

An assessment of the knowledge and attitude toward HIV/AIDS among medical students of UniKL RCMP

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) have been one of the major health care issues of the world for several decades. Assessing the knowledge and attitude toward HIV/AIDS among medical students is a must do as they are the ones who provide standard health care, and they themselves have a risk of acquiring HIV infection. **Objective:** To assess the level of knowledge and attitude toward HIV/AIDS among MBBS students of UniKL RCMP. **Materials and methods:** A total 198 medical students participated in this cross-sectional study. The data collection was done through online google forms by using simple random selection method. The data were analysed with SPSS v. 27 and Excel 2016. The one-way anova and T test were used to access the knowledge and attitude difference, and Chi-square test was used to analyse the association of knowledge and attitude with the gender and years of study. **Results and conclusion:** High percentage (83.9%) of fifth-year students scored good knowledge whereas a relatively low percentage (63.2%) of third-year students and 65% of first-year students expressed good knowledge. While 60.4% of male scored good knowledge, 77.6% of female had achieved the good knowledge score. Most students had a neutral attitude yielding the data of 66% fifth-year students, 66% of third-year students and 75% of first-year students. There was a positive association between knowledge and gender ($p=0.03$) as well as knowledge and years of study ($p=0.02$). Strong association ($p<0.05$) was noted between the attitude and years of study but there was no association between the attitude and gender ($p=0.9$). Although knowledge and attitude toward HIV/AIDS can progress in accordance with the years of study, high percentage of students express neutral attitude. Further studies need to find ways to improve the attitude toward HIV/AIDS among medical students.

Keywords: HIV/AIDS, Knowledge, Attitude