

Knowledge Level, Attitude and Preventive Practices on Sexually Transmitted Diseases among Prisoners in Cuddalore Prison

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Abstract: *Introduction:* Sexually transmitted diseases are a worldwide growing health problem. STIs are transmitted predominantly through unprotected sex and can be transmitted during blood transfusion, childbirth as well as sharing needle. *Aim:* This study was done to assess the knowledge, attitudes and preventive practices related to SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES among prisoners in cuddalore prison. *Materials and Methods:* A cross sectional survey was conducted among the prisoners in cuddalore prison. A total of 252 prisoners in various age group were included in the study. Socio-demographic details, knowledge, attitude and preventive practices were collected using semi structured questionnaire. Data was entered in Microsoft excel and analysed using IBM SPSS version 17. *Results:* Off 252 prisoners, nearly 88 % were males and 12 % were females. Mean age of participants was 40±12.6 years. Two hundred and eighteen (86.5 %) had heard about STIs. Newspaper, TV/Radio and public talks were the predominant source of information for most of the participants. About 86.9 % of the participants knew about the modes of transmission of STIs. About 87.3 % and 77.4 % of the participants knew about the symptoms and complication of STIs. Awareness about Attitude and Prevention of STIs among prisoners was variable. *Conclusion:* The findings of our study shows that the knowledge about STIs are better among prisoners but it is important to orient the public's about sexual health and safe sexual practices as it take a long way in prevention and control of STIs.

Keywords: STD, PRISONER STUDY, KAP STUDY, STIs

1. Introduction

Sexually Transmitted Infections(STI) are a common public health problem in developing countries, contributing to a huge economic burden among individuals and health systems^[1] As indicated by the World Health Organization (WHO), every year around 499 million instances of treatable STIs happen all through the world in the age gathering of 15-49 years, of which 80% cases happen in creating nations and around 79 million cases happen in India every year^[2]. Another study proposes that around 40 million instances of STIs happen in India every year^[3]. Public Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) detailed that 11% ladies and 5% men in the 15-49 years age had STI related manifestation in the past years^[4]. To formulate the preventive strategy of nation towards HIV/AIDS/STD, KAP should be assessed at different levels. This study is done among prisoners since they are considered as one of the vulnerable group. So, this study is expected to give information on this particular group of workers.

Aim and Objective

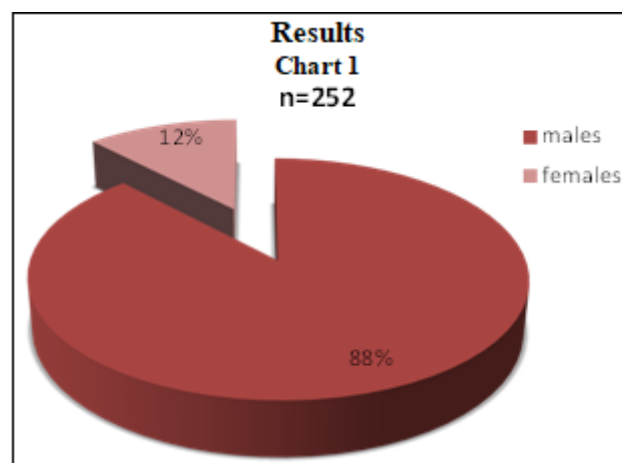
To assess the knowledge, attitudes and preventive practices related to SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES among prisoners in cuddalore prison.

