Awareness and Impact of HIV/AIDS Among The Teenagers In Ethiopia

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INTRODUCTION

Ethiopia is one of the sub-Sahara countries which is highly affected by HIV/AIDS. The rate of spread of HIV is increasing with a higher rate in the rural areas than in the urban areas. Nearly 34% of the teenagers are affected by this disease. The study is focused in ArbaMinch which is towards the south of Ethiopia. In the year 2003, 12% of the people who voluntarily tested were affected by this disease. This percentage was almost the same in 2006 also. But the number of females who were affected kept on fluctuating and it increased from 8% in 2002 to 19% by 2006 (Organization for Social Service for Aids, 2007). The major carriers of HIV are those aged between 25-49 years. But the infected people among the teenagers had fluctuated widely from 19% in 2002, 10% in 2003, and increased to 37% in 2004 and stands at 34% by 2006 (OSSA, 2007). Since the future of the country depends on the young generation, more awareness has to be created and they should abstain from sexual interaction at an early age or take adequate measures to avoid this dreaded disease.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The socio-economic development of any country is achieved through active participation of a community. HIV/AIDS is a major obstacle nowadays. In Ethiopia, socio- economic prosperity has been hindered by HIV/AIDS. Poverty and other economic problems can also be seen in ArbaMinch too. The low level of awareness of this epidemic on the other hand also aggravated the harmful effects and impact on the economy. This research is focused on analyzing the awareness of HIV/AIDS and to bring out the impact of that awareness among the teenagers in ArbaMinch.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are as follows;

➢ To identify the awareness among the students and the sources of HIV message.
➢ To find out the frequency of watching HIV message and the attitude of teenagers towars it.
➢ To determine whether message awareness has influenced the teenaged students.
➢ To identify the type of sexual relationships students are involved in.
➢ To find out the frequency of sexual interaction of the students.
➢ To find out whether they are adopting precautionary measures during their relationship.
➢ To determine the status of HIV from the students.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This research is oriented to understand the awareness of HIV/AIDS and its impact on people. This study throws light on issues like influence of HIV/AIDS message on the teenagers, precautionary measures taken by the them as well as to determine the status of HIV/AIDS. Since drastic measures are to be taken at the grass root level itself, more awareness will influence the teenagers who would be productive and potential citizens of the country. The analysis of this research and the suggestions proposed helps the government as well as organized bodies and associations undertaking HIV/AIDS awareness to focus more deeply on this epidemic disease. This research is also a stepping stone to undertake further research in a massive area to widen the awareness and impact of HIV/AIDS.

METHODOLOGY

The ArbaMinch Preparatory School (Secondary School) has a total strength of 3661 students. A sample size of 400 students from grades 9 upto 12th is considered as the ample size for the study. From each grade, 100 samples are taken, with equal number of males and females. The data is collected using a structured questionnaire which is distributed to the sample respondents. Simple random sampling is adopted for collecting the sample elements. The data analysis is interpreted with the help of statistical tools and hypothesis testing with chi-square.

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DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
I. Gender wise analysis

Table No.1.1 Gender and Source of HIV awareness

Source/gender	Males	Females	Total
Through media	33 (16)	25 (12)	58 (14)
Through School	17 (9)	34 (17)	51 (13)
Government bodies	7 (3)	10 (5)	17 (4)
All sources	143 (72)	131 (66)	274 (69)
Total	200	200	400

The above table No 1.1 highlights the source of HIV awareness of the sample respondents. 72% of the males are aware through all the sources mentioned above. Only 66% of the females are aware through all sources which is less than the average (69%). Ho: Males received HIV awareness through all sources than females. The calculated value of 2 (7.82) is greater than the critical value (7.81) at 5% level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is no relationship between the gender and sources of HIV awareness.

