

Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Condom Use among Married Men in an Urban Slum Area of Ramnagar, Karnataka.

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Abstract: *Background: Condom bid protection against both unintended pregnancies as well as sexually transmitted infections. Condom use practice can reduce the increasing incidence and prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS. Objectives: To assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of married men regarding condom use. Materials and Method: This cross-sectional study was conducted in the urban slum area of Gangwadi with a sample of 320 married men. Pre-designed and pre-tested questionnaire was used to elicit the required information. Percentages and chi-square test was applied for statistical analysis. Results: Condoms were considered by participants as an effective method for birth control (43.75%) and prevention of sexually transmitted infections (34.7%) respectively. Only (23.12%) of participants were using condom. A significant association found to be existing among knowledge, attitude and practices of condom use with that of age and socio economic status. Conclusion: The participant level of knowledge and practices towards condom use was low.*

Keywords: *Attitude, Condom, Knowledge, Practices, Sexually transmitted infections (STIs).*

I. Introduction

Condom use has emerged as one of the most efficient strategies in the global fight against sexually transmitted infections including the panic HIV/AIDS.¹

The role of male condom for both contraception and prevention of STIs was established in Europe during eighteenth century. Worldwide, an estimated 44 million couples use condom during sexual intercourse for family planning while as many as 60% of all condoms are used outside marriage.²

The National Family Planning Programme of India had introduced condom as one of the family planning methods during the late 1960s. The prevalence of condom use has increased from 2.1% in 1992-1993 to 5.2% in 2005-2006 in India.³

Globally, India is second only to South Africa in terms of the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS. The annual sentinel surveillance estimated the number of adults (15-49 year age) living with HIV/AIDS in 2005 to be 5.2 million among which 57% of these infection are in rural areas. Though India is considered to have a low prevalence, due to its large population, a meager 0.1% increase in the prevalence level would heave the number of HIV-positive people by over half a million. HIV prevalence in India varies geographically. The four states with the highest numbers of people living with HIV (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu) which are in the south of the country and account for 53% of all HIV infections.⁴

Condoms provide dual protection against both sexually transmitted infections and also to avoid unwanted pregnancies.⁵ Correct use of condom decrease the risk of HIV transmission by almost 100%. Hence, condom promotion has received extensive attention in the fight against the AIDS pandemic.⁶

The steady and correct use of condoms coupled with risk reduction strategies, continue to play an important role in the decreasing and prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission. Therefore understanding and incorporating strategies to overcome barriers to condom use in such education and prevention efforts are crucial which is particularly necessary in countries such as India, where HIV/AIDS has become a serious public health crisis.⁷ Not many studies have been carried out to explore this knowledge from the married men. Hence the present study was undertaken to assess the knowledge, attitude and practice of married men regarding condom use.

II. Materials And Methods

A cross-sectional study was conducted in the urban slum area of Gangwadi which is under the Ramnagar Urban Field Practice area of Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belagavi city, Karnataka from February 2014 to October 2014. The Gangwadi urban slum area was chosen conveniently by the researcher. All the 320 married men residing in the urban slum area during the study period was included in the study and the participants who were not willing to participate were excluded from the study.

Pre-designed and pre-tested self administered questionnaire were used to collect the information on socio-demographic status, knowledge, attitude and practices about condom use.

Data entry and analysis was made by using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software (Version 20.0). The results were expressed in percentages. Chi square test was applied to see the association. Ethical clearance was obtained from Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) of KLEU, J.N.M.C. Written informed consent was obtained from the participants after explaining about the whole study.

III. Results

In this study, majority of the participants (54.1%) belonged to the age group of 30-39 years. Nearly three quarters (72.2%) of the participants were Hindu and higher proportion (50.9%) of them belonged to joint family. There were more illiterates wives (40.3%) than husband (31.9%). Half of the participants (50%) belonged to class IV of socio-economic status respectively according to modified B. G. Prasad's Classification.

