

## ABSTRACT

A descriptive cross sectional study was carried out to determine the knowledge and attitude about Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV) infection and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) among secondary school teachers within Kandy Municipal limits.

A self administered questionnaire was administered to 350 teachers in secondary schools. Response rate was 88.57%.

The results showed that on the whole there was a high degree of awareness about the illness and a satisfactory level of knowledge pertaining to the nature of agent and sources of infection. There were marked deficiencies in knowledge on transmission and prevention of AIDS.

The knowledge about transmission and prevention was significantly higher in Science stream teachers than in Arts stream teachers.

A significant difference was found in knowledge scores according to the educational level and work experience. Less experienced teachers were more knowledgeable than experienced teachers.

The general attitude of teachers towards people with AIDS was favourable. A significant difference was found in attitude scores according to the study stream. It was higher in Science stream teachers than Art stream teachers.

This study calls for more focus on misconceptions related to AIDS in health education campaigns.