Table No.1.2 Media advertisement and gender

Opinion/gender	Yes	No	Total
Males	183 (92)	17 (8)	200
Females	185 (93)	15 (7)	200
Total	368 (92)	32 (8)	400

Table No. 1.3 Awareness through media

Media/gender	Males	Females	Total
Television	57 (29)	66 (33)	123 (31)
Radio	95 (47)	63 (32)	158 (39)
Newspaper	21 (11)	43 (21)	64 (16)
Wall posters	8 (4)	15 (8)	23 (6)
All sources	19 (9)	13 (6)	32 (8)
Total	200	200	400

The above table No 1.2 shows the gender wise awareness of HIV/AIDS message. 92% of the respondents are aware of it and only 8% of the respondents are not aware of it. 93% of the females are aware through media which is greater than the average (92%). Ho: Females are more exposed to media advertisement than males. The calculated value of χ^2 (0.13) is less than the critical value (3.84) at 5% level of significance with 1 degree of freedom. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted. It is concluded that females are more exposed to media advertisement than the males.

39% of the respondents got awareness through radio. 31% of them received awareness through television. 47% of the males become aware through radio medium and 33% of the females through television. Ho: Males received awareness about HIV/AIDS through radio and females got awareness through television. The calculated value of χ^2 (17.95) is greater than the critical value (9.49) at 5% level of significance with 4 degrees of freedom. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is no difference between gender and media awareness.

Table No.1.4 Gender wise frequency of exposure to HIV/AIDS message

Frequency/ gender	Watch frequently	Watch sometimes	Watch rarely	Total
Males	67 (33)	58 (29)	75 (38)	200
Females	109 (55)	56 (28)	35 (17)	200
Total	176 (44)	114 (29)	110 (27)	400

44% of the sample students watch the message frequently. 55% of the females and 33% of the males watch the message frequently. Thus females are more exposed to the message than males. Ho: Females watch HIV/AIDS message more frequently than males. The calculated value of χ^2 (24.60) is greater than the critical value (5.99) at 5% level of significance with 2 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is no difference in the exposure of message between the genders.

Table No.1.5 Attitude of gender towards HIV/AIDS message

Attitude/ gender	Watch carefully	Watch without interest	Ignore the advertisement	Total
Males	160 (80)	10 (5)	30 (15)	200
Females	160 (80)	9 (4)	31 (16)	200
Total	320 (80)	19 (5)	61 (15)	400

80% of the respondents stated that they watch the message carefully. 5% of them watch without interest and 15% of the students ignore the advertisement. This shows that there is awareness of the message among the teenagers. Ho: Both males and females watch the message carefully. The calculated value of χ^2 (0.069) is less than the critical value (5.99) at 5% level of significance with 2 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and it is inferred that both males and females watch the message carefully and there is no gender difference

regarding the attitude towards the message.

Table No.1.6 Gender influence on awareness

Opinion/gender	Influenced	Not influenced	Total
Males	111 (56)	89 (44)	200
Females	75 (37)	125 (63)	200
Total	186 (47)	214 (53)	400

Table No.1.7
Taking any precautionary measures

Opinion	Yes	No	Total
Males	183 (92)	17 (8)	200
Females	181 (91)	19 (9)	200
Total	364 (91)	36 (9)	400

47% of the students are influenced by the message. 53% of the students are not influenced by the message of HIV/AIDS. 56% of the males are influenced by the message which is greater than the average. Only 37% of the females are influenced by the message, which is less than the average (47%). 63% of the females are not influenced by the message. Ho: Males are more influenced by the HIV/AIDS message as they are more aware than their female counterparts. The calculated value of χ^2 (13.02) is greater than the critical value (3.84) at 5% level of significance with 1 degree of freedom. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is no gender difference in influence of the message.

It is clear from the above table No. 1.7 that 91% of the sample respondents take precautionary measures after watching the media message. 92% of the males opined that they take precautionary measures after watching the message which is greater than the average (91%). Ho: Males are more influenced by media message to take precautionary measures than females. The calculated value of χ^2 (0.12) is less than the critical value (3.84) at 5% level of significance with 1 degree of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and it is concluded that males are more influenced by media message to take precautionary measures than females.

