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EDITORIAL STATEMENT

The XXXVIII Volume of WAJE is presented to the reading public in this edition. Eight equally exciting, carefully researched and well written articles that span many areas of education and evaluation are contained in the edition.

WAJE continues to produce quality articles in order to maintain her leadership position in the West African sub-region as a repository for academic and scientific information in the field of education and evaluation. The 10 articles covered interesting issues that include Effects of Dick and Carey Instructional Model and Learning Styles on Secondary School Students' Attitude Towards Biology; Effect of Dialogic Discourse Instructional Strategy on Reading Comprehension Learning Outcomes among Senior Secondary School Students in Oyo State, Nigeria; Perception and Willingness of Clinical Students to Care for HIV/AIDS Patients in a Teaching Hospital in Kwara State; Developing Higher Education in Nigeria Through Public- Private Partnership Initiatives; Work-health Information Seeking Behaviour among Manual Workers in Selected Higher Institutions, Nigeria; Teachers' Knowledge of Metacognition, Possession of Textbook and Gender as Predictors of Students' Achievement in English Reading Comprehension in Abeokuta, Ogun State; Assessing Determinants of Students' Achievement in Senior Secondary School Biology; Postpartum Depression's Risk Factors among Mothers in Ondo State, Nigeria; Strengthening Mathematics and Science Education Programme: Implications for Mathematics Teachers and Pupils in Primary Schools in Oyo State, Nigeria and Assessment of Availability, Adequacy and Utilisation of Information and Communication Technology in Universities in South-West.

We present the rich XXXVIII edition for your research consultation and reading pleasure.

Thank you.

Eugenia A. Okwilagwe
Editor

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Perception and Willingness of Clinical Students to Care for HIV/AIDS Patients in a Teaching Hospital in Kwara State

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Abstract

HIV/AIDS is one of the most stigmatised health conditions globally. The perception and willingness of clinical students influences care and patients' management outcome, since they will eventually get into the work force as practicing clinicians. Therefore, this study explored the perception and willingness of clinical students to care for HIV/AIDS patients in a tertiary health institution. The study is a descriptive cross-sectional survey. A proportionate stratified random sampling technique was used to select a total of 225 respondents from the target population. Data were collected using validated structured copies of questionnaire. Data were analysed using both descriptive (percentages) and inferential statistics (t-test) with level of significance set at 0.05. The study revealed that majority of the students exhibited positive perception and willingness towards care of patients with HIV/AIDS. However, about one-quarter had never cared for patients with HIV/AIDS, and over 40% were not willing to care for HIV/AIDS patients. Fear of contacting the disease topped the list of reasons for not willing to care for such patients. Positive associations between students' course level, perception and willingness to care for HIV/AIDS patients were observed. It was recommended that proper mentoring of clinical students in the care of HIV/AIDS patients should be done by health care professionals in order to promote more positive perception and willingness to care for HIV/AIDS patients among potential clinicians.

Keywords: Care, Clinical students, Perception, HIV/AIDS, HIV positive, Patient

Introduction

HIV/AIDS have remained one of the most difficult health challenges for health care professions and governments globally. It has become unavoidable for health workers across all levels and cadres to come in contact with people living with HIV/AIDS during the course of their training.

HIV/AIDS is one of the common health problems worldwide. About two-thirds of new HIV infections in 2017 occurred in West Africa, Central Africa, South Africa, and Nigeria. South Africa, Uganda and Nigeria account for about 50% of all new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa despite achieving about 5% reduction in new infections between 2010 and 2017 (UNAIDS, 2018). Nigeria has the second largest HIV epidemic globally with 3.1 million people living with HIV in 2017 (UNAID, 2017; UNAIDS, 2018). HIV prevalence among adults is 2.8% which less than South Africa's (18.8%) and Zambia (11.5%). Six states in Nigeria account for 41% of people living with HIV: Kaduna, Akwa Ibom, Benue, Lagos, Oyo, and Kano (NACA, 2017). Although, the number of annual AIDS-related deaths in Nigeria has been on the decline since 2005, because of the 33% of those with a positive diagnosis in accessing antiretroviral treatment (ART) (Gisslen, Svedhem, Lindborg, Flamholz, Norrgren, Wendahl & Sönnernborg, 2017). About 150,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses in Nigeria in 2017 (Gisslen *et al.* 2017). Despite these fact, poor care and attention towards HIV/AIDS patients have remained worrisome as people living with HIV/AIDS are often stigmatised and given poor attention especially at the late stages of the disease (Vorasane, Jimba, Kikuchi, Yasuoka, Nanishi, Durham, & Sychareun, 2017; Phelan, Link & Meyer, 2008).

