

ABSTRACT

Self administered cross sectional survey was carried out with 156 first year students of Agriculture, at Mapalana in University of Ruhuna to assess the knowledge and attitudes on HIV/AIDS.

More than 99.4% and 80% of the respondents were aware of the two methods of HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention respectively. More than one third didn't know that sharing razors is not a common mode of transmission. Nearly more than four fifth of the respondents were aware the infected mother to child transmission. 32.75% of them scored good and 43.6% satisfactory knowledge on transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS respectively.

26% of the respondents knew that one way of prevention was delaying sexual intercourse till getting married. Comprehensive knowledge on HIV prevention was only 26% and it was remarkably very low. Knowledge according to UNGAS indicator was also remarkably low and constituted 17.9%. Comprehensive desirable attitudes towards people living with HIV / AIDS were 3.2% and it was much lower.

10.9% of respondents have had ever sex among total sample of 156. Out of ever had sex respondents 18.2% had sex with more than one partner during the last three months. 22.2% out of ever had sex respondents used condoms during sex with people other than their faithful partner during last three months.

Self sex practices were practiced 25% of respondents during last three months. More than three fifth did not practice self sex.

In views on self sex leads to ill health by respondents more than 50% respondents revealed were no ill effect. 14.1% respondents were aware that there is an ill effect.

Further it needs more awareness and skill development of safe sex to promote behavior and skill based HIV preventive program should be initiated in universities to improve knowledge and attitudes further.