HIV/AIDS AWARENESS AMONG FIRST AND THIRD YEAR BDS STUDENTS- AN INSTITUTIONAL STUDY

Abstract:
Aims and objective:
The present study was aimed to ascertain the level of HIV/AIDS awareness among the First and Third BDS students in SRM Kattankulathur Dental College and Hospital.

Materials and methods:
50 First year BDS students and 50 Third year BDS students were randomly selected. The information regarding the knowledge towards HIV/AIDS and clinical handling of HIV/AIDS patients was collected using a structured questionnaire. The results were collected and analysed.

Results:
The results revealed 73% of First year BDS students and 78% of Third year BDS students had good knowledge about basic nature of HIV/AIDS.
Awareness related to the clinical management of HIV/AIDS was 35% in First BDS students and 73% in Third year BDS students

Conclusion:
The level of understanding about basic knowledge of HIV/AIDS among First and Third year BDS students was high. This shows that school level education about HIV/AIDS is satisfactory. However, the school level curriculum has to be modified to achieve 100% knowledge. Third BDS students had a better understanding towards the clinical management of HIV/AIDS patient. This could be probably because the clinical postings for the BDS course commence from third year onwards. An increased awareness towards the clinical
management of HIV/AIDS patients should be given to the Preclinical students will remove the fear of handling/treating these patients when they enter into the clinics.