

HIV/AIDS:

More than twenty six years after the first clinical evidence of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome was reported, AIDS has become one of the most devastating diseases humankind has ever faced. Since the epidemic began, more than 60 million people have been infected with the virus. HIV/AIDS has become the fourth-largest cause of death worldwide.

Adolescence is not the exception. In adolescence the period of development marked at the beginning by the onset of puberty and at the end of the attainment of physiological or psychological maturity. Physical, psychological, and social attributes of adolescence make young people particularly vulnerable to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Adolescents often are not able to comprehend fully the extent of their exposure to risk. Societies often compound young people's risk by making it difficult for them to learn about HIV/AIDS and reproductive health. Moreover, many youth are socially inexperienced and dependent on others. Peer pressures easily influence them—often in ways that can increase their risk.

All countries can and must develop strategies to address HIV/AIDS. The health sector alone cannot overcome this epidemic. Now is the time to act. It is already too late for many youth. Even if HIV risk were cut in half by 2015, in some countries 20% to 80% of today's 15 year old boys still die of AIDS. In some places the prospect for youth who survive are declining as teachers and other leaders die of AIDS and as productivity slows. Only acting decisively now to control HIV can ensure that today's young people will have a future as adults. HIV/AIDS is hitting the world's young people hardest. More than half of the 14,000 people newly infected each day are under 25 years old; most of them are girls. But despite the disproportionate burden they carry—and the fact that they are more likely than adults to adopt and maintain safe behaviour – young people are routinely disregarded when strategies on HIV/AIDS are drafted, policies made and budgets allocated.

Awareness is the only weapon to combat this disease. So S. B. Devi Charity Home has taken it up as a challenge of bringing HIV/AIDS awareness to the school children. In our society, teachers and parents feel awkward to discuss such matters.

An HIV/AIDS intervention programme amongst the adolescence has become essential. We feel that through these interventions we are able to bring awareness to a large number of girls and boys, and to make them aware of the danger that awaits them in the outer world. Our main intention of holding such prevention programmes is to increased students knowledge about HIV/ AIDS. So far we are able to conduct several intervention programmes in different schools and colleges. Usually in schools we cover the students of standard VIII, IX, X. recently we had conduct an intervention programme. Here is an overview of our school intervention programme at Gurbachan Singh Sondhi Girls School:

Phase – I: In this phase intervention was done in classes (two sections of Class – VIII and two sections of Class – IX). In Class – VIII a total of 53 students and in Class – IX a total of 60 students were present.

Initially pre-intervention existing knowledge on HIV / AIDS of the students was assessed with the help of a structured questionnaire which includes the questions on General Perception on HIV / AIDS, route of transmission of HIV / AIDS in human and the attitude towards the HIV / AIDS patients.

In the next step the facilitators discussed the following aspects of HIV / AIDS:

- ❖ History & Origin
- ❖ Modes of transmission
- ❖ Prevention & Condom Promotion
- ❖ Universal precautions
- ❖ Preventive measures
- ❖ Factors not responsible for transmission
- ❖ Early Symptoms & Diagnosis
- ❖ Post Exposure Prophylaxis
- ❖ Care & Support for PLWHA

In addition, doctor discussed regarding the menstrual hygiene, the psychologist discussed regarding the psychological problems of the adolescent girls and the nutritionist discussed regarding the adolescent nutrition.

Phase – II: In this phase visual presentation was done on the Facts and Myths of HIV / AIDS through Power Point presentation. During this session the students of Class – VI and Class – VII in addition to Class – VIII and Class – IX were also present in a common gathering.

Phase – III: This phase was an interactive session for the students with the facilitators. Various queries were raised by the students and the facilitators answered their all queries and cleared their doubts in full extent.

Some students expressed their own views with logic confidently on the subject which they learned throughout the intervention programme, which reflected the success of the programme.

Conclusions:

1. On an average pre-assessment before intervention knowledge on HIV / AIDS of the students was satisfactory.
2. Students were very much attentive and showed immense interest during each phase of the intervention programme.
3. Majority of the students can be brought up as peer educators with little more interventions and interactions.
4. Schools authorities and the teachers showed immense interest throughout the programme.

