

Profile of attendees at the VCTC/ICTC of a Medical college hospital in Karnataka

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Introduction

India is one of the largest and most populated countries in the world, with over 1 billion inhabitants, of whom 2.5 million are living with HIV. This crisis deepens as it becomes clearer that the epidemic is affecting all sectors of Indian society and not just the high risk groups. The Aim of our study is to evaluate the socio-demographic profile of attendees at the VCTC/ICTC at KMC Hospital Mangalore and assess the presence of high risk behavior pattern among them.

Methodology

It is a retrospective study conducted at the Integrated Counseling and Testing Center, Kasturba Medical College Hospital, Mangalore. The study subjects included all the attendees of the ICTC in the year 2009. Data was collected based on a pre-tested semi structured proforma, obtained from the existing records of all the attendees at the ICTC. Data was tabulated, analyzed using SPSS 11.5 and appropriate statistical tests applied.

Results

Of all the attendees 22% have tested seropositive for HIV. 64% have walked in voluntarily (10% of them

turned out to be seropositive) 28% were referred by doctors (of which 43% were positive) 91% of attendees were in the sexually active group (16-55yrs) 54% of the attendees were male, however of the seropositive cases 65% were males. Of the total seropositive attendees 95% had only studied upto primary level. Daily wage workers accounted for 32% of the positive cases, all 17 commercial sex workers were tested negative. 43% of total attendees and 28% of the positive cases were unmarried. 92% of the seropositive attendees were living with their families. Most of the attendees have come with the reasons of spouse death, followed by high risk behaviours. 15% came with 'aids phobia' other reasons included prolonged illness and infected parents. 82% of seropositive cases had multipartner heterosexual behaviour. 19 out of the 57 reporting children of infected parents were found to be positive.

Conclusions

A high percentage of voluntary attendees shows remarkable awareness. High percentage of unmarried seropositive cases is a cause of concern. It was noticed that a higher education level offers some protection from AIDS due to higher level of awareness. Multipartner heterosexual relationships continue to be the most prevalent type of high risk behaviour. The high parent to child transmission rate is alarming. However to treat the same a well run PPTCT program exists.