



A SAMPLE SURVEY OF WOMEN IN SLUM AREAS OF KALABURAGI CITY

Dr. Bheemasha D. Sagar

Guest Faculty , Department of Women's Studies ,
Gulbarga University P.G. Centre, Yeragera, Dist: Raichur ,
Karnataka.



ABSTRACT :

HIV/ AIDS is deadly epidemic disease spreading in the world at a faster rate. As there is no medicine to cure HIV/ AIDS, awareness to prevent the same is the only way to prevent and control the same. For this purpose, there is need to know about the awareness of people about HIV/ AIDS. In this regard, the present study is made to know about the awareness of women living in slum areas of Kalaburagi city in Karnataka. The paper described knowledge of slum women on the awareness and prevention of HIV/ AIDS in slum areas of Kalaburagi city.

KEYWORDS : slum women , collection of symptoms and infections resulting.

INTRODUCTION

Wikipedia (2018) described about "AIDS is a collection of symptoms and infections resulting from the specific damage to the immune system caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in humans, and similar viruses in other species. The late stage of the condition leaves individuals prone to opportunistic infections and tumors. Although treatments for AIDS and HIV exist to slow the virus' progression, there is no known cure. HIV, et al., are transmitted through direct contact of a mucous membrane or the bloodstream with a bodily fluid containing HIV, such as blood, semen, vaginal fluid, pre-seminal fluid and breast milk. This transmission can come in the form of anal, vaginal or oral sex, blood transfusion, contaminated hypodermic needles, exchange between mother and baby during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding, or other exposure to one of the above bodily fluids".

India has 5.7 million people living with HIV, as per the 2005 estimates. Out of these, 5.206 million people are living with HIV in the 15-49 age group, taking the adult prevalence of HIV infection in the country to 0.91% (UNAIDS, 2006). There is a growing feminization of the epidemic with 38.4% of those living with the virus being women. The virus is also increasingly moving towards the rural areas with 57% of the virus load being shared by the villages. India now holds the second largest absolute number of HIV infections in the world, following South Africa. With an estimated 5.134 million people living with HIV in the adult population (15-49 years) in 2004, India accounts for almost 13% of the global HIV prevalence.

As the facts and figures stated above shows that the HIV/AIDS is spreading at an alarming rate in India and there is no preventive or medicine to control or diagnose and prevent the AIDS. In this respect, increasing awareness among different kinds of people plays an important role in controlling the increase HIV/AIDS among the community. Now-a-days, HIV/AIDS is one of the social and health evils among the people in India. There is need to control and prevent the HIV infection and AIDS among people. In this respect, the Sociologists, Health professionals and Social Workers have to work together in educating and guiding and also increasing awareness about HIV/AIDS.

There is awareness about HIV/ AIDS among only few people and hence, to prevent the same, awareness about the same is essential. As there is no medicine to cure HIV/ AIDS, the awareness can be spread to prevent the same. It is noted that, the education level in slum areas, especially among women is lower. Hence, due to lack of awareness, there may be spread of HIV/ AIDS in slum areas, where women are illiterates and not aware about health and hygiene and also knowledge about deadly diseases like HIV/ AIDS. Hence, the present study is made to know about the awareness of women living in slum areas on HIV/ AIDS and for this purpose, ten slum areas in Kalaburagi city were surveyed.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

There are few misconceptions, false assumptions, facts, myths, etc about HIV/AIDS in society. It is essential to the women living in slum areas to know about the real facts about HIV/AIDS and for this purpose, a sample survey was made in selected ten slum areas of Kalaburagi city. To collect the primary data, total 314 women living in slum areas of the city were surveyed. Kalaburagi city is located in Hyderabad-Karnataka region. The collected primary data is analyzed, interpreted and discussed as under.

AWARENESS AND PREVENTION OF HIV/AIDS:

As already discussed the HIV/AIDS is enormously increasing in India. As it is epidemic in nature and have no medicine till now. There is need to increase awareness about the same, so as to prevent its infection. For this purpose, there are many beliefs, real facts, conceptions, misconceptions, faith, etc. about the HIV/AIDS. The interview schedule used in the present survey was designed considering these aspects. The responses of the slum women are collected and represented in the tables in the following section.

1. Age-wise distribution of the Respondents:

The age of the women surveyed in slum areas plays significant role in determining the knowledge and awareness about HIV/AIDS. The age of the respondents is shown as under.