The following resource persons from S. B. Devi Charity Home conducted the intervention programme:

Mr. Sekhar Chattopadhyay	General Secretary
Ms. Judith Heil	Basel Medical College, Switzerland
Dr Gitali Roy Mitra	Programme Supervisor
Dr. Ajoy Mukherjee	Senior Researcher
Dr. Bikas Basu	Monitor- Public Health In Prostitute Area (PHPA)
Dr. Nityananda Paul	Monitor- Health Check Up Programme for School Children
Dr. Tapas Jana	In-Charge Health Check Up Programme for School Children
Mrs. Moumi Chakraborty	Psychologist
Mrs. Sonali Majumder	Nutritionist
Mrs. Gail Grey	P.A. To The General Secretary

**Report of the pre-assessment before intervention on HIV / AIDS
At GSS Girls School**

Class: VIII

Sr. NO.	Name	Marks obtained (%)
1	Samarpita Dey	85
2	Sayeri Dey	90
3	Khushboo Agarwal	95
4	Tania Sarkar	100
5	Jayati Mudali	90
6	Sanjana Roy	85
7	S. Swarnagouri	100
8	Shrinkhala Agarwal	95
9	Snehal Bothra	70
10	Elizabeth S A Kujur	60
11	Subarna Banerjee	75
12	Paromita Biswas	75
13	Sraddha Guha	90
14	Urmila Chatterjee	60
15	Parna Nag	75
16	Dipsikha Ghosh	90
17	Piyali Das	70
18	Archita Dutta	80
19	Neha Kanodia	100
20	Puja Kaul	85
21	Swati Ved	95
22	Neha Gupta	55

23	Debanjana Roychowdhury	90
24	Reshma Chaudhury	90
25	Manarupa Kar	100
26	Madhumanti Roy	90
27	Ankita Sonthalia	85
28	Sidmika Chhibber	95
29	Monjima Roy	55
30	Ruplekha Mukherjee	55
31	Sangeeta Roy	85
32	Priyanka Gupta	65
33	Debopriya Ghosh	55
34	Menakshi Shroff	60
35	Priyanka Sadhwani	95
36	Annyesha Pal	80
37	Madhuja Ghosh	90
38	Puja Singh	90
39	Baishakhi Kundu	80
Sr. NO.	Name	Marks obtained (%)
40	Pallabi Roy Chaudhuri	85
41	Pooja Sharma	95
42	Shreya Agarwal	75
43	Sreejaya Roy	90
44	Puja Agarwal	55
45	Koyel Roy	90
46	Pallavi Jhavar	70
47	Soumi Mitra	90
48	Manali Munshi	75
49	Amrita Sinha	100
50	Moumita Bose	85
51	Sneha Das	45
52	Shristee Rai	100
53	Abantika Chatterjee	85

Class: IX

Sr. NO.	Name	Marks obtained (%)
1	Debosmita Dutta	80
2	Ranita Sengupta	95
3	Sarbani Majumdar	85
4	Hena Kedia	45
5	Arna Choudhuri	100
6	Pooja Abhani	70
7	Mohana Dey	95

8	Debosmita Chakraborty	95
9	Choitali Dutta	80
10	Sofia Ghosh Roychoudhuri	70
11	Priyal Doshi	80
12	Esha Bera	80
13	Anjana Das	80
14	Reshmi Nag	85
15	Anushree Maitra	85
16	Keerthi Bojja	90
17	Nidhi Chowdhury	75
18	Anjali Prasad	85
19	Isha Rajwani	95
20	Aayushi Priyam Shaw	85
21	Sweta Ghosh Roy Chowdhury	75
22	Trisha Agarwal	80
23	Rasmi Singh	85
24	Prabha Shaw	95
Sr. NO.	Name	Marks obtained (%)
25	Pragya Singh	100
26	Pallabi Banerjee	95
27	Devapriya Datta	95
28	Namrata Kumar	100