

Knowledge, attitude, and practice on human immunodeficiency virus among healthcare workers in Pasir Mas district, Kelantan

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) was identified as the causative agent of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) 39 years ago. The adequate HIV knowledge, positive attitude, and good practice about HIV among healthcare worker (HCW) is crucial in the context of caring for people living with HIV. This study aims to determine the level of knowledge, attitude, and practice about HIV among HCW in the district of Pasir Mas, Kelantan. **Materials and Methods:** A cross sectional study was conducted for five months from January to May 2023 among HCW in the district of Pasir Mas. Primary data was collected by using online Malay translated and validated questionnaires about knowledge, attitude, and practice on HIV. Simple random sampling among HCW was applied to gather the required information based on online listing of all HCW from 17 healthcare facilities. The questionnaires were distributed through the representatives of each healthcare facility. The total sample size required was 410 persons, calculated by using power and sample size calculation software. Descriptive statistics with mean and standard deviation (SD), frequency and percentages were used to measure the level of knowledge, attitude, and practise about HIV among HCW. **Results:** The mean (SD) level of HIV knowledge score among HCW in district of Pasir Mas is 11(2) and majority of them (56.1%) have high HIV knowledge score. The mean (SD) level of attitude score towards HIV among HCW in district of Pasir Mas is 9(2) and majority of them (60%) have neutral attitude towards HIV. The mean (SD) level of practise score about HIV among HCW in district of Pasir Mas is 6(1) and majority of them (62.7%) have fair practise towards HIV. **Conclusion:** The study found a high level of HIV-related knowledge, neutral attitude, and fair practice among HCW towards PLHIV. High level of knowledge regarding HIV indicates the adequate level of training and continuous medical education (CME) previously done among HCW in Pasir Mas. However, recent challenges and concerns about HIV transmission in the community such as the widespread use of pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV should be updated. Majority of the attitude towards HIV among HCW was neutral due to significant social and cultural barriers towards the recent key population. High sexual risk transmission of HIV by transgender and men who have sex with men (MSM) which are incongruent with Islamic way of life increase stigma and discrimination by HCW, thus significant influence on their attitude towards HIV. The standard principle of precautions for HIV transmission at healthcare facilities should be strengthened to ensure good practise in the future. Therefore, concerted strategic planning focusing on improving attitude and practice among HCW in Pasir Mas District Health Office warrant an urgent implementation to ensure high quality of HIV prevention and care services.