

Determination of the Attitudes of Nurses against HIV/AIDS

Gülhan Kandemir¹, Yıldırım B. Gülhan² and Cüneyt Basbugu²

Abstract—Knowledge level of healthcare professionals about HIV / AIDS and their attitude to patients are crucial in diagnosis, follow-up and treatment of disease. This cross-sectional study has been performed in order to specify attitude of nurses towards individuals with AIDS and determine factors affecting those attitudes. Data have been collected by survey. Questionnaire form contained questions related to socio-demographic characteristics of nurses, to attitude they have about HIV / AIDS, to their knowledge and to source of their knowledge. Scale of Attitude Towards AIDS questions used within study have been picked by Güneş and co-workers from the other study “Knowledge and Attitude of Nurses Working in Malatya Central District Towards HIV – AIDS” which was published in Health and Society journal’s 4th issue in year 2004. Score of nurses have been determined as average as HIV/AIDS Attitude Score Average $35,95 \pm 9,24$ (min.:13- max.:50) and Knowledge Level Score Average $77,77 \pm 16,63$ (min.:8- max.:100). Increase has been determined in knowledge level of nurses in parallel to their age and work experience but increase in HIV / AIDS Attitude has not been evenly. HIV / AIDS Attitude score has been determined higher in singles comparing to married ones. Higher scores in attitude score and knowledge level has been determined in those one who are using knowledge sources in an effective way. As the result of the study; lack of knowledge among nurses and negative effect of this lack on patients has been determined. In service trainings and seminars should be held in order to encourage knowledge refreshment and learning about new progression.

Keywords— Nurse, AIDS, AIDS Attitudes scale.

I. INTRODUCTION

“AIDS”, means Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The disease is caused by viruses called HIV, which attack the body's defense system and cause the body to no longer protect itself from infections (1). The disease in which this virus is caused is called HIV infection. This infection if is advanced, the last step is called AIDS. Any person carrying the HIV virus will eventually become AIDS in a certain period if he or she does not have an AIDS patient and does not have the necessary preventive and treatment plan. The treatments do not completely eliminate the HIV virus, and people who have been injected with virus once have to live with the virus for a lifetime. Treatments are aimed at increasing the quality and duration of life (2). These viruses are mostly sexual contact;

contact with blood, blood products, or other body fluids (such as in intravenous drug users who share contaminating needles); during the birth or in the perinatal period, from the mother through the baby or breast-feeding (3) Transmission is by blood, sire and vaginal secretions only (4); HIV is not transmitted by touching, shaking, hugging, sitting in the same place, sharing the same sauce, swimming pool, bath room, toilet, common use of clothes, telephone headset, tears, sweat, mosquitoes, insects and bee stings. (5) According to United Nations HIV / AIDS Joint Program UNAIDS 2015 report; it is estimated that around 2 million people in the world are HIV-infected, 36.9 million HIV carriers in total in 2014, and 1.2 million people died due to AIDS (6).

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

This study was conducted as a descriptive study to determine the attitudes of nurses working at the Memorial Hospital in Şişli, Istanbul, to the individuals with AIDS and the factors affecting these attitudes. It was held in October - November of the year 2005. The universe is all of the nurses working in the Memorial Hospital in Şişli, Istanbul. The total number of nurses forming the universe is 247. Survey method was used as data collection method in the study. The survey was filled out by 154 nurses who were all distributed. Questionnaires of Nurses' AIDS Attitudes towards Research Questionnaire were taken from Günel et al.'s study on Knowledge and Attitudes of HIV-AIDS Employed in Malatya Central District Health Centers published in the Journal of Health and Society Magazine, 2004 (7). The questionnaire consists of four parts. In the first chapter, 5 closed-ended questions aimed at determining the socio-demographic characteristics of the nurses were prepared. In the second part, it was aimed to identify the sources of information. In the third part, the 10 closed-ended questions about the attitudes towards the AIDS and the AIDS individuals were formed using the Likert type scale of 5, and in the fourth part the expressions about the knowledge levels are included. The analysis of the data was done with SPSS 21.0 program and it was worked with 95% confidence level. In the analysis, the appropriate test was chosen and it was decided according to the normality analysis result. It was determined that the results of the analysis were not normally distributed, and therefore nonparametric test techniques such as mann

Gülhan Kandemir is with the Şişli Memorial Hospital

Asst Prof. Yıldırım B. Gülhan and Asst Prof. Cüneyt Basbugu, all are with the Okan University Vocational School of Health Services

whitney, kruskal wallis and spearman correlation tests were applied.