Table No. 1. Age-wise distribution of the Respondents

Age of the Respondents (in years)	Number of Respondents	Percentage
18 years to 25 years	52	16.56
26 years to 35 Years	76	24.20
36 Years to 45 Years	94	29.93
46 Years to 55 Years	70	22.30
55 Years and Above	22	7.01
Total	314	100

The women living in slum areas are of different age groups. The above table disclosed that of the total 314 (100%) women covered under the study, about 52 (16.56%) are of 18 years to 25 years age group, followed by 76 (24.20%) are of 26 years to 35 Years, 94 (29.93%) are of 36 Years to 45 Years, 70 (22.30%) are of 46 Years to 55 Years and the remaining 22 (7.01%) are of above 55 Years of Age.

2. Marital Status of the Respondents:

The study also asked about Marital Status of the respondents is also collected through the interview. The marital status of the respondents covered under the study is shows in the following table:

Table No. 2. Marital Status of the Respondents:

Marital Status	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Married	314	100
Unmarried	--	--
Total	314	100

All the women covered under the study are married and living with their spouses.

3. Knowledge about the HIV/AIDS:

As already discussed, the awareness and knowledge about the HIV and AIDS is essential for all the women. The response of the slum women about the knowledge and awareness of HIV and AIDS is as under:

Table No. 3. Knowledge about the HIV/AIDS:

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	277	88.22
No	37	11.78
Don't Know/Can't Say	--	--
Total	314	100

It is clear from the above table that about 277 (88.22%) of the respondents are aware about the HIV and AIDS and the remaining 37 (11.78%) of the respondents are not aware of the same. The study about different beliefs, faith, conceptions, misconceptions and assumptions on HIV/AIDS should be known from only 277 of the total respondents. Hence, the present study discussed the knowledge and awareness about the HIV/AIDS from only 277 respondents.

4. Source of Knowledge:

There is need to know about the source of knowledge for getting awareness about the HIV/AIDS. For this purpose, several sources such as Radio, Television, Newspapers, Magazines, Relatives, Friends, Volunteers, Web, internet, etc. The responses of the slum women are shown as under:

Table No. 4. Source of Knowledge about HIV/AIDS:

Source of Knowledge	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Television	59	21.30
Radio	74	26.71
Newspapers/Magazines	14	5.05
Relatives/Friends	05	1.80
Medical Practitioners	29	10.47
Volunteers/Social Workers	77	27.81
Colleagues/Co-workers	12	4.33
Web/ Internet	--	--
Others	07	2.53
Total	277	100

The above table revealed that of the total 277 (100%) slum women covered under the study, about 59 (21.30%) of the women know about the HIV/AIDS through Television, about 74 (26.71%) of the women

know the same through Radio, only 14 (5.05%) of the women know about the same through reading of newspapers and magazines, only 5 (1.80%) of the women know the same from their relatives and friends, about 29 (10.47%) of the respondents know about the same from Medical Practitioners and Doctors, about 77 (27.81%) of the women know about the HIV/AIDS through Social Workers and Volunteers, only 12 (4.33%) of the women know about the same through colleagues and co-workers and the remaining 07 (2.53%) of the women know about the HIV/AIDS from other sources. It is interesting to note that none of the women know about the HIV/AIDS from Web and Internet sources.

5. AIDS is an epidemic disease:

The AIDS is epidemic disease, as it spread from person to person through various ways discussed already. The response of the slum women about the HIV/AIDS as an epidemic disease is shown as under:

Table No. 5. AIDS is an epidemic disease

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	217	78.34
No	21	7.58
Don't Know/Can't Say	39	14.08
Total	277	100

The above table revealed that about 217 (78.34%) slum women covered under the study expressed that the AIDS is an epidemic disease, followed by about 21 (7.58%) women have expressed that AIDS is not an epidemic disease and the remaining 39 (14.08%) of the slum women do not about the same.

6. Precautionary Care about the HIV/AIDS:

A question was asked whether there is need to concern and care for an average person about the HIV/AIDS. The responses of the workers covered under the study are shown in the following table.

Table No. 6. Precautionary Care about the HIV/AIDS:

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	168	60.65
No	87	31.41
Don't Know/Can't Say	22	7.94
Total	277	100

The above table disclosed that of the 277 (100%) responded to the study, about 168 (60.65%) respondents have expressed that there is need for an average person to know and concern about the HIV/AIDS, followed by about 87 (31.41%) of the slum women responded that there is no need for concern and care about the HIV/AIDS and the remaining 22 (7.94%) slum women stated that they do not know about the same.