Table No. 1.8
Discuss the message with others

Opinion	Yes	No	Total
Males	182 (91)	18 (9)	200
Females	194 (97)	6 (3)	200
Total	376 (94)	24 (6)	400

Table No 1.9 with whom they discuss

Discuss with	Males	Females	Total
Family members	25 (14)	73 (38)	98 (26)
Sex partner	7 (4)	6 (3)	13 (3)
Friends	92 (50)	72 (37)	164 (44)
To all	58 (32)	43 (22)	101 (27)
Total	182 (48)	194 (52)	376

94% of the students discuss the message of HIV/AIDS with others. 94% of the males discuss with others which is less than the average. 97% of the females discuss the message with others which is greater than the average (94%). Ho: Females discuss the HIV/AIDS message with others more than males. The calculated value of χ^2 (6.38) is greater than the critical value (3.84) at 5% level of significance with 1 degree of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is no gender difference in discussing the message with others.

From the table it can be inferred that 48% of the male students discuss the message with others and 52% of the females discuss with others. 50% of the males discuss with their friends while only 37% of females discuss with friends. 38% of the females discuss the message with their family members while only 14% of the males discuss with family members. Ho: Males discuss HIV/AIDS message with friends and females with family members. The calculated value of χ^2 (27.89) is greater than the critical value (7.81) at 5% level of significance with 3 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is no gender difference regarding the discussion of message with others.

Table No 1.10 Practically adopt

Opinion	Yes	No	Total
Males	139 (70)	61 (30)	200
Females	152 (76)	48 (24)	200
Total	291 (73)	109 (27)	400

Table No. 1.11 Type of sexual relationship

Gender/ relationship	with one person	with more people	No sexual relationship so far	Total
Males	127 (64)	15 (7)	58 (29)	200
Females	109 (55)	5 (2)	86 (43)	200
Total	236 (59)	20 (5)	144 (36)	400

The above table shows the opinion of the students whether they practically adopt what they received from the message. 73% of the students stated that they practically adopt what is conveyed through the message and 27% of them mentioned that they do not practically adopt the message. 76% of the females stated that they practically adopt the message which is greater than the average and 70% of the males opined that they practically adopt what is advised in the message and their percentage is below the average (73%). Ho: Females are more inclined to adopt the HIV/AIDS message practically than males. The calculated value of χ^2 (2.13) is less than the critical value (3.84) at 5% level of significance with 1 degree of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and it is concluded that females adopt the HIV/AIDS message more practically than males. The table 1.11 shows the type

of sexual relationship of the students. 59% of the students were involved in sexual relationship with one person. 5% of the students were involved with multiple partners. 36% of them did not have any kind of sexual relationship so far. 64% of the males are involved in sex with one person, that is greater than the average and 55% of the females have sexual relationship with one person that is less than the average (59%). Ho: Males are more involved in sexual interaction than females. The calculated value of χ^2 (11.81) is greater than the critical value (5.99) at 5% level of significance with 2 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is no difference between gender and the type of sexual relationship.

Table No 1.12 Frequency of sexual intercourse

Frequency	Regularly	Sometimes	rarely	Total
Male	17 (12)	49 (34)	76 (54)	142 (55)
Females	7 (6)	47 (41)	60 (53)	114 (45)
Total	24 (9)	96 (38)	136 (53)	256

9% of the students were involved in sexual intercourse regularly regularly, and 38% of the students have sexual relationship sometimes. 58% of the students have it rarely. 12% of the males have sexual relationship regularly while only 6% of the females have it regularly. Ho: Males are regularly involved in having sexual intercourse than females. The calculated value of χ^2 (3.06) is less than the critical value (5.99) at 5% level of significance with 2 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and it is concluded that males are more involved in regular sexual intercourse than females.

