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Awareness among selected rural adolescent girls on HIV / AIDS

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ABSTRACT

Adolescent is a stage of development transition *i.e.* a bridge between childhood and adulthood. It is a progress from appearance of secondary sex characteristics (puberty) to sexual and reproductive maturity. Women's reproductive health is largely influenced by their health status during infancy, childhood and adolescence. Compared with boys, the adolescent girls' health, nutrition, education and development are more neglected which has adverse effect on reproductive health (Sharma *et al.*, 2009). A study was conducted among 100 rural adolescent girls in the Thirumayam Taluk of Pudukottai district in Tamil Nadu to assess their knowledge on HIV / AIDS. Only 15 per cent of the respondents knew the reproductive health problems in which HIV/ AIDS tops the list. Only 85 per cent had some idea about HIV in which only 69 per cent were able to give correct expansion. In the case of AIDS, 92 per cent had a general idea about the expansion of which only 72 per cent came up with correct expansion. Ninety two per cent of the respondents were able to list the symptoms of AIDS. Ninety two per cent of the respondents had some awareness on mode of transmission of AIDS.