**ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**Assessment of Awareness of HIV/AIDS among Selected Target Groups in and around Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

*Mehret Yerdaw1, Teshome Nedi1 and Fikre Enquoselassie2*

Department of Pharmacology, School of Pharmacy, Addis Ababa University, P.O. Box 1176, Addis Ababa1; Department of Community Health, Addis Ababa University, P.O. Box 1176, Addis Ababa2

**\*For Correspondence:** MehretYerdaw, Department of Pharmacology, School of Pharmacy, Addis Ababa University, P.O. Box 1176, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Abstract**

A total of 2278 individuals were interviewed using a pre-tested questionnaire with key indicators such as mode of transmission, attitude towards HIV/AIDS patients, information sources, sex, educational and marital status. Findings indicate that most of the respondents (93.2%) were aware of the reality of HIV/AIDS and considered it as a killer disease (89.2%). A significant number of them had negative attitude towards HIV/AIDS patients. Some 30.4% believed HIV/AIDS patients can be identified through symptoms rather than clinical diagnosis. There is significant association between knowledge of HIV/AIDS and target group (p < 0.001), age (p < 0.05), sex (p < 0.05), marital status (p < 0.05) and educational level (p < 0.001). There is also a remarkable knowledge difference among respondents on means of prolonging life of individuals with HIV/AIDS. Some have never heard about how to prolong the life of such patients (10.2%). Farmers (42.5%) indicated that there is no means of prolonging the life of such patients. Respondents' knowledge on combating HIV/AIDS related diseases as a means of prolonging the life of succumbed individuals was rather low (5.5%). Low level awareness, therefore, may deter HIV/AIDS patients from seeking necessary medical attention. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 2002; 6[2]: 30–38)

**Keywords:** *Awareness, HIV/AIDS, transmision, attitude, knowledge*

**References**

1. UNAIDS. Report on the global HIV/AIDS Epidemic. 2000.
2. Ministry of Health, Ethiopia. *AIDS in Ethiopia: Background, Projections, Impacts & Interventions*. 3rd edition. 2001.
3. Hailu N, Hailu K, Khodakevitch L and Bekele S. Profile of AIDS cases in Ethiopia. Ethiop J Health Dev 1990; 4(2): 213– 217.
4. Seyoum A and Debrework Z. Development and management of the AIDS control program in Ethiopia. *Ethiop J Health Dev* 1990; 4(2): 87–96.
5. Ford K, Wirawan DN, Fajans MP, MacDonald K and Thorpe L. Behavioural interventions for reduction of sexually transmitted disease /HIV transmission among female commercial sex workers and clients, Bali, Indonesia. *AIDS* 1996; 10(2): 213–22.
6. Fisseha E, David Z and Derege K. The attitude of students, parents and teacher towards the promotion and provision of condom for adolescents in Addis Ababa. *Ethiop J Health Dev* 1997; 11(1): 140–145.
7. Negussie T. Sexual activity of out -of- school youth and their knowledge and attitude about STDs and HIV/AIDS in Southern Ethiopia. *Ethiop J Health Dev* 1998; 12(1): 17– 24.
8. Petros B, Belayneh S and Mekonnen Y. AIDS and college students in Addis Ababa: a study of knowledge, attitude and behavior. *Ethiop J Health Dev* 1997; 11(2): 115–124.
9. Telhahun T. AIDS related knowledge and behaviors among college students, Gondar, Ethiopia: a comparative study. *Ethiop Med J* 1997; 35: 185–190.
10. Fantahun M and Chala F. Sexual behavior, and knowledge and attitude towards HIV/ AIDS among out of school youth in Bahir Dar Town, Northwest Ethiopia. *Ethiop Med J* 1996; 34: 233–242.
11. Ellen JM, Bayer CB, Tschann JM and Shafer MA. Adolescents perceived risk for STDs and HIV infection. *J Adolesc Health* 1996; 18(3): 177–81.
12. Thang DB, Chick P, Long TH, Thich VN and Thang QV. Cross-sectional study of sexual behavior and knowledge about HIV among urban, rural and minority residents in Viet Nam. *Bulletin of WHO* 2001; 79(1): 15–21.
13. Mungherera M, Straten VA, Hall LT, Faigeles B, Gill F and Mandel SJ. HIV/AIDS –related attitudes and practices of hospital-based health workers in Kampala, Uganda. *AIDS* 1997; 11(supp 1): S79–S85.