Table No 1.13 Usage of Protection (condoms/contraceptives)

Usage/ Gender	Use regularly	Use sometimes	sex with multiple partners	Total
Males	90 (64)	36 (25)	16 (11)	142 (55)
Females	66 (58)	42 (37)	6 (5)	114 (45)
Total	156 (61)	78 (30)	22 (9)	256

The table No1.13 shows the usage of condoms/contraceptives by the students when having sex. 61% of the respondents use it regularly. 30% of them use it sometimes; and 9% use it when having intercourse with multiple partners.64% of the males use condom regularly which is greater than the average. 58% of the females use contraceptives while indulging in sexual intercourse, which is less than the average (61%). Ho: Males use condoms regularly as compared to contraceptive use by females. The calculated value of χ^2 (5.70) is less than the critical value (5.99) at 5% level of significance with 2 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and it is concluded that males use condoms during intercourse regularly than the precautionary measures adopted by females.

Table No 1.14 Undergone a test for HIV/AIDS

Opinion	Yes	No	Total
Males	104 (52)	96 (48)	200
Females	110 (55)	90 (45)	200
Total	214 (54)	186 (46)	400

Table No 1.15 Status of HIV/AIDS Opinion

Opinion	Positive	Negative	No idea	Total
Males	12 (6)	80 (40)	108 (54)	200
Females	10 (5)	88 (44)	102 (51)	200
Total	22 (5)	168 (42)	210 (53)	400

54% of the respondents stated that they had undergone a test for HIV/AIDS. Remaining 46% of them did not undertake a test so far. Among the males, 52% of them had undergone a test which is less than the average (54%). 55% of the females underwent a test on HIV. Ho: Females are more inclined to undergo a HIV test than males. The calculated value of χ^2 (0.36) is less than the critical value (3.84) at 5% level of significance with 1 degree of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and it is concluded that females are more inclined to undergo HIV test than males.

Among the sample respondents, the HIV status of 5% is positive. 42% of them stated that their status is negative. But 53% of the students do not know the status of HIV since they haven't tested so far or were unable to recall the status. HIV status is positive for 5% of the females and among the males, it is 6% which is greater than the average (5%). Similarly 44% of the females stated they tested negative while only 40% of males stated that their status as negative. Ho: HIV is positive more for males than females. The calculated value of χ^2 (0.73) is less than the critical value (5.99) at 5% level of significance with 2 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and it is concluded that HIV is positive more for males than females.

Table No 2.1 Age and gender

Age/Gender	Males	Females	Total
13-15	28 (14)	45 (22)	73 (18)
16-18	132 (66)	141 (71)	273 (68)
>19	40 (20)	14 (7)	54 (14)
Total	200 (50)	200 (50)	400

II. Age wise analysis

18% of the students are in the age range of 13-15 years. 68% of them are in the age group of 16-18 and remaining 14% of the respondents are aged more than 19 years. 66% of the males are in the age group of 16-18; 14% are in the age group of 13-15 and 20% are more than 19 years. Among the females, 71% are in the age group of 16-18; 22% in the age group of 13-15 and remaining 7% are greater than 19 years.

Table No 2.2 Source of awareness, age wise

Age/ Source	13-15	16-18	>19	Total
Media	7 (9)	44 (16)	7 (13)	58 (14)
School	15 (21)	32 (12)	4 (7)	51 (13)
Govt. bodies	2 (3)	14 (5)	1 (2)	17 (4)
All sources	49 (67)	183 (67)	42 (78)	274 (69)
Total	73 (18)	273 (68)	54 (14)	400

Table No. 2.3 Awareness through media

Media/age	13-15	16-18	>19	Total
Television	27 (37)	86 (32)	10 (18)	123 (31)
Radio	16 (22)	113 (41)	29 (54)	158 (39)
Newspaper	19 (26)	37 (13)	8 (15)	64 (16)
Wall posters	5 (7)	16 (6)	2 (4)	23 (6)
All sources	6 (8)	21 (8)	5 (9)	32 (8)
Total	73 (18)	273 (68)	54 (14)	400