The concerns and fears regarding the risk of acquiring HIV among clinical students are well documented in the literature (Pickles, King & Belan, 2009; Baytner-Zamir, *et al.* 2014; Onasoga, Azebri, Otu, & Emi, 2014; Deeks, Lewin, & Havlir, 2013; Stavropoulpou, Stroubouki, Lionaki, Bakogiorga, & Zidianaski, 2011; Azodo, Umoh, Ezeja, & Ukpebor, 2010). Baytner-Zamir, Lorber, & Hermoni (2014) maintained that it is important that clinical students have knowledge of HIV/AIDS and maintain positive attitudes towards People Living With AIDS (PLWHA), so that they can become better clinicians who will conduct themselves according to the highest standards of both medical knowledge and medical profession. Clinical students are the future health professionals of PLWHA. It is, therefore, essential that clinical students possess the appropriate knowledge and positive attitudes towards PLWHA, so that they can provide maximum care to the patients and prevent stigmatisation. Furthermore, positive perception and willingness of healthcare providers to care for patients with HIV/AIDS directly affect the quality of care and management outcome of HIV/AIDS-patients. Therefore, it is expedient to determine the perception and willingness of clinical students to care for HIV/AIDS patients.

Objective of Study

The objectives of this study were to:

- i. assess the perception of clinical students of College of Health Sciences, University Of Ilorin on care of HIV/AIDS patients
- ii. determine the willingness of clinical students of College of Health Sciences, University of Ilorin to care for HIV/AIDS patients
- iii. identify reasons for unwillingness of patients among clinical students of college of health sciences, University of Ilorin to care for HIV/AIDS patients.

Method and Materials

(i.) Design

A descriptive survey design was used to find out the perception and willingness of clinical students' to care for HIV/AIDS patients in University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, Ilorin.

(ii.) Target Population

The target population of study consists of all nursing and medical students of Faculty of Clinical Sciences of the institution in the clinical year.

(iii.) Sampling Technique and Sample

A proportionate stratified random sampling technique was used to select nursing students and medical students in the clinical year to participate in this study so that each group is proportionately represented. A total of 225 respondents form the sample size and a self-structured questionnaire was used to collect data relevant to the study objectives.

(iv.) Instrumentation

To ensure content validity of the instrument to be used, a thorough review of literature was done. Thereafter, the researcher presented the questionnaire to experts in the field of study for assessment, verification, correction, and suggestions. The corrections and modifications were effected to ensure that the items in the questionnaire are valid for the study. Reliability of the instrument was done using a test-retest method which involves the administration of copies of the questionnaire to 10 % of the respondents prior to the main study and these respondents were exempted from the main study. The reliability coefficient (Crobach Alpha) obtained was 0.89, which showed that the instrument was reliable.

(v.) Data Analysis

The statistical product for service solutions (SPSS) version 22.0 software was used to analyse data collected. Frequency and percentage were obtained for descriptive statistics

and test of significant relationship for the studied variables was done using the Pearson's Chi-square (X^2) with level of significance set at 5% (0.05).

(vi.) Ethical Approval

Approval to conduct the study was obtained from Ethical Review Committee of the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital. The objective of the research was explained to the respondents and their voluntary consent was obtained and freedom to withdraw at any point was also stated. All information collected was treated with utmost confidentiality and respondents' anonymity was maintained.

Results

Table 1: Socio- Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (n=225)

Socio-demographic Characteristics	Frequency	Percent
Age		
<20 years	5	2.2
20 - 25 years	140	62.2
26 - 30 years	72	32
31 - 35 years	8	3.6
Gender		
Male	98	43.6
Female	127	56.4
Marital Status		
Single	197	87.6
Married	28	12.4
Course of Study		
Nursing	76	33.8
Medicine	149	66.2
Religion		
Christian	128	56.9
Muslim	97	43.1

Table 1 shows that majority of the respondents 140 (62.2%) were between the ages of 20-25 years, 72 (32.0%) were between the ages of 26-30 years, 8 (3.6%) were between the ages of 31-35 years while 5 (2.2%) were less than 20 years of age. Majority of the respondents 127 (56.4%) were female while 98 (43.6%) were male. Majority of the respondents 197 (87.6%) were single while 28 (12.4%) were married. Majority of the respondents 149 (66.2%) were medical students while 76 (33.8%) were nursing students.

