

Teacher's Role in Imparting AIDS Education in Rural Schools: An Literary Exposition

Mouchumi Deka

Lecturer at Guwahati College & Guest Lecturer at Cotton State University In Department of Education
E-mail: sumiii8@gmail.com

Abstract—Around the world, young people are infected by HIV. India is one of the largest and most populated country in the world. India is inhabited with one billion people and amongst which 2.4 million people are living with AIDS. It was an unknown disease before 1981. "AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome". AIDS is caused by HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) which is transmitted mainly through sexual intercourse. The virus can also transmit through contaminated blood and from mother to child. There is no cure, only way to control the disease is prevention. Education is one of the important factors for human resource development. The world is unique for every human being. But, rural lives vary from because of patterns of socialization. Today, education solves a number of complex national and global problems. Education developed human resources and helps in world peace, solves environmental and population issues etc. This paper will through light on the ways in which Education and the role of the teacher play a major role in the awareness of AIDS education in rural schools of India.

Objectives:

- 1) To study the importance of HIV AIDS education in the rural areas.
- 2) To study its prevention and control
- 3) To study the problems faced by teacher in Imparting AIDS education in rural environment.
- 4) To suggest some solution regarding these problems.

Keywords: HIV, AIDS, Education, Teachers, Rural, Schools

INTRODUCTION

India is one of the largest and most populated country in the world. India is inhabited with one billion people and amongst this; 2.4 million people are living with AIDS. It was an unknown disease before 1981. "AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome". AIDS is caused by HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) which is transmitted mainly through sexual intercourse. The virus can also transmit through contaminated blood and from mother to child. There is no cure, only way to control the disease is prevention. In 1993, approximately 1.3 crore people worldwide were infected with HIV. More than 90 percent of these infected people are in developing countries. According to World Health Organization in India infections has declined considerably in

recent years—from 5.5 million in 2005 to 2.5 million in 2007. India recorded 38 % decline in HIV AIDS related deaths in between 2005 to 2013. According to the United Nations in 2011 AIDS report 50% decline in HIV infections in India. If we see the global statistics in 2014, 36.9 million people were living with HIV, 2 million people become infected newly and 1.2 million people died from HIV – AIDS related disease. But important fact is that these figures are based on the reported cases. The reported cases are only tip of an iceberg. Those which are not reported are the actual serious health challenges for the country. The people who stay in rural or backward areas are the main problem rising factor. WHO estimated that there could be 1 to 1.5 million people with HIV in rural India only and HIV in Indian maps shows all states are affected.

RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

According to India's National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), the bulk of HIV infections in India occur during unprotected heterosexual intercourse. Consequently, and as the epidemic has matured, women account for a growing proportion of people living with HIV, especially in rural areas. The low rate of multiple partner concurrent sexual relationships among the wider community seems to have, so far, protected the larger body of people. However, although overall prevalence remains low, even relatively minor increases in HIV infection rates in a country of more than one billion people translate into large numbers of people becoming infected. Education plays a major role in the awareness of AIDS. There are a great variety of methods and materials which can be used to educate students about AIDS in school. But imparting AIDS education in rural schools in India where AIDS is believed to be highly sensitive in terms of the socio-cultural and religious contexts is very challenging for the teachers. The brief reviews of related literature on teacher's role in imparting AIDS education are given below. There are lots of studies have been carried out. But in this paper there are six reviews has been presented briefly: Brown LK, Fritz GK (1988), write article on **AIDS education in the schools: a literature review as a guide for curriculum planning**. A review of relevant literature on students' current level of knowledge about AIDS and on educational efforts to date with