67% of the students in the age group 13-15 and 16-18 receive the message through all sources; 78% of the students aged above 19 years receive from all sources. 21% of the students aged 13-15 years got awareness from schools, whereas only 7% of students aged above 19 years receive information from school. Ho: Students aged above 19 years receive awareness through all sources than the teenagers. The calculated value of χ^2 (9.11) is less than the critical value (12.59) at 5% level of significance with 6 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. Thus it is inferred that students above 19 years received awareness about HIV more than the teenagers. 39% of the students got awareness through radio media. 31% of them got awareness through television. 37% of the students aged 13-15 received awareness through television media whereas 41% of the students aged 16-18 and 54% of the students aged more than 19 years got awareness through radio media. Ho: Students aged 13-15 years received more awareness about HIV through Television media and others received through radio. The calculated value of χ^2 (18.67) is greater than the critical value (15.51) at 5% level of significance with 8 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. It is inferred that there is no relation between the age group and the sources of media awareness.

Table No 2.4 Media advertisement and age

Age/media	Yes	No	Total
13-15	67 (92)	6 (8)	73 (18)
16-18	252 (92)	21 (8)	273 (68)
>19	49 (91)	5 (9)	54 (14)
Total	368 (92)	32 (8)	400

Table No 2.5 Age wise frequency of exposure Frequency

Frequency /age	Watch frequently	Watch sometimes	Watch rarely	Total
13-15	30 (41)	22 (30)	21 (29)	73 (18)
16-18	125 (46)	78 (29)	70 (25)	273 (68)
>19	21 (39)	14 (26)	19 (35)	54 (14)
Total	176 (44)	114 (29)	110 (27)	400

The table No.2.4 reveals that 92% of the students aged between 13-15 are aware of HIV through advertisement. 91% of the students aged above 19 years are also aware about HIV through advertisement. This shows that HIV advertisement has created a mass awareness among the masses.

41% of the respondents aged 13-15 watch the advertisement frequently. 46% of the students aged 16-18 years watch the advertisement frequently, which is greater than the average (44%). 39% of the students aged more than 19 years watch the advertisements frequently which is less than the average. Ho: students aged 16-18 watch the advertisement of HIV frequently than others. The calculated value of χ^2 (2.39) is less than the critical value (9.49) at 5% level of significance with 4 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and hence it is concluded that students aged 16-18 are more exposed to HIV message since they watch the message frequently than others.

Table No 2.6 Attitude towards HIV/AIDS message age wise

Attitude/age	Watch carefully	Watch without interest	Ignore the advertisement	Total
13-15	55 (75)	6 (8)	12 (17)	73 (18)
16-18	220 (81)	9 (3)	44 (16)	273 (68)
>19	45 (83)	4 (8)	5 (9)	54 (14)
Total	320 (80)	19 (5)	61 (15)	400

83% of the students aged more than 19 years watch the message content of HIV carefully which is greater than the average (80%). Only 75% of the students aged 13-15 years watch the HIV message carefully. 81% of the students aged 16-18 watch the advertisement carefully. Ho: Students aged above 19 years watch the HIV message

Table No. 2.7 Age wise influence of awareness

Opinion/ age	Influenced	Not influenced	Total
13-15	25 (34)	48 (66)	73 (18)
16-18	130 (48)	143 (52)	273 (68)
>19	31 (57)	23 (43)	54 (14)
Total	186 (46)	214 (54)	400