III. FINDINGS

TABLE I:
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

		n	%
Age group	18-24	94	61,4
	25-29	33	21,6
	30-34	20	13,1
	35-39	4	2,6
	40 and up	2	1,3
Marital status	Single	104	68,0
	Married	46	30,0
	Other	3	2,0
Educational status	Gymnasium	45	29,4
	Associate degree	23	15,0
	Graduate	72	47,1
	Master and up	13	8,5
Nursing Service Time	0-2 years	83	55,0
	3-5 years	35	23,2
	6-8 years	13	8,6
	9 years and up	20	13,2
Service time in Memorial group	0-4 years	115	78,8
	5-9 years	26	17,8
	10 years and up	5	3,4

TABLE II:
AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION SOURCE TOOLS

HIV / AIDS Information source	Benefited		Not benefited	
	n	%	n	%
TV and radio programs	127	85,2	22	14,8
Newspapers, books and magazines	134	88,7	17	11,3
School courses	145	95,4	7	4,6
In-service training and seminars	91	64,1	51	35,9
Friends	110	75,9	35	24,1
Other sources	103	73,0	38	27,0

Participants; 61.4% were between 18-24 years of age, 68% were single; % 47,1% undergraduate, 55% in nursing between 0-2 years and 95.4% have acquired HIV / AIDS knowledge from the courses in the school (Tables 1 and 2).

TABLE III:

LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION OF NURSES IN RELATED STATEMENTS

	I strongly agree		I agree		Undecided		I do not agree		I strongly do not agree	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
People with AIDS represent a forgotten part of our society	40	26,7	34	22,7	17	11,3	34	22,7	25	16,7
I give Information about AIDS during my home visits	12	8,1	67	45,0	26	17,4	32	21,5	12	8,1
I Stay away from people I know are AIDS	9	6,0	19	12,7	35	23,3	46	30,7	41	27,3
People with AIDS should gather somewhere and stay away from society	8	5,3	8	5,3	29	19,2	39	25,8	67	44,4
People with AIDS are an evil for society.	13	8,6	9	5,9	8	5,3	49	32,2	73	48,0
People with AIDS should not be allowed to go to public schools	10	6,6	11	7,3	22	14,6	45	29,8	63	41,7
If a friend I work with has AIDS, I worry about my health	12	7,9	22	14,5	41	27,0	33	21,7	44	28,9
I do not want someone with AIDS to touch me	6	4,0	26	17,3	23	15,3	45	30,0	50	33,3
If possible, I will not care for someone with AIDS	8	5,3	26	17,2	14	9,3	40	26,5	63	41,7
If possible I will not interfere with someone with AIDS	9	6,0	22	14,6	9	6,0	46	30,5	65	43,0

49.4% of the nurses said that "people with AIDS represent a forgotten part of our society" (Table 3).

TABLE IV:
HIV / AIDS RELATED INFORMATION MEASUREMENTS

	Correct Answer Rate (%)
Condom use can prevent transmission of HIV	82,5
HIV can be found in vaginal fluid	90,9
HIV can be transmitted by unprotected sex with the opposite sex	93,5
HIV can be transmitted via anal sex	92,9
HIV can be transmitted via oral sex	81,8
HIV can be transmitted via air	79,9
HIV can be transmitted via tissue and organ transplantation	89,6
HIV can be transmitted via blood transfusion	92,2
HIV can be transmitted using common injector	90,9
HIV can be transmitted by embrace, touch, handshake	76,6
By looking at a person, it can be said that he has AIDS	83,1
HIV can spread using someone else's comb	64,9
HIV can be transmitted by dental equipment	87,0
Infected with HIV, manicure, pedicure equipment	88,3
HIV can be transmitted from mother to baby during pregnancy	87,0
HIV can be transmitted during child birth	90,3
HIV can be transmitted through mother-to-child breastfeeding	70,1
HIV can be transmitted via mosquitos	48,1
If you swim in the same pool with a person with AIDS, the disease goes to you	58,4
Birth control pills protect against HIV	72,7
AIDS weakens the individual's defense system.	92,9
AIDS is a curable disease	63,6
AIDS has a preventive vaccination	77,9
Laundry is effective in killing HIV	33,8
HIV can not live long outside the human body	55,2

41.6% of the nurses responded wrongly to the question "If you swim in the same pool with a person with AIDS, the disease will pass on to you" (Table 4).

TABLE V:
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS OF SCORES

	n	Minimum	Maximum	Avarage	ss
HIV/AIDS Attitude Score	154	13	50	35,95	9,24
Knowledge Level Score	154	8	100	77,77	16,63

HIV / AIDS Attitude Score averages $35,95 \pm 9,24$ and Knowledge Level Score averages $77,77 \pm 16,63$ (Table 5).

