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A survey study to assess the knowledge and attitudes towards sexually transmitted diseases among late adolescents

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Abstract

There is an ongoing change in the sexual behaviour patterns of adolescents all over the world. Therefore, early implementation of factors related to AIDS and STD education among adolescents is important. The study aimed to assess late adolescents' knowledge about AIDS and attitudes towards sexually transmitted diseases (STD) among late adolescents. Descriptive comparative study was conducted from May to July 2017 using a sample of 300 students from 03 purposely selected schools in Gampaha Municipality area. Those were one boys' school and two girls' school consisting of students from all 04 subject streams recommended for G.C.E. Advanced Level. They were given a self-administered semi-structured questionnaire. First part consisted of demographic features and second part consisted of close-ended questions with one open-ended question under five topics. Data was analysed using descriptive statistical method, SPSS Software. The sample consisted of 48.6% boys and 51.4% girls. The knowledge related to AIDS was extremely satisfied (92%). The knowledge related to STDs was less satisfied (45%). Knowledge related to STDs was significantly high in bio stream students (87%). Attitudes towards AIDS and STDs were extremely satisfied (100%). There was no significant difference of knowledge and attitudes regarding STIs/HIV in male and female late adolescents. The awareness of late adolescents regarding AIDS/STDs is extremely satisfied. But this awareness has not necessarily translated to practices and behaviours due to certain barriers. This study shows that there is a need for disseminating appropriate information, to use education and communication strategies for increasing the awareness of STIs / HIV.

Keywords: AIDS, STDs, Adolescents, Knowledge

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