

# A study to assess the knowledge and practices of the nurses on universal precautions to prevent HIV/ AIDS at labour rooms in selected hospitals of Raichur.

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## INTRODUCTION

Day to day work practices of the nurses are not very safe while handling blood and fluids and secretions of all patients. We may not know which patient is a carrier of HIV infection in hospital (conducting deliveries, performing operations upon them). To decrease the risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS infection, it is important that safer work practices (universal precautions) are implemented with all kinds of patient care activities.

**NEED FOR STUDY:** According to AIDS control society, Hyderabad (1998) the delivery of a child is a more or less crisis management as within a period of few minutes there is an outpouring of approximately one litre of amniotic fluid, half of a litre of blood, moreover the child is slippery, the sharp instruments are around, and everyone including the expectant mother in the delivery is tense. Thus, at this time, the persons who are conducting the delivery may get splashes of potentially infected blood and amniotic fluid and even cuts. In view of all short time available for delivery and related procedure the chances of exposure to HIV and other bloodborn infections are much higher during deliveries than any other situations. In view of critically of the situation nurses who are working in labour room have to follow the universal precautions to protect themselves because, prevention is the mainstay of strategy to avoid occupational exposure to blood and body fluids while providing medical services.

## OBJECTIVES

- To assess the knowledge and practices of nurses regarding AIDS and universal precautions to prevent HIV/AIDS.
- To explore the relationship between the knowledge and

practices of nurses regarding universal precautions to prevent HIV/AIDS.

- To identify the relationship between the knowledge and practices of nurses regarding universal precautions with selected demographic variables.

## HYPOTHESIS

**H1.** There will be significant association in the knowledge and practices level of the nurses with selected demographic variables such as professional education, inservice training and working in different institutions.

**H2.** There is significant difference between knowledge and application of universal precaution practices by nurses.

## ASSUMPTIONS

1. The nurses will have some knowledge regarding universal precautions.
2. The nurses will practice some of the universal precautions to prevent HIV/AIDS at labour room.
3. The selected variables such as age, professional education, work experience at labour room, in-service training, type of institution will influence on the knowledge and practices of the nurses regarding universal precautions.

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The theory chosen for the study is "Arther Coombs," humanistic learning theory.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Reviews was collected and organized under the following headings

- Studies related to knowledge and practices regarding universal precautions
- Studies related to knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS
- Studies related to practices of universal precautions at labour rooms.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research approach : Descriptive survey approach

Research design : Non experimental design was selected for the present study

## Sample and sampling technique:

Sample: Sample size was 30 labour room nurses (6 from Government hospital and 24 from private hospitals).

Sampling technique : Purposive sampling technique of non probability sampling.



**Inclusion criteria**

- Nurses working at labour rooms in selected government and private hospitals.
- Samples available during the period of data collection.
- Nurses who are willing to participate in the study.

**Exclusion Criteria**

- Nurses who are not willing to participate in the study.
- Nurses who are not qualified to work at labour rooms and are working at certain private hospitals.

Setting of the study: Government hospitals at Raichur, private maternity hospitals at Nandini and Bandari.

Method of data collection: A self structured interview schedule and observational check list.

Tool used for the study

**section-A** Consist 3 sections.

- Demographic variables of the nurses.
- Dealt with assessment of data in relation to knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS
- Dealt with assessment of data in relation to knowledge regarding universal precautions.

**Section-B** Observational check list, to observe the various universal precautional activities practiced by the nurses.

**Validity:** the tool has given to 12 experts of obstetrics and gynaecological nursing, obstetricians of preventive and social medicine and AIDS control project.

**Reliability:** knowledge r = 0.95  
Practice r = 0.6

**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

**Section - I** Frequency and percentage distribution was used to analysis the demographic variables of nurses.

**Section - II** Distribution of knowledge and its application scores of nurses.

**Section - III** Item wise analysis of nurses knowledge and practices score

**Section - IV** Section wise analysis of knowledge and Practices scores

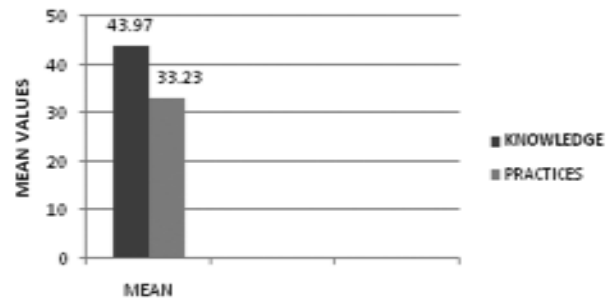
**Section - V** Determining the relationship between nurses knowledge and application of universal precautions practices and selected variables.