high-risk groups (homosexuals and intravenous drug users) provides the rationale for school-based AIDS education. Islam M, Mitra AK, Mian AH, Vermund SH (1999), **HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh: a national surveillance**. The finding of the study were such as in Bangladesh included several risk groups such as professional blood donors, patients with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), pregnant women at antenatal clinics etc. Ganguli SK, Rekha PP, Gupte N, Charan UA (2002) write article on **AIDS awareness among undergraduate students, Maharashtra**. They found that some misconceptions regarding modes of transmission were observed among few students, like social kissing, sharing utensils/personal items, using common swimming pools and insect bite spread infection. Y S Marfatia, Archana Sharma, Megha Modi (2007), **Overview of HIV/AIDS in India**. They found that millions of infections prevented; millions of people living with HIV/AIDS living more productive, healthy lives; and millions of children, so heartlessly orphaned by the disease, being properly cared. P Lal, Anitha Nath, S Badhan & Gopal K Ingle (2008) writes **A Study of Awareness about HIV/AIDS Among Senior Secondary School Children of Delhi**. The findings in the present study reiterate the need for re-enforcing school AIDS education. Sankaranarayan S, Naik, Reddy, Singh KP, study on **Impact of school-based HIV and AIDS education for adolescents in Bombay, India**. In this article they discussed pre-test-post-test evaluation of a school-based HIV/AIDS educational program. It reveals from the available literature that lots of works have been carried out on AIDS education. But hardly any attempt has been made on the **Teacher's Role in Imparting AIDS Education in Rural Schools**. Therefore to discuss the teacher's role and importance and challenges of AIDS education in rural areas and to suggest some measures this paper is designed with following objectives.

Objectives: Following are the objectives of the study:

- 1) To study the importance of HIV AIDS education in the rural areas.
- 2) To study its prevention and control
- 3) To study the problems faced by teacher in Imparting AIDS education in rural environment.
- 4) To suggest some solution regarding these problems.

Methodology: A documentary survey has been made. The importance of AIDS education and its prevention and control and problems in imparting AIDS education has been analyzed and suggest some measures which will affects the school children and the society because each and everyone needs to be aware of AIDS.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AIDS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS OF RURAL INDIA:

Education also plays a vital role in reducing discrimination. The world is still afraid to interact with people infected with

AIDS. People are mostly ignorant about AIDS. They create a misunderstanding causing a negative impact on people living with AIDS. It also discouraged people to undertake testing and treatment. AIDS education is effective if we target specific groups. Firstly, one is general population, secondly at risk group and thirdly people who are suffering from AIDS.

- General population group are those people who are in school/ college and the society in general.
- Risk group people are homo- sexual as well as heterosexual persons, drug users who share needles.
- Lastly people who are suffering from HIV at different stages of the disease.

The most important place for people to learn about AIDS is at school. But in rural areas it's become a challenging factor. As in rural areas people believed in supernatural, superstitions things. Imparting AIDS education in rural environment is very difficult. Even today in elementary school curriculum not yet include systematically information about HIV and AIDS. The young people are at a high risk of becoming infected with HIV. Therefore, they should be educated about the transmission of the infection. The most important factor of imparting AIDS education in rural schools is **role of the teacher**.

WHAT DOES HIV DO IN HUMAN BODY?

HIV is a virus which causes impairment to the immune system in the human body. There are two types of HIV. That is HIV-1 and HIV-2 which are the causes of AIDS. HIV belongs to a family of many viruses called retrovirus. The immune system protects the body from infection and disease. The skin and white cell of our blood protects us from harmful organism such as bacteria and viruses. HIV infected white cells of blood. After infection with HIV the body produces antibodies to protect itself. These antibodies become powerless due to HIV infection and unable to neutralize the virus. There is no way to know whether a person is infected or not except having a blood test.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The prevention and control of AIDS is very important because there is no preventive vaccine or cure. At present there is no treatment which fully repairs or completely removes the infection from the body. But there are several ways to reducing and control the conditions associated with HIV and AIDS. There are some preventive control has been given as follows:

- 1) Use of condoms is recommended for protection against HIV/AIDS and other sexual transmitted disease.
- 2) Another route of HIV infection is through blood. Hence, sterilized syringes and needles should be used.

- 3) Blood of a donor should be tested before donate to other person.
- 4) Infected mother passing the virus to her unborn child. In this context mother should take some careful steps in pregnancy. But still 30% chance of the child getting AIDS.

THE PROBLEMS FACED BY TEACHER IN IMPARTING AIDS EDUCATION IN RURAL ENVIRONMENT.

