Abstract:

**Background:** Human Immuno deficiency Virus (HIV) is one of the most complex viruses that infect people. HIV/AIDS has emerged as the single most formidable challenge to public health, human rights, and development in the new millennium. Until a vaccine or cure for AIDS is found, the only means at present available is health education to enable people to make life saving choices. Peer influence is a great stirring factor in the adoption of specific behavior patterns among youngsters as they learn a great deal from each other and by sharing ideas and experiences amongst themselves.

**Aim:** To analyze and induce the AIDS awareness and preventive strategies at school level.

**Materials & Methods:** The study was conducted among students of age 15 to 17 years in schools in and around Madurai city. Pre-designed, pre-tested anonymous, self administered questionnaire was filled by the students. A small discussion about AIDS / HIV was done. The same questionnaire was again filled by the students.

**Results:** The responses to the questionnaire were analyzed and discussed.
Conclusion: Educating the youth at school level about the HIV / AIDS preventive strategies will be more effective than educating the adults.