7. The virus that causes AIDS is called Human Immunodeficiency Virus:

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) will cause AIDS among the human beings. Hence, the above stated statement is true. The HIV causes immunodeficiency among the human beings and the resistance capacity of human beings are reduced to various other diseases. In this HIV causes the AIDS. The knowledge of the slum women on whether virus that causes AIDS is Human Immunodeficiency Virus is stated as under:

Table No. 7. The virus that causes AIDS is Human Immunodeficiency Virus:

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	145	52.35
No	132	47.65
Don't Know/Can't Say	--	--
Total	277	100

About 145 (52.35%) of the women under the study know about the AIDS virus, Human Immunodeficiency Virus and the remaining 132 (47.65%) of the slum women do not know about the same.

8. HIV is the same as AIDS:

Many will think that HIV is same as AIDS. But it is false. It is noted that Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) causes the Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Here AIDS is caused by HIV. The responses of the women about HIV and AIDS are as under:

Table No. 8. HIV is the same as AIDS

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	192	69.31
No	31	11.20
Don't Know/Can't Say	54	19.49
Total	277	100

The above table shows that about 192 (69.31%) of the slum women have stated that HIV is the same as AIDS followed by, about 31 (11.20%) of the slum women have agreed that HIV is not same as the AIDS and the remaining 54 (19.49%) of the women do not know about the same.

9. The names of individuals with AIDS should be kept confidential in order to protect them against discrimination:

The above statement is false. If the details of an individual will be kept confidential, then there are more chances of spreading of HIV/AIDS to others. For this purpose, there is need to increase awareness about the HIV/AIDS to the infected persons and the other people who are living and are in contact with the infected person. The responses of women living in slum areas are stated as under:

Table No. 9. The names of individuals with AIDS should be kept confidential in order to protect them against discrimination

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	149	53.79
No	22	7.94
Don't Know/Can't Say	106	38.27
Total	277	100

The table revealed that about 149 (53.79%) women living in slum areas have responded that the names of individuals with AIDS should be kept confidential in order to protect them against discrimination, followed by 22 (7.94%) slum women who do not agree to the statement and about 106 (38.27%) of the women responded that they do not about the same.

10. HIV/AIDS can be cured by anti-biotic drugs:

It is a false statement. It is noted that the effects of HIV/AIDS on the human body can be reduced for some days by using antibiotic drugs. But till now, there is no medicines to complete cure the HIV/AIDS. The responses of the slum women to this assumption are stated in the following table:

Table No. 10. HIV/AIDS can be cured by antibiotic drugs

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	77	27.80
No	52	18.77
Don't Know/Can't Say	148	53.43
Total	277	100

The above table disclosed that about 77 (27.80%) of the women living in slum areas have stated that the HIV/AIDS can be cured by the use of antibiotic drugs, followed by 52 (18.77%) slum women have stated that HIV/AIDS cannot be cured by use of antibiotic drugs and the remaining a majority 148 (53.43%) of the women do not know about the same.

11. HIV/AIDS can be cured by Homeopathic and Ayurvedic Treatment:

It is noted that there is no treatment for HIV/AIDS in Allopathy, Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Unani Medicines till now. Hence this assumption is incorrect. The responses of the slum women are presented in the following table:

11. HIV/AIDS can be cured by Homeopathic and Ayurvedic Treatment

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	93	33.57
No	126	45.49
Don't Know/Can't Say	58	20.94
Total	277	100

It is clear from the above table that 93 (33.57%) of the respondents expressed that there is medical treatment for HIV/AIDS in Homeopathy and Ayurveda, about 126 (45.49%) respondents stated that there is no treatment for HIV/AIDS in Homeopathy and Ayurveda and the remaining 58 (20.94%) of the respondents do not know about the same.

12. HIV can infect only men and drug users:

This assumption again is a false statement. HIV can affect women also. Because, HIV affects every individual due to the reasons such as unsafe sex, use of unsterilized injection syringes taking drug from HIV patient, etc. The women living in slum areas have responded as under to this assumption:

Table No.12. HIV can infect only Men and drug users

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	13	4.69
No	171	61.73
Don't Know/Can't Say	93	33.57
Total	277	100

It is observed from the above table that majority of 171 (61.73%) respondents stated that HIV will affect women also and not only drug users, followed by only 13 (4.69%) have stated that HIV can infect only men and drug users and the remaining 93 (33.57%) of the slum are do not know about the same.

13. One can get AIDS by having sexual intercourse with an infected person:

As already discussed, the major reason for spread of HIV and AIDS is sexual intercourse with an infected person. Hence the statement is true. The workers responded to the statement as under:

Table No. 13. One can get AIDS by having Sexual Intercourse with an infected person

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	223	80.51
No	20	7.22
Don't Know/Can't Say	34	12.27
Total	277	100

From the above table it is noted that a majority, that is 223 (80.51%) of the slum women have agreed that AIDS can be spread through sexual contact with HIV infected person, followed by 20 (7.22%) slum women do not agree to the same and the remaining 34 (12.27%) of the women do not know about the same.