Table No. 2.8 Taking precautionary measures

Age/opinion	Yes	No	Total
13-15	62 (85)	11 (15)	73 (18)
16-18	251 (92)	22 (8)	273 (68)
>19	51 (94)	3 (6)	54 (14)
Total	364 (91)	36 (9)	400

carefully than others. The calculated value of χ^2 (5.62) is less than the critical value (9.49) at 5% level of significance with 4 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and hence it is inferred that students aged more than 19 years give more importance to the HIV message and they watch it carefully more than the teenagers. The above table No. 2.7 shows the influence of HIV message among the age groups. 46% of the students are influenced by the message whereas 54% of them are not influenced by the message. 57% of the students aged above 19 years are influenced by the message.48% of the students aged 16-18 are influenced by the awareness of HIV message. Only 34% of the students in the age group 13-15 are influenced which is less than the average (46%). Ho: Students aged above 19 years are highly influenced by the HIV message than others. The calculated value of χ^2 (7.12) is greater than the critical value (5.99) at 5% level of significance with 2 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and inferred that there is no relation between age and the message influence. Among the different age groups, 94% of the students aged more than 19 years take precautionary measures when they are involved in sexual relationship which is higher than the average. 85% of the students aged 13-15 use precautionary measures which is less than the average (91%). Ho: Students aged above 19 years take precautionary measures more than teenagers. The calculated value of χ^2 (4.36) is less than the critical value (5.99) at 5% level of significance with 2 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and it is inferred that students above 19 years are more cautious during sexual relationship in taking precautionary measures than teenagers.

Table 2.9 Discuss the message with others

Age/opinion	Yes	No	Total
13-15	68 (93)	5 (7)	73 (18)
16-18	255 (93)	18 (7)	273 (68)
>19	53 (98)	1 (2)	54 (14)
Total	376 (94)	24 (6)	400

Table No 2.10 with whom they discuss

Age/ discuss	13-15	16-18	>19	Total
Family members	22 (32)	65 (25)	11 (21)	98 (26)
Sex partner	2 (3)	9 (4)	2 (4)	13 (3)
Friends	30 (44)	112 (44)	22 (41)	164 (44)
with all	14 (21)	69 (27)	18 (34)	101 (27)
Total	68 (18)	255 (68)	53 (14)	376

The above table no 2.9 shows the discussion of message with other members based on their age. 98% of the students above 19 years of age discuss the HIV message with others. 93% of the respondents in the age group of both 13-15 years and 16-18 discuss the message with others which is less than the average (94%). Ho: Students aged more than 19 years discuss the HIV message with others more than the teenagers. The calculated value of χ^2 (1.91) is less than the critical value (5.99) at 5% level of significance with 2 degrees of freedom. Thus it is inferred that students above 19 years discuss the HIV message with others more than teenagers.

18% of the students aged 13-15 years discuss it with others; 68% of the sample respondents aged 16-18 and 14% of the students above 19 years discuss with others. 44% of the students aged 13-15 and 16-18 discuss with their friends. 41% of the students above 19 years discuss with friends. Ho: All the students of different age groups discuss with their friends than other members. The calculated value of χ^2 (3.76) is less than the critical value (12.59) at 5% level of significance with 6 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. It is inferred that all the students of different age groups discuss the HIV message more with their friends than with other members.

Table No 2.11 Practically adopt

Age/opinion	Yes	No	Total
13-15	49 (67)	24 (33)	73 (18)
16-18	200 (73)	73 (27)	273 (68)
>19	42 (78)	12 (22)	54 (14)
Total	291 (73)	109 (27)	400

78% of the students above 19 years practically adopt the message that they are aware of. 67% of the students in the age group 13-15 practically imbibe what is preached through the message which is less than the average (73%). Ho: Students above19 years adopt the message practically in their sexual interaction than the teenagers. The

calculated value of χ^2 (1.89) is less than the critical value (5.99) at 5% level of significance with 2 degrees of freedom. Thus it is inferred that students above 19 years practically adopt the message in their sexual relation than the teenagers.