TABLE VI:
ANALYSIS OF HIV / AIDS ATTITUDE SCORE AND KNOWLEDGE LEVEL SCORE WITH MARITAL STATUS GROUPS

	Marital Status	n	Avarage	U	p
HIV/AIDS Attitude Score	Single	107	83,00	1819,0	0,011*
	Married	46	63,04		
Knowledge Score	Single	107	77,11	2224,500	0,363
	Married	46	71,86		

*p<0,05

There was a statistically significant difference between the marital status groups in terms of HIV / AIDS Attitude Score ($p < 0,05$). The average score of singles is 83,00; the marriages are 63.04. According to this, the HIV / AIDS Attitude Score of the unmarried people is higher than the married ones (Table 6).

TABLE VII:
ANALYSIS OF HIV / AIDS ATTITUDE SCORE AND KNOWLEDGE LEVEL SCORES BY NURSING SERVICE DURATION GROUPS

	Nursing Service Time	n	Avarage	X2	p
HIV/AIDS Attitude Score	0-2 years	83	77,85	2,009	0,570
	3-5 years	35	67,20		
	6-8 years	13	83,00		
	9 years and up	20	79,18		
Knowledge Score	0-2 years	83	72,42	11,824	0,008*
	3-5 years	35	63,71		
	6-8 years	13	97,42		
	9 years and up	20	98,45		

*p<0,05

As the duration of study increases, attitude score and knowledge level increase (Table 7).

TABLE VIII:

ANALYSIS OF HIV / AIDS ATTITUDE SCORE AND LEVEL OF INFORMATION BY DIFFERENT GROUPS OF HIV / AIDS UTILIZATION OF NEWSPAPERS, BOOKS AND MAGAZINES AS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION

HIV / AIDS information source; newspapers, books and magazines		n	Avarage.	U	P
HIV/AIDS Attitude Score	Benefited	134	79,31	695,000	,009*
	Not benefited	17	49,88		
Knowledge Score	Benefited	134	79,35	690,000	,008*
	Not benefited	17	49,59		

*p<0,05

The HIV / AIDS Attitude score of people who use newspapers, books and magazines as a source of HIV / AIDS information is higher than the other group (Table 8).

TABLE IX:

HIV / AIDS ATTITUDE SCORE AND KNOWLEDGE LEVEL SCORE AS A SOURCE OF HIV / AIDS INFORMATION ON DIFFERENT SCHOOL GROUPS

HIV / AIDS information source; lessons at school		n	Avarage	U	P
HIV/AIDS Attitude Score	Benefited	145	78,21	259,000	,029*
	Not benefited	7	41,00		
Knowledge Score	Benefited	145	78,85	167,000	,003*
	Not benefited	7	27,86		

*p<0,05

The HIV / AIDS Attitude score of those who use the lessons as a source of HIV / AIDS information is higher than the other group (Table 9).

REFERENCES

- [1] Doğan F, Sencer OT. "HIV/AIDS: Infection Disease", Editör; Lindsey E, HIV / AIDS Handbook for Nurses and Ebbbers. Ege University Printing House, Izmir 2003.
- [2] Şimşek Ç. EK 1 Press Shared Information Text. Editörler Karapınar A, Şimşek Ç, Omay M, Kaylan S. World AIDS Day Activity Report 2013: 98 – 103
- [3] Fauci AS, Braunwald E, Isselbacher JK, Wilson JD, Martin JB, Kasper DL, Hauser SL, Longo DL. Principles of Internal Medicine, 14'üncü Baskı, Nobel Tıp Kitapevleri, 199 Infectious Diseases and Microbiology,8: 435 – 446
- [4] Willke Topçu A, Söyletir G, Doğanay M. Infectious Diseases and Microbiology,, 3'üncü Baskı, Nobel Tıp Kitapevleri, 2008: 683 – 721
- [5] Badur S . Editörler BuzganT, Torunoğlu MA, Gökengin D. HIV / AIDS Diagnosis and Treatment Guide, Ministry of Health Ankara 2013. http://thsk.saglik.gov.tr/eDosya/bulasici-hastaliklar-db/hiv_aids_tani_tedavi_rehberi_2013.pdf 26.02.2016
- [6] UNAIDS, World AIDS Day 2015, AIDS by the numbers 2015. http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2015/AIDS_by_the_numbers_2015. 26.02.2016
- [7] Güneş G, Karaoğlu L, Ilgar M. "Knowledge and Attitudes of Midwifeson HIV-AIDS in Malatya Central District Health Centers "Health and Society Review 2004;14(4):75-79