14. One can get AIDS from receiving blood or sperm from a donor who has AIDS:

HIV/AIDS can be spread by blood and sperm donation. HIV/AIDS can be spread by getting blood or sperm from the HIV infected persons. Before getting the blood or sperm, there is need to test the same. Hence, this statement is true. The opinions of the respondents are as under:

14. One can get AIDS from receiving blood or sperm from a donor who has AIDS

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	125	45.13
No	51	18.41
Don't Know/Can't Say	101	36.46
Total	277	100

It is worth to note from the above table that about 125 (45.13%) of the slum women have agreed that the AIDS can be spread by receiving blood or sperm from HIV infected donors, whereas about 51 (18.41%) of the slum women do not agree to the statement and the remaining 101 (36.46%) of the women do not know about the same.

15. A HIV infected mother can give the AIDS virus to the baby during pregnancy and/ or through breast feeding:

The transmission of the virus from the mother to the child can occur *in utero* during the last weeks of pregnancy and at childbirth. In the absence of treatment, the transmission rate between the mother to the child during pregnancy, labor and delivery is 25%. However, when the mother has access to antiretroviral therapy and gives birth by caesarean section, the rate of transmission is just 1%. A number of factors influence the risk of infection, particularly the viral load of the mother at birth (the higher the load, the higher the risk). Breastfeeding increases the risk of transmission by 10–15%. This risk depends on clinical

factors and may vary according to the pattern and duration of breast-feeding. Studies have shown that antiretroviral drugs, caesarean delivery and formula feeding reduce the chance of transmission of HIV from mother to child. Current recommendations state that when replacement feeding is acceptable, feasible, affordable, sustainable and safe, HIV-infected mothers should avoid breast-feeding their infant. The opinions of the respondents are as under:

Table No. 15. HIV infected mother can give the AIDS virus to the baby during pregnancy and/ or through breast feeding

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	54	19.49
No	49	17.69
Don't Know/Can't Say	174	62.82
Total	277	100

It is surprising to note that about 174 (62.82%) of the slum women do not know about the Mother to Child transmission of HIV, followed by 54 (19.49%) of the slum women have agreed that HIV infected mother can transmit virus to the child and the remaining 49 (17.69%) of the slum women do not agree to the same.

16. AIDS is spread by sneezing, coughing, touching or hand shaking with the infected persons:

As discussed already AIDS cannot be spread by sneezing, coughing, touching or hand shaking with the HIV infected persons. Hence, the above statement is false. It is noted that the HIV can only be spread by body fluids such as blood, sperm, etc. Hence, the processes stated above do not involve in sharing of such body fluids between persons. The responses of the workers are stated in the following table:

Table No. 16. AIDS is spread by sneezing, coughing, touching or hand shaking with the infected persons

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	91	32.85
No	83	29.96
Don't Know/Can't Say	103	37.19
Total	277	100

The above table revealed that about 91 (32.85%) of the slum women have agreed that the AIDS can be spread by sneezing, coughing, touching or hand shaking with the infected persons, followed by 83 (29.96%) of the respondents do not agree to the same and the remaining 103 (37.19%) of the respondents do not know about the same.

17. AIDS can be spread by sharing a meal with a person who has AIDS:

Again, this is a false statement. As discussed already about the causes of HIV transmission, it is noted that AIDS cannot be spread by sharing a meal with a person who has AIDS. The responses of the slum women to this question are as under:

Table No. 17. AIDS can be spread by sharing a meal with a person who has AIDS

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	77	27.80

No	51	18.41
Don't Know/Can't Say	149	53.79
Total	277	100

The above table depicted that about 77 (27.80%) of the respondents stated that AIDS can be spread by sharing a meal with a person who has AIDS, followed by 51 (18.41%) of the respondents stated that AIDS cannot spread by sharing meals with infected persons and the remaining major portion 149 (53.79%) of the respondents do not know about the same.

18. AIDS can be spread by contaminated (unsterilized) injection syringes:

It is true that AIDS can be spread by contaminated and unsterilized injection syringes and needles. The workers responded as under:

Table No. 18. AIDS can be spread by contaminated injection syringes

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	124	44.77
No	39	14.08
Don't Know/Can't Say	114	41.15
Total	277	100

About 124 (44.77%) of the respondents agreed that AIDS can be spread by contaminated and unsterilized syringes and needles, followed by 39 (14.08%) of the respondents do not agreed to the same and the remaining about 114 (41.15%) of the respondents do not know about the same.