Table No. 2.12 Type of sexual relationship

Age/Type of relationship	Sex with one person	Sex with more people	No sexual relationship so far	Total
13-15	44 (60)	2 (3)	27 (37)	73 (18)
16-18	152 (56)	15 (5)	106 (39)	273 (68)
>19	40 (74)	3 (6)	11 (20)	54 (14)
Total	236 (59)	20 (5)	144 (36)	400

The table 2.12 shows the type of sexual relationship based on the age groups. 74% of the students above 19 years have sexual intercourse with only one person which is greater than the average. 60% of the students aged 13-15 years have relationship with only one person; whereas 56% of the students aged 16-18 have the relation with a single person only. 6% of the students above 19 years are involved in sexual relation with multiple partners. Ho: Students above 19 years have sexual interaction with one or more people than the other age groups. The calculated value of χ^2 (7.81) is less than the critical value (9.49) at 5% level of significance with 4 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and hence it is inferred that students above 19 years have more sexual interaction with one or more people than the teenagers.

Table No 2.13 Frequency of having sex

Age/Frequency	Regularly	Sometimes	Rarely	Total
13-15	3 (7)	20 (43)	23 (50)	46 (18)
16-18	13 (8)	59 (35)	95 (57)	167 (65)
>19	8 (19)	17 (39)	18 (42)	43 (17)
Total	24 (9)	96 (38)	136 (53)	256

19% of the students above 19 years are involved in regular sex which is greater than the average (9%). 8% of the students aged 16-18 and only 3% of the students aged 13-15 years are having regular sexual intercourse. 57% of the students aged 16-18 are rarely involved in sex. Ho: Students above 19 years are involved in regular sex than others and those aged 16-18 are having it rarely. The calculated value of χ^2 (7.00) is less than the critical value (9.49) at 5% level of significance with 4 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and hence it is inferred that the frequency of regular sex is more for students above 19 years. Also it is inferred that students aged 16-18 are having sexual interaction rarely than others.

Table No 2.14 Usage of condoms/contraceptives

Usage/ age	Use regularly	Use sometimes	with others	Total
13-15	23 (50)	21 (46)	2 (4)	46 (18)
16-18	107 (64)	45 (27)	15 (9)	167 (65)
>19	26 (60)	12 (28)	5 (12)	43 (17)
Total	156 (61)	78 (30)	22 (9)	256

64% of the students aged 16-18 use protection regularly which is greater than the average (61%). 60% of the students above 19 years use precautionary measures regularly; 50% of the students aged 13-15 use it regularly. Ho: Students aged 16-18 years use safety measures regularly during sexual relationship more than the other age groups. The calculated value of χ^2 (6.88) is less than the critical value (9.49) at 5% level of significance with 4 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and hence it is inferred that students aged 16-18 are using safety measures regularly than the other age groups. This also reveals that students above 19 years are not giving much importance for using safety measures during sex than the teenagers.

Table 2.15 Undergone a test for HIV/AIDS

Age/ opinion	Yes	No	Total
13-15	45 (62)	28 (38)	73 (18)
16-18	142 (52)	131 (48)	273 (68)
>19	27 (50)	27 (50)	54 (14)
Total	214 (54)	186 (46)	400

Table No 2.16 Status of HIV/AIDS Opinion

Opinion	Positive	Negative	No idea	Total
13-15	6 (8)	30 (41)	37 (51)	73 (18)
16-18	14 (5)	116 (43)	143 (52)	273 (68)
>19	2 (4)	22 (41)	30 (55)	54 (14)
Total	22 (5)	168 (42)	210 (53)	400

62% of the students aged 13-15 underwent a test for HIV which is greater than the average (54%). 52% of those aged 16-18 and 50% of the students aged more than 19 years had a test for HIV. Ho: Students aged 13-15 are more inclined to conduct a test for HIV than the other age groups. The calculated value of χ^2 (2.45) is less than the

critical value (5.99) at 5% level of significance with 2 degrees of freedom. It is concluded that students aged 13-15 are more induced to undergo HIV test than the other age groups. The above table No 2.16 shows the status of HIV among the various age groups. 8% of the students aged 13-15 years are HIV positive which is greater than the average (5%). 5% of the students aged 16-18 are HIV positive and 4% of them aged more than 19 years are positive. 41% of the students above 19 years and 43% of the students aged 16-18 stated their status as negative. Ho: Students aged 13-15 are HIV positive more than other age groups. The calculated value of χ^2 (1.55) is less than the critical value (9.49) at 5% level of significance with 4 degrees of freedom. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted and hence it can be concluded that students aged 13-15 are HIV positive more than other age group students. More than 50% of the students don't have any idea regarding the status of HIV.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The major findings of the study are as follows;

➢ 69% of the students are aware about HIV through media, school and other government bodies. 92% of them are exposed through media advertisement and females are more exposed to it than males. Students aged above 19 years received more awareness about HIV than others. 39% of the students received message through radio and 31% through television media.