- 1) Poor educational facilities create a major problem in imparting AIDS education in the rural areas.
- 2) The teachers in the rural area, who taught about HIV/AIDS in the classroom, did not complete the HIV/AIDS chapter. The most commonly-avoided content was sexual relationships which teachers avoided. The main reasons for avoiding such a chapter in the class are that students and teachers felt shy.
- 3) Secondly in rural areas because of social culture teachers felt difficulty to talk about HIV education.
- 4) The teachers felt that the time allocated for each of the HIV/AIDS classes was insufficient. Although the teachers had 40 to 45 minutes officially allocated for each class. In this limited time it's not possible to discuss the about HIV because it is itself a sensitive matter and it will create a panic situation among the students.
- 5) In rural areas imparting AIDS education in the classroom become challenging factor for teachers because of myths and misconceptions regarding modes of transmission like, using utensils, personal items, common swimming pools and insect bite spread infection and students get fear in learning also.
- 6) While imparting AIDS education in rural areas Teachers faced fear of discrimination also because society's attitude towards HIV infected people /AIDS patients were not sympathetic.
- 7) Poor quality of teaching is another main factor. Teacher's are not trained to teach such sensitive topics.
- 8) Some teachers are still following a traditional teaching method which is another main problem. Theoretical, haphazard and improper organization unplanned teaching methods discourage the students and creates difficulty to understand.
- 9) Few teachers know about the value of teaching of AIDS education and its sensible view and rest of them does not have knowledge about the subject and also does not saw any interest on it.
- 10) Lack of cordial relationship between teacher and students. Teacher pupil relationship becomes materialistic and professional. Teachers don't want to be present at

meetings which are organized for especially AIDS education.

Suggestions: In rural schools the teacher should take some necessary activity in imparting AIDS Education. They are such as:

- 1) The teacher must impart the basic information about HIV/AIDS. Its transmission course of illness, symptoms, testing and prevention should be taught in the class.
- 2) As it is a rural area, hence education should be such a way that it clarifies various myths and misconception about AIDS, sex and sexuality.
- 3) Students should be encouraged to ask question and queries on AIDS education and other sexual disease, family related myth and misconceptions etc.
- 4) Depending upon number of question asked, teacher may organize such discussion as many times in the months and year too.
- 5) Teachers should also encourage students to explore own values and attitudes related to HIV/AIDS.
- 6) Time Management in imparting AIDS education is major task for teachers. By making lesson plans in advance can makes learning more interesting and motivating for the learner.
- 7) Creation of supportive environment for teaching about AIDS education in the classroom setting. The teachers who are trained should arrange meetings with the community members, other teachers, and parents than with other untrained teachers. Trained teacher should encourage the others to participate in meeting and conferences.
- 8) Teacher also develops the self-confident and attitudes skill to say "No" to the situation which is unfavorable to the students.
- 9) While imparting this education the teacher can also arrange painting and poster competition which is a useful way to generating interest among students and motivating them to collect information on matters relating to AIDS.
- 10) There are also some multimedia sources such as radio & television, booklets, billboards, drama, street play essay competition and quiz competition etc are effective medium in imparting education. Then use of interactive teaching methods like group discussion, lectures, pictures, charts then giving project to the students etc, may also improve the implementation of the HIV/AIDS curriculum in the rural schools.
- 11) Strong communication should be made with parents so that they can involved in the school programme with their children and also contribute in school activities.

CONCLUSION

Schools play a major role in shaping the attitudes, opinions and behaviour of the students. Hence this is the right place for teaching the social as well as the biological aspects of HIV and AIDS. The students after knowing about AIDS education they can tell their parents or their friends what they have learned. But in rural areas it becomes a problem for various reasons. Through imparting a good education, the students are able to develop knowledge, skill and attitudes among themselves. They are able to talk about the matter to their parents, with their friends, community and take the preventive measures. But unfortunately problems come when HIV and AIDS education conflict with traditional and religious views. Therefore, it is necessary to educate students about the HIV and AIDS. Education motivates the students by making them aware that their learning is relevant to their lives. The role of teachers is very important factor in giving knowledge about prevention and the spread of HIV. The teacher has to be trained for AIDS education so that he or she can gain the trust and confidence of the students. The significant and effective learning is always needed to the society for the welfare of the human being. Hence, we can say that teacher plays a fundamental role in imparting AIDS education in rural school.

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