

# Knowledge, Awareness and Perception about HIV/AIDS among Private University Students in Dhaka City

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## Abstract

The aim of the study is to evaluate the awareness, knowledge and perception of HIV/AIDS among private university students in Dhaka City. The sample size of the study was 180 and they were selected on the basis of convenience sampling procedure. The findings of the study shows that that 25 percent respondents heard about HIV/AIDS through oral communication and 33 percent respondents heard about HIV/AIDS through television and internet. All the respondents opined that food handling cannot spread HIV and sharing utensils cannot spread HIV.

**Keywords:** HIV, AIDS, Awareness, Knowledge

## 1. Introduction

The first case of HIV in Bangladesh was noticed in 1989. Even prior to this first case, the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) had developed into dynamic and shaped the National AIDS Committee (NAC) in 1985 in eagerness of an outbreak. The GoB developed and approved a inclusive policy on issues relating to HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in 1997. The first National Strategic Plan (NSP, 1997–2002) and the second National Strategic Plan (2004–2010) have been developed and endorsed. The NSP provides the skeleton to guide response to the HIV epidemic. To harmonize the efforts of the Government, a large number of NGOs are enthusiastically working on HIV and AIDS, primarily in prevention, and approximately 235 NGOs are connected through the STI/AIDS Network. Funding for all the HIV/STI activities has been and is obtained from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), GoB; the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM); World Bank; DFID; German Technical Cooperation (GTZ); USAID; and others (Azim et al , 2008).

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## 2. Literature Review

A large number of research paper written by eminent scholars by home and abroad. Here we went through few of them. Asaduzzaman et al (2016) evaluated knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS among Bangladeshi married women in rural areas. He tried to correlate with mass media and awareness. Choudhary and Rahman (2014) evaluated awareness, knowledge and perception of HIV/AIDS among primary school teachers in Bangladesh. They basically focused on transmission and prevention strategies. Mosha and Manda (2012) investigated level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS among undergraduate students in Tanzania. They tried to evaluate modes of transmission of HIV/AIDS and sources of information about HIV/AIDS. Zhang et al (2008) investigated a section of college students having misconceptions about HIV/AIDS transmission routes.

## 3. Methodology

The sample size of the study was 180 and they were selected on the basis of convenience sampling procedure. The study was conducted on 5 private universities in Bangladesh namely ASA University Bangladesh, BRAC University, United International University, North South University and East West University.

## 4. Findings

### 4.1 Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Table 1 Gender of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Male	105	58.3	58.3	58.3
Female	75	41.7	41.7	100.0
Total	180	100.0	100.0	

Table 1 shows that 58 percent respondents were male and 42 percent respondents were female.

Table 2: Mean Age of the Respondents

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
age	180	20	23	21.42	1.118
Valid N (listwise)	180				

Table 2 shows that mean age of the respondents were 21.42 years.

Table 3: Religion of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Muslim	105	58.3	58.3	58.3
Hindus	45	25.0	25.0	83.3
Christian	15	8.3	8.3	91.7
Buddhist	15	8.3	8.3	100.0
Total	180	100.0	100.0	

Table 3 shows that 58 percent respondents were Muslim, 25 percent respondents were Hindus and 17 percent respondents were Christian and Buddhist.

#### 4.2 Sources of HIV/AIDS Information

Table 4 : Sources of HIV/AIDS Information

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Books	15	8.3	8.3	8.3
Television	30	16.7	16.7	25.0
Internet	30	16.7	16.7	41.7
DVD/CD	15	8.3	8.3	50.0
Radio	15	8.3	8.3	58.3
Newspaper	15	8.3	8.3	66.7
Magazines	15	8.3	8.3	75.0
Oral Communication	45	25.0	25.0	100.0
Total	180	100.0	100.0	

Table 4 shows that 25 percent respondents heard about HIV/AIDS through oral communication and 33 percent respondents heard about HIV/AIDS through television and internet.

#### 4.3 Knowledge About HIV/AIDS

Table 5: Knowledge About HIV/AIDS

Statement	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
The risk of HIV transmission can be reduced by having sex with only one uninfected partner, who has no other partners	135	7.1%	75.0%
A person can reduce the risk of getting HIV by using a condom every time they have sex	90	4.8%	50.0%
A healthy looking person can have HIV	135	7.1%	75.0%
A person can get HIV by using unsterilized needle/syringe	135	7.1%	75.0%
A person can get HIV by unsafe blood transfusion	135	7.1%	75.0%
HIV can transmitted from mother to baby during pregnancy	135	7.1%	75.0%
HIV can transmitted from mother to baby during delivery	135	7.1%	75.0%
HIV can transmitted from mother to baby during breastfeeding	135	7.1%	75.0%
Sharing utensils cannot spread HIV	180	9.5%	100.0%
Teenagers are classified as high risk group in spreading HIV	135	7.1%	75.0%
Food handling cannot spread HIV	180	9.5%	100.0%
Homosexuals are classified as high risk group in spreading HIV	135	7.1%	75.0%
Mosquito bites cannot spread HIV	90	4.8%	50.0%
Unsafe anal sex spreads HIV more easily than unsafe vaginal sex	135	7.1%	75.0%
Total	1890	100.0%	1050.0%*

\*Percentage is more than 100 due to multiple answers.

Table 5 shows that all the respondents opined that food handling cannot spread HIV and sharing utensils cannot spread HIV and on the other hand 75 percent respondents opined that the risk of HIV transmission can be reduced by having sex with only one uninfected partner, who has no other partners, a healthy looking person can have HIV, a person can get HIV by using unsterilized needle/syringe, a person can get HIV by unsafe blood transfusion, HIV can transmitted from mother to baby during pregnancy, HIV can transmitted from mother to baby during delivery, HIV can transmitted from mother to baby during breastfeeding, teenagers are classified as high risk group in spreading HIV, homosexuals are classified as high risk group in spreading HIV, and unsafe anal sex spreads HIV more easily than unsafe vaginal sex.

## 5. Conclusions

Level of HIV knowledge among private university students is quiet high. Education and place of residents are most important factor to spread out about the HIV /AIDS. We basically focused on preventive aspects rather than curative aspects of HIV /AIDS. Still we are unable to introduce any medicine that is totally curable of HIV /AIDS.

## References

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