

ABSTRACT

A comparison of knowledge, attitudes and practices of pregnant women attending an urban and a rural antenatal clinic regarding mother to child transmission and HIV

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The increasing number of HIV cases is creating havoc in countries around the world and especially in the developing countries. The number of women being infected is increasing daily as is the number of infected babies being born. As a result of this situation women must be a priority target group in any prevention strategy geared at reducing the incidence of HIV and pediatric AIDS.

The aim of this study was to compare the knowledge, attitudes, and practices between urban and rural pregnant women with respect to knowledge, attitudes and fears concerning HIV/AIDS and behaviors concerning condom use.

A cross sectional study was done in which one hundred and fifty-one pregnant women attending two antenatal clinics were systematically sampled to participate in the study. A thirty-four-point interviewer administered questionnaire was used as the instrument of data collection.

The study showed that the majority, 94.2% of the respondents from the urban sample and 93.6% of the respondent from the rural sample were knowledgeable about HIV transmission. The data showed that the sexual practices of the women in the urban area were different from those of the rural area. In both samples they had strong belief that condom should be used at all times, even during pregnancy.

From the results of the study five major recommendations were made which included the formulation and reorganization of educational programmes by the Ministry of Health, South East Regional Health Authority and Non-Governmental organizations on the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS for pregnant women and their partners.

Key Words: Comparison, Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices, Pregnant, Urban, Rural, HIV, Mother To Child Transmission.