

ABSTRACT

Uganda through the ministry of health has shown great courage and potential in fighting HIV infections by initiating campaigns against HIV infections, provision of VCT services etc. However, HIV infections in the Ugandan population have continued to rise as 7.2% of Uganda's population is living with HIV (AVERT, 2012).

The main objective of this study was to determine the level of awareness of the secondary school students aged 18 to 20 years in Kingo Sub-County on the spread and prevention of HIV/AIDS. Specific objectives were to determine the level of awareness of secondary school students aged 18 to 20 years on HIV mode of spread in Kingo sub-county, Lwengo district and to determine the level of awareness of secondary school students aged 18 to 20 years in Kingo Sub-County, on the different preventative measures of HIV. The study was conducted in three secondary schools that acted as samples to represent the various schools in the whole sub-county.

In this study, well designed questionnaires and Focus Group Discussions were employed as the major tools of data collection. My study population comprised of secondary school students of the age bracket 18 to 20 years in Kingo Sub Country irrespective of their different sexes. The collected raw data were cleaned and entered at the end of each day using Microsoft excel to avoid any time lags. All respondents were informed of their rights like beneficence, justice and confidentiality before their acceptance to participate. They all had to consent and were informed of their choice to withdraw from the research at any time on their will. Out of the 150 students who were sampled, 83(55.3%) mentioned sexual intercourse, breast feeding from an infected mother and transfusion with infected blood as the means of HIV infection spread.

Study findings also showed that 82(54.6%) mentioned abstinence from sex, being faithful to one partner as the means of preventing HIV infection. Out of 150 students, 83(55.3%) mentioned showering after sexual intercourse and regular praying and attendance of church services as the false means of preventing HIV infection.

The researcher therefore, recommends campaigns against HIV/AIDS to be initiated on a term basis to all secondary school students starting from S.1 to S.6. This will equip students with vast information on HIV/AIDS and create maximum awareness in them.