers of adolescents in teaching profession in urban and rural areas as 77.46 and 71.76 respectively and their standard deviation as 6.79 and 8.17 respectively. The t-ratio was calculated as 3.42 which is significant at .01 level of confidence. This revealed that a significant difference exists between AIDS awareness of educated working mothers of adolescents in teaching profession in urban and rural areas.

Therefore the hypothesis 1 stating that there exists no significant difference between AIDS awareness of educated working mothers of adolescents in teaching profession in urban and rural areas stands rejected. It may further be stated that mean score of educated working mothers of adolescents in teaching profession in urban was higher than that of rural areas indicating that the educated working mothers of adolescents in teaching profession in urban areas are more aware about AIDS than their counterparts in rural areas.

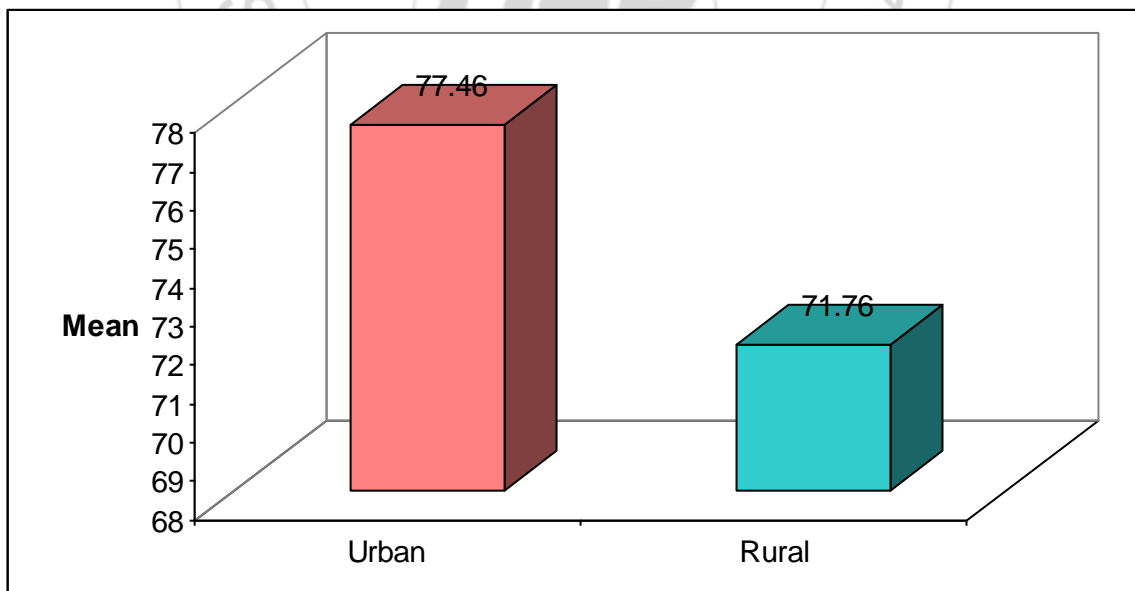


Figure: Bar Graph showing Difference of Means of AIDS Awareness of Educated Working Mothers of Adolescents in Teaching Profession in Urban and Rural Areas

3. Conclusion

It may further be stated that mean score of educated working mothers of adolescents in teaching profession in urban was higher than that of rural areas indicating that the educated

working mothers of adolescents in teaching profession in urban areas are more aware about AIDS than their counterparts in rural areas.

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