

ABSTRACT

Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of boys and girls aged 8-9 years with regard to their sexual behavior and risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS.

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The apparent increase in the prevalence of STDs and the new epidemic HIV/AIDS are definite causes for public concern. This study compares the knowledge, attitudes and practices of boys and girls aged 8-9 years with regard to sexual behavior and their risk of acquiring AIDS.

Sixty five students (34 boys, 31 girls) within the age range 8-9 years were selected from grades 2, 3 and 4, at August Town Primary School. Personal interviews with a standard questionnaire were conducted at the school with the consent of the parents.

The girls scored marginally higher on the questionnaire than the boys, but there were no statistically significant differences. Parents were rated second to radio and television by their children as a first source of information about sex.

Sexual approaches were experienced by 65% of the sample, with 15% actually becoming involved sexually.

There were more boys (18%) than girls (13%) involved in such activity. The risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS through sexual involvement is possible as 15% of those who were approached for sexual relationships responded.

Insufficient knowledge and negative attitudes towards HIV/AIDS victims by some of the 8-9 years old can be considered risk factors of acquiring the disease.