Nearly (43.75%) of the participants considered condoms are used for birth control while (34.7%) of them considered condom use can prevent STIs. About (25%) of the participants feels shy to buy condom from market. (Table 1) More than three quarters of the participants (76.88%) were not using condom and only (23.12%) of them were using condom. (Table 2) KAP of condom use among the participants was found to be significantly associated with age and socio-economic status while the study detected no difference with that of religion, types of family, education of father and mother. (Table 3)

Table 1: Participants by knowledge and attitudes towards condom use.

Knowledge and attitude towards condom use	Yes	Percentage	NO	Percentage
Condoms are used for birth control	140	43.75	180	56.25
Knowledge about proper condom use	95	29.69	225	70.31
Condoms prevent STIs	111	34.7	209	65.3
Condoms use has some side effects	133	41.56	187	58.44
Feels shy to buy condoms	80	25	240	75

Table 2: Participants by condom practicing.

Condom Practicing	Frequency	Percentage
Condom user	74	23.12
Non condom user	246	76.88
Total	320	100

Table 3: Association between condom and socio-demographic variables.

Socio-demographic Variables		Condom		Statistical test value		
		User (n=74)	Non user (n=246)	χ^2	df	P value
Age in years	20-29	39	98	6.439 ^f	2	0.04*
	30-39	31	142			
	40-49	4	6			
Religion	Hindu	54	177	0.03	1	0.863
	Muslim	20	69			
Type of family	Nuclear	36	121	0.007	1	0.935
	Joint	38	125			

Participant education	Illiterate	16	86	7.227	3	0.065
	Primary	20	59			
	Secondary	33	76			
	PUC	5	25			
Education of wife	Illiterate	31	98	1.839	3	0.606
	Primary	20	72			
	Secondary	17	65			
	PUC	6	11			
Socio-economic status	Class I	1	1	9.894 ^f	4	0.03*
	Class II	11	11			
	Class III	9	36			
	Class IV	35	125			
	Class V	18	73			

* - Significant at p<0.05

^f – Fisher's exact test

IV. Discussion

The present study was conducted in an urban slum area with 320 married men being enrolled in the study. Majority (54.1%) of the participants belonged to the age group of 30-39 years. (72.2%) of the participants were Hindu and higher proportion (50.9%) of them belonged to joint family. About (31.9%) of the participants were illiterates and half of them (50%) belonged to social class IV.

A study conducted in Iraq showed that (48.7%) of the respondents and (34.2%) of the respondent wives were educated upto secondary level. Majority (27.83%) of the respondents belonged to age group of 25-29 years and more than half of them (55.33%) were of medium socio-economic class.²

Out of 320 participants, (43.75%) of them stated condoms are used for birth control while (34.7%) of the participants considered STIs transmission can be reduced through condom use. About (29.69%) of the participants had knowledge on proper condom use and (25%) of them feels shy to purchase condom.

Similar findings were reported in a study conducted among males where (33.2%) of participants thought that condoms are effective method of contraception and (25.8%) of them had proper knowledge about condom use.² A study conducted in Ethiopia showed that (84.2) of participants considered STIs transmission can be reduced through proper use of condoms and (44.8%) of them feels uneasy to buy condom from shop and other place.⁵

Three quarters of the participants (76.88%) were not using condom and only (23.12%) of them were using condom. A study conducted in Iraq revealed that rate of condom use among males was (12%) and (88%) of them had never used it.²

The present study found a statistically significant difference among KAP of condom use with age and socio-economic class whereas there was not any relationship among KAP of condom use with religion, type of family, education of father and mother. A study conducted by Ismael et al. found a statistically significant association among condom use with age, socio-economic status, respondent and wife educational level.²

Another similar study conducted among black and white in South Africa also found a statistically significant association with age and condom use.⁶

V. Conclusion

The participant level of knowledge about proper and effective use of condoms for family planning was low. However the rate of condom use was also low among them. The association found to be existing between age and socio-economic status with KAP of married males significantly outlines the steps needed to improve their knowledge and rate of condom use through periodic health education programs.

Acknowledgements

We are thankful to Dr. N.S. Mahantashetti, Principal, Mr. M.D Mallapur, Statistician, Department of Community Medicine, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, KLE University Belagavi and all the study participants of this research.

Conflict of Interest: NIL

Funding: No Source of funding

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