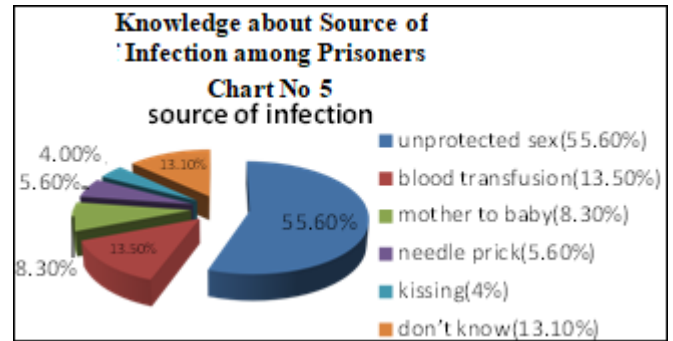
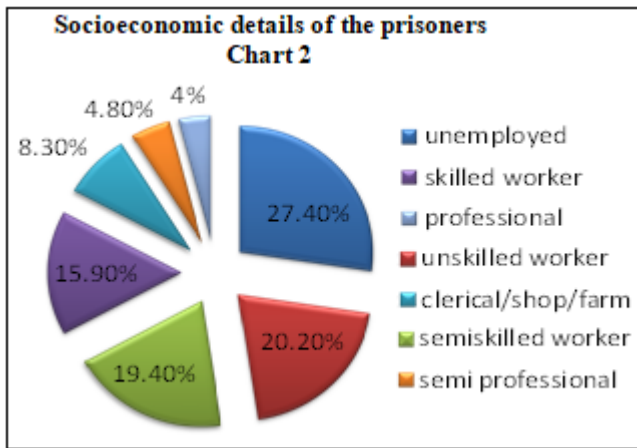
2. Materials and Methods

A cross sectional survey was conducted among the prisoners in cuddalore prison. A total of 252 prisoners in various age groups were included in the study. Socio-demographic details, knowledge, attitude and preventive practices were collected using semi structured questionnaire. Data was entered in Microsoft excel and analysed using IBM SPSS version 17.

3. Results

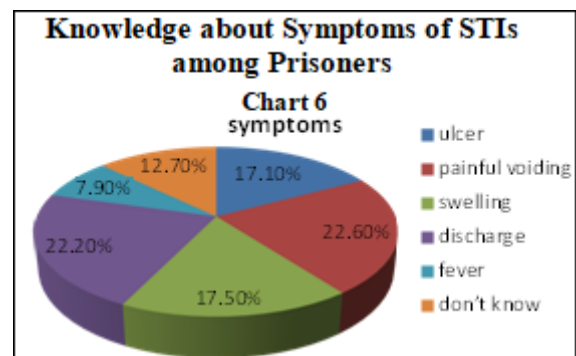
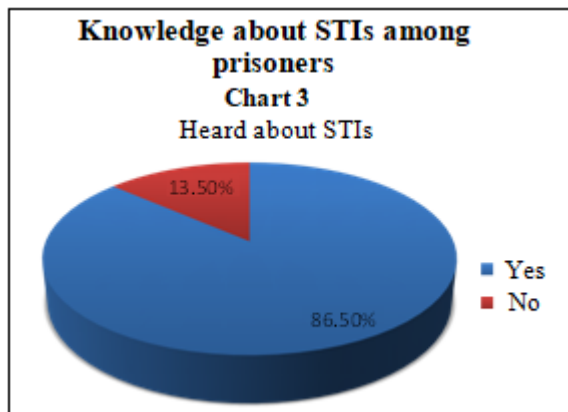
Off 252 prisoners, nearly 88% were males and 12% were females. Mean age of participants was 40±12.6 years. Two hundred and eighteen (86.5%) had heard about STIs. They were divided into several criteria (socioeconomic status, gender involved, whether they heard about STIs) and they are showed in ^[chart 1, 2, 3]. Newspaper, TV/Radio and public talks were the predominant source of information for most of the participants. About 86.9% of the participants knew about the modes of transmission of STIs. About 87.3% and 77.4% of the participants knew about the symptoms and complication of STIs. Awareness about Attitude and Prevention of STIs among prisoners was variable.





Knowledge about Symptoms of STIs among Prisoners

Among prisoners pain during voiding said to be the main symptoms of STIs (22.60%). Least said symptoms found to be fever (7.90%). 12.70% of them had no idea about it. It is shown in following [chart no 6].