➢ 44% of the students watch the message frequently. Both males and females watch the HIV/AIDS message carefully. Students aged 16-18 years are more exposed to HIV message because they watch the message more frequently than others. Students aged above 19 years watch the message content more carefully than the teenagers.

➢ 47% of the students are influenced by HIV/AIDS message. 53% of the remaining students are not influenced. Thus the awareness has not influenced the students profoundly in their practical life.

➢ 59% of the students are involved in sex with one person. 5% of the students are involved in sexual relationship with more people. 36% of the remaining students are not involved in any sexual relationship. It is proved that students aged above 19 years are involved in sexual relationship with one or more partners than the teenagers.

➢ 9% of the students engage in regular sexual intercourse. 38% of them have it sometimes; and 53% of them are involved in sexual relation rarely. It is proved that males are involved in regular sex than females. The frequency of regular sexual intercourse is more for students aged above 19 years. Students aged 16-18 are having sexual relationship rarely than others.

➢ 84% of the students use precaution while having sex. Students aged above 19 years take less precautionary measures than the other age groups. 61% of the students use condoms/contraceptives regularly during intercourse. 3% of them use it sometimes; and remaining 9% use it rarely. It is proved that males use condoms and take more precautionary measures than females. Students aged 16-18 are using safety measures during sexual intercourse than other age groups.

➢ Among the sample respondents, the HIV status of 5% is positive. 42% of them stated that their status is negative. But 53% of the students do not know the status of HIV since they haven't tested so far or were unable to recall the status. It is concluded that HIV is positive more for males than females. Students aged 13-15 are HIV positive more than other age group of students.

CONCLUSION

The challenges that the youth in Ethiopia faces are somehow related with HIV/AIDS. The study has focused on the awareness of HIV/AIDS message among the teenagers in ArbaMinch, Ethiopia. As it is a global issue, proper awareness should be given not only among the teenagers, but also to all the age groups irrespective of the gender. There is a good awareness level in ArbaMinch but there is a low level of behavioral change since there is high stigmatization of those people who are affected by the HIV virus. Moreover, 53% of the teenagers are unaware of their HIV/AIDS status. 5% of them are affected by this virus. One of the effective ways to intensify the awareness of HIV/AIDS is by inculcating in their curriculum the dangers of unsafe sex and modes of transmission of this disease not only in Ethiopia but throughout the world. The government should also take strong measures by providing free testing of HIV/AIDS and offering voluntary counseling centers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

➢ Through networked groups of young people, counseling/information should be provided about HIV/AIDS and this can be used as an effective tool for improving HIV/AIDS environment. The government should start free medical camps to test the status of the people regarding HIV/AIDS and should provide suggestive measures.

➤ Rehabilitation centers should be started and adequate medical facilities should be provided to all throughout the country.

➤ The government should generate employment through opening up of more small-scale industries. This will help people abstain from prostitution which is a means of earning.

➤ Aids Clubs which are organized in educational institutions should also promote massive awareness which helps the public to avoid unsafe sex practices.

➤ Since the message has not influenced 53% of the target audience, proper precautionary measures should be adopted to curb the spread of the disease.

➤ 59% of the sample respondents are involved with one person in their sexual relationship. 5% had multiple partners. Moreover, males are involved in regular sexual interaction than the females. Only 84% of them use precaution during intercourse. Since the teenagers are more exposed to sexual interaction, precautionary measures should be taken.

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