19. AIDS can be prevented if Condoms are used while Sexual intercourse with others/ Sex workers:

It is true that safe sex can avoid the transmission of AIDS among people. Safe sex in the sense, avoiding sexual intercourse with others and use of condoms while sexual intercourse with others and sex workers, can keep the HIV/AIDS away. The workers expressed their views as under:

19. AIDS can be prevented if Condoms are used while Sexual intercourse with others/Sex workers

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	209	75.45
No	27	9.75
Don't Know/Can't Say	41	14.80
Total	277	100

The above table revealed that about 209 (75.45%) of the total respondents agreed that AIDS can be prevented if condoms are used while sexual intercourse with others and sex workers, while 27 (9.75%) do not agree to the same and the remaining 41 (14.80%) of the respondents do not know about the same.

20. The HIV infected patients should be lived separately away from people and family members:

HIV infected patients are normal persons like everyone and hence, should be lived together with the family members. Hence the statement is not true. The views of the slum women are presented in the following table:

Table No. 20. HIV infected patients should be lived separately away from people and family members

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	149	53.79
No	22	7.94
Don't Know/Can't Say	106	38.27
Total	277	100

It is observed from the above table that about 149 (53.79%) of the slum women responded that HIV infected patients should be lived separately away from people and family members, about 22 (7.94%) of the respondents do not agree to the same and the remaining 106 (38.27%) of the respondents do not know about the same.

21. Avoiding sex with unknown sex partners will help to prevent the AIDS:

This statement is true. Avoiding sex with unknown sex partners and sex workers will help to keep away from the HIV and AIDS. The responses of the women living in slum areas are stated in the following table:

Table No. 21. Avoiding sex with unknown sex partners will help to prevent the AIDS

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	239	86.28
No	20	7.22
Don't Know/Can't Say	18	7.53
Total	277	100

The table revealed that a major that is 239 (86.28%) of the slum women covered under the study agreed that avoiding sexual intercourse with unknown sex partners will help to prevent the AIDS, about 20 (7.22%) of the respondents do not agree to the same and the remaining 18 (7.53%) of the respondents do not know about the same.

22. Awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS is necessary for everyone:

This is true that HIV/AIDS is a deadly disease and many national and international government and non-governmental institutions are promoting awareness to prevent the same in different countries in the world. As there is no medicine for the HIV/AIDS at present, only increasing awareness among people and prevention is the only remedy against HIV/AIDS. The responses of the slum women are presented in the following table:

22. Awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS is necessary for everyone

Particulars	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	269	97.11
No	08	2.89
Don't Know/Can't Say	--	--
Total	277	100

It is welcoming to note that about 269 (97.11%) of the respondents agreed that the awareness and prevention of the HIV/AIDS is necessary for everyone and the remaining only 08 (2.89%) do not agreed to the same.

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

It is noted that, HIV/AIDS is spreading in society at faster rate and till now, there is no medicine invented to completely cure the same. Hence, prevention is the only remedy against this deadly disease. To prevent this disease, there is need for spreading awareness on facts, misconceptions, false assumptions, symptoms, diagnosis, etc. It is observed that, women are playing significant role in maintaining health and well being of family and society. Hence, awareness on HIV/AIDS among women living in slum areas is very essential. For this purpose, NGOs and medical practitioners have to spread the awareness of women in particular and people living in slum areas in general.

REFERENCES:

1. Dhooper, Surjit Singh (1997): Social Work in Health Care in the 21st Century. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1997.
2. Lamptey, Peter, et al (2002): Facing the HIV/AIDS Pandemic. **Population Bulletin**. Vol. 57. No. 3. September 2002. P. 3-36.
3. Sankaran, Gopal, et al (1999): Introduction to HIV/AIDS in Sport. IN HIV/AIDS in Sport: Impact, Issues and Challenges. Edited by Gopal Sankaran and Others. Champaign (USA): Human Kinetics, 1999.
4. **UNAIDS (2006): HIV Epidemic in India.**
<http://www.unaids.org.in/new/displaymore.asp?itemid=322&chkey=109&subchkey=0&chname=HIV%20Epidemic%20in%20India> accessed on 25th October 2007.
5. Welbourn, Alice (1998): Gender, Conflict and HIV or how to address a subject no one wants to hear about. **Social Change**. Vol. 28. No. 2 & 3. June-September 1998. P. 78-94.