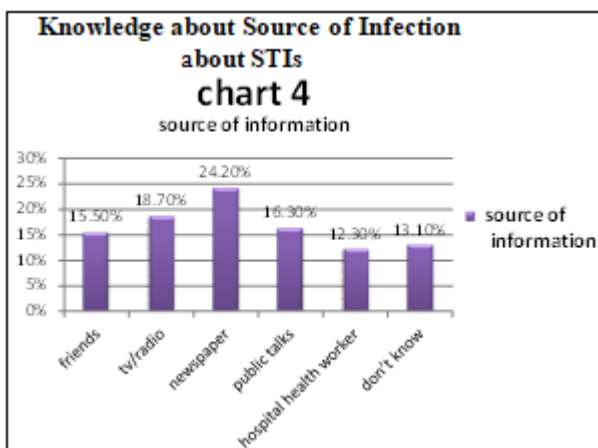


Knowledge about Source of Information of STIs

Overall the source of information is classified as information they got from friends, media, newspaper, public talks and from hospital health workers. Among them 13.10% of prisoners had no idea about the source of information about STIs. 24.20% gained information about STIs through newspaper. Information about STIs from health care workers are said to be least among prisoners (12.30%). This brings about the fact that health care workers should create awareness about STIs among prisoners. This is given in [Chart 4].

Attitude about STIs

58.3% of prisoners said yes when survey question asked whether they are willing to work with HIV coworker, 15.9% does not answered the question and 25.8% said they cannot work with HIV coworkers.66.3% said screening is important and sexual education in school is mandatory whereas 21.4% answered screening is not important and sexual education cannot help preventing STIs.12.3% did not answer the question at all. This is given in Table 1



Attitude about STIs

Table 1

Willing to work with HIV coworker?	Screening important?	Sexual education in school important?
Yes- 58.3%	yes-66.3%	Yes-66.3%
No- 25.8%	No-21.4%	No-21.4%
Don't know-15.9%	Don't know-12.3%	Dont know-12.3%

Knowledge about Source of Infection among Prisoners

55.60% of prisoners on survey concluded that source of infection occur through unprotected sex.4% said it occurs due to kissing and 13.10% don't know the reason for source of infection that leads to STIs. They are given in [chart no 5]

Preventive Practices about STIs

55.2% of prisoners answered condom can be used to prevent STI during sexual activity and 26.2% had denied it. 18.7% did not answer the question.

75% of prisoners answered screening the blood for STIs before transfusion is mandatory and 12.7% denied it. 12.3% did not answer the question.

86.5% of prisoners answered that they will seek treatment immediately if nthey find any symptoms of STIs and 6% of

prisoners denied it. 7.5% of prisoners did not answered the question shown in [Table 2]

Preventive Practices

Table 2

Did you use condom before sexual activity?	If you ever received a blood transfusion, was the blood screened for STIs?	If u find symptoms of STI will u seek treatment immediately?
Yes-55.2%	Yes-75%	Yes-86.5%
NO-26.2%	No-12.7%	No-6.0%
Don't know-18.7%	Don't know-12.3%	Don't know-7.5%

4. Discussion

The findings of our study show that the knowledge, attitude and preventive practices about STIs was variable among prisoners. About 13.50% had not heard about STIs and no one knew the actual cause of STIs and also did not know their importance about prevention. Most of them knew STIs were preventable and aware about correct methods of prevention. Also they knew it is treatable. In a study conducted among high school students at Pune stated that TV was the main source of information. A significant decrease in knowledge about misconceptions and significant increase in knowledge occurred about various modes of transmission of disease, prevention of HIV/AIDS in post testing^[5]. In another study conducted among college students at Bengaluru concluded that among Two hundred and fifty six (73%) males and 94 (27%) females participated, 313 (90%) students had heard about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and 223 (64%) students had heard about STIs other than HIV. 99% of students knew about HIV where as less than 50% of students knew about other STIs. Teachers, internet and media were the source of information for most of the participants. Almost 75% of the students knew about the modes of transmission of STIs. Less than 50% of the participants knew about the symptoms of STIs and complications. Also attitude of the students towards sexual health and prevention of STIs was variable^[6]. Therefore it is important to conduct more studies among these vulnerable groups to orient about sexual health and safe sexual practices as it take a long way in prevention and control of STIs. And also healthcare workers need to give awareness about STIs among prisoners since they are one among the vulnerable groups targeted.

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