SURVEY ON HIV AND HIV RELATED ORAL DISEASE AWARENESS AMONG TRANSGENDER SEX WORKERS IN MADURAI DISTRICT, TAMILNADU

Abstract:

Context:
Transgender is a broad term that refers to people whose gender identity and expression are different to the social expectation of gender. Transgender people are often affected by HIV as most of them indulge as sex workers and yet they remain severely overlooked in the HIV and AIDS response worldwide.

Aim:
Aim of this study is to evaluate the awareness about HIV and HIV related oral diseases among the transgender sex workers in Madurai district, Tamilnadu.

Method:
The study population contained 50 transgender sex workers from Madurai district. The subjects were subjected to series of questionnaire from which the percentage of the subjects who had knowledge about HIV and HIV related oral diseases were calculated.

Result:
Among the study group 100% of the subjects have awareness about HIV and AIDS, its preventive methods and to get tested for HIV. But only 90% of the subjects made an effort to know the result of the test of which 16 % were HIV positive, 80 % were aware that HIV had oral presentation and 28 % got oral check up for HIV.

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Conclusion:
Lack of or unreliable epidemiological data are an obstacle in HIV prevention work among the transgender sex workers. Although the HIV epidemic is moving into the general population, it still remains concentrated among key and marginalized populations such as transgender sex workers. More research needs to be done to determine the information needs of sex workers and to create awareness about HIV and HIV-related oral diseases.