

Understanding sexually transmitted diseases (STDs): A study on knowledge and attitudes among students

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are recognized as a significant contributor to the worldwide burden of illness and a serious public health issue globally. As per the World Health Organization (2022), sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), also known as sexually transmitted infections (STIs), are caused by the spread of various bacteria, viruses, and parasites through sexual activities such as vaginal, anal, and oral sex. The incidence of STDs among younger demographics, such as college students, is progressively rising. In Malaysia, the incidence of STDs, excluding HIV and AIDS, has experienced a significant increase in recent years, as reported by the HIV/STI Section of the Ministry of Health Malaysia in 2016. The objective of this study is to ascertain the level of knowledge and attitude regarding STDs among diploma nursing students. **Materials and Method:** A quantitative cross-sectional study was conducted using a questionnaire to assess nursing students' knowledge and attitude towards sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among 182 diploma nursing students from UniKL RCMP. **Results:** The finding showed, 2 (1.1%) had good knowledge, fair knowledge category had the most respondents, with 166 (91.2%) and poor knowledge group had 12 participants (7.7%) respectively from the 182 participants. Majority of the respondents, 123 (67.6%), had a positive attitude regarding STDs, 34 students (18.7%) had a passive attitude about STDs, whereas 25 students (13.7%) had a negative attitude. The Pearson's correlation coefficient was 0.226 ($p=0.002$), indicating a positive relationship between knowledge and attitude. **Conclusion:** The study emphasized the significance of education and training in enhancing nursing students' understanding and attitudes regarding STDs.