**Section - VI** Correlation co-efficient of knowledge and its application of practices by nurses.

**Section -VII** t - test is computed for Government and private hospital nurses regarding to knowledge and practices.

**Distribution of mean percentage scores of**

**knowledge and practices of universal precautions to prevent HIV/AIDS**



**MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**


- The finding revealed that more than half of the nurses i.e., 60% had above average knowledge 40% had below average level.
- On observation of universal precautions practices the nurses at labour rooms 80% were found at below average level & only 20% were at above average level.
- The nurses obtained knowledge score was high through the mean percentage 43:97 and practices mean percentage is 33:23
- t- test is computed for Government and private hospital nurses with regarding to knowledge and practices. The obtained t value was 3.33 is significant at 0.05 level.
- Computed value of correlation co-efficient of knowledge is its application in practice is 0.61 which is positive correlation.

**CONCLUSION**

- \* Most of the nurses had lack of awareness and knowledge regarding HIV//AIDS.
- \* Nurses were not aware of the universal precautions to be taken by them when they were attending to the patients and conducting deliveries.
- \* Nurses were not practicing universal precautions while conducting the deliveries.
- \* Universal precautions knowledge and practices of nurses were influenced by professional education, in-service training and working in different institutions.
- \* There is a positive relationship between knowledge VS practices.
- \* Government hospital nurses had higher knowledge and practices of universal precautions compared to private hospital nurses.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- \* A similar study can be done to develop the health education package on universal precautions and to



evaluate its effectiveness.

\* A study could be conducted to find out the attitudes of nurses towards universal precautions.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

The findings of the study have implications in the areas of nursing education, nursing practice, nursing administration and nursing research.

#### **Nursing education**

➤ In-service and continuing educational programmes for nurses regarding prevention of HIV transmission and universal precaution practices to protect themselves from the infection.

➤ Nursing curriculum should be updated and AIDS related topics should be integrated at different levels along with other subjects. So that adequate knowledge is imparted to nursing students and the future nurses.

#### **Nursing practice**

➤ Good supervision and appreciation of correct practices need to be encouraged by senior nurses in the labour rooms to ensure safe measures in practice.

➤ Nurses should adopt and practice universal precautions in labour rooms to minimize risk of acquiring HIV/AIDS.

#### **Nursing administration**

➤ Administrators should take the initiative in organizing in-service and continuing educational programmes for nurses regarding HIV/AIDS and universal precautions.

➤ Appropriate teaching- learning materials need to be prepared and make them available for nurses in labour rooms regarding different aspects of HIV/AIDS and universal precautions to increase knowledge and awareness in practicing.

➤ The administrators should take in to consideration about facilities available for universal precaution practices and should see that there will be adequate supplies of protective barriers, disinfectants, color coding containers with polythene bags for disposal of waste and needle cutter are made available for use.

➤ Clear policies should be defined related to universal precautions and bio-medical disposal of wastes by the authorities and all the nurses should be aware.

#### **Nursing research**

❖ Research on nurses knowledge and practices should be carried out continuously to strengthen the practices of universal precautions for prevention of HIV/AIDS at labour rooms.

❖ Study findings revealed that there is a need for research on nurse's attitude towards practicing universal

precautions.

### **LIMITATIONS**

❖ The size of the sample was small. Hence it restricted generalization.

❖ The study was limited to labour room nurses which limited generalization of findings to other groups like theatre nurses, intensive care unit nurses etc..

❖ Only knowledge and practices were assessed and no attempt was made to identify the other attributes like attitudes.

❖ No attempt was made to educate the labour room nurses on aspects of universal precautions and assess their knowledge again.

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