Majority of the respondents 128 (56.9%) were Christians while 97 (43.1%) were Muslims.

Table 2: Clinical Students' Perception of Care of HIV/AIDS Patients (n = 225)

Variable	Disagree	Neutral	Agree
	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)
I am afraid of acquiring HIV through clinical practice	216 (96.0)	4(1.8)	5(2.2)
I believe that having HIV is a punishment for immoral behavior	216 (96.0)	9(4.0)	0(0.0)
Hospitals should not refuse to care for patients just because they are HIV positive	0(0.0)	7(3.1)	218 (96.9)
There is no point treating people with AIDS as they will die anyway	225 (100.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
All health care workers have the right to know a patients HIV status for their own safety	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	225 (100.0)
I will care for a HIV positive relative in my home	72 (32.0)	30(13.3)	123(54.7)
Patients with HIV/AIDS should be isolated	127 (56.4)	4(1.8)	94(41.8)
Patients with HIV have no right to receive care	225 (100.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
I will never care for HIV patients	199 (88.4)	0(0.0)	26 (11.6)
Care of HIV/AIDS patients should be by experienced personnel alone and not students	117 (52.0)	10(4.4)	98 (43.6)
I prefer caring for other patients than caring for HIV patients	108(48.0)	0(0.0)	117 (52.0)
Collection of blood and other samples from HIV/AIDS patients should be avoided during care	167 (74.2)	0(0.0)	58 (25.8)

Table 2 shows that majority of the respondents 216 (96.0%) believed that HIV is not a punishment for immoral behaviour and were not afraid of contracting HIV through clinical practice. Majority of the respondents 218 (96.9%) agreed that hospitals should not refuse to care for patients because they are HIV positive. All the respondents 225

(100%) disagreed with the statement that there is no point treating people with AIDS as they will die anyway. All the respondents 225 (100%) agreed that health care workers have the right to know the patients' HIV status for their own safety. More than half of the respondents 123 (54.7%) agreed that they will care for a HIV positive relative in their homes, while 127 (56.4%) disagreed that patients with HIV/AIDS should be isolated. All the respondents 225 (100%) agreed that patients with HIV have the right to receive care and majority of respondent 199 (88.4%) agreed that they will care for HIV patients. Many respondents 117 (52.0%) disagreed that care of HIV/AIDS patients should be by an experienced personnel alone and not students, however slightly more than half of the respondents 117 (52.0%) agreed that they prefer caring for other patients than caring for HIV patients. Majority of the respondents 167 (74.2%) disagreed that collection of blood and other samples from HIV/AIDS patients should be avoided during care while 58 (25.8%) of the respondents agreed.

Table 3: Clinical Students Willingness to Care for HIV/AIDS patients (n=225)

Variables	No		Yes	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Have you ever taken care of an HIV/AIDS Patient?	54	24.0	171	76.0
Are you willing to take care of HIV patients?	94	41.8	131	58.2
Will you refuse taking care of an HIV/AIDS patient if you are the one on call/duty?	159	70.7	66	29.3
Would you encourage a colleague to care for an HIV/AIDS patient?	66	29.3	159	70.7
Do you feel comfortable when caring for patients with HIV and AIDS?	114	50.7	111	49.3
Do you show empathy when in caring for HIV and AIDS patients?	0	0.0	225	100.0
Are you comfortable collecting blood and blood products from HIV/AIDS patients?	167	74.2	58	25.8

Table 3 shows that majority of the respondents, 171 (76.0%), had taken care of HIV/AIDS patients and more than half 131 (58.2%) were willing to take care of them. Majority of the respondents, 159 (70.7%), stated that they will not refuse taking care of HIV/AIDS patients if they are on call or duty. However, about half of the respondents, 114 (50.7%), were not comfortable taking care of HIV/AIDS patients. Majority of the respondents, 159 (70.7%), stated that they would encourage a colleague to care for an HIV/AIDS patient. All the respondents claimed they showed empathy in caring for HIV and AIDS patients. Majority of the respondents, 167 (74.2%), stated that they were not comfortable collecting blood and blood products from HIV/AIDS patients while 58 (25.8%) of the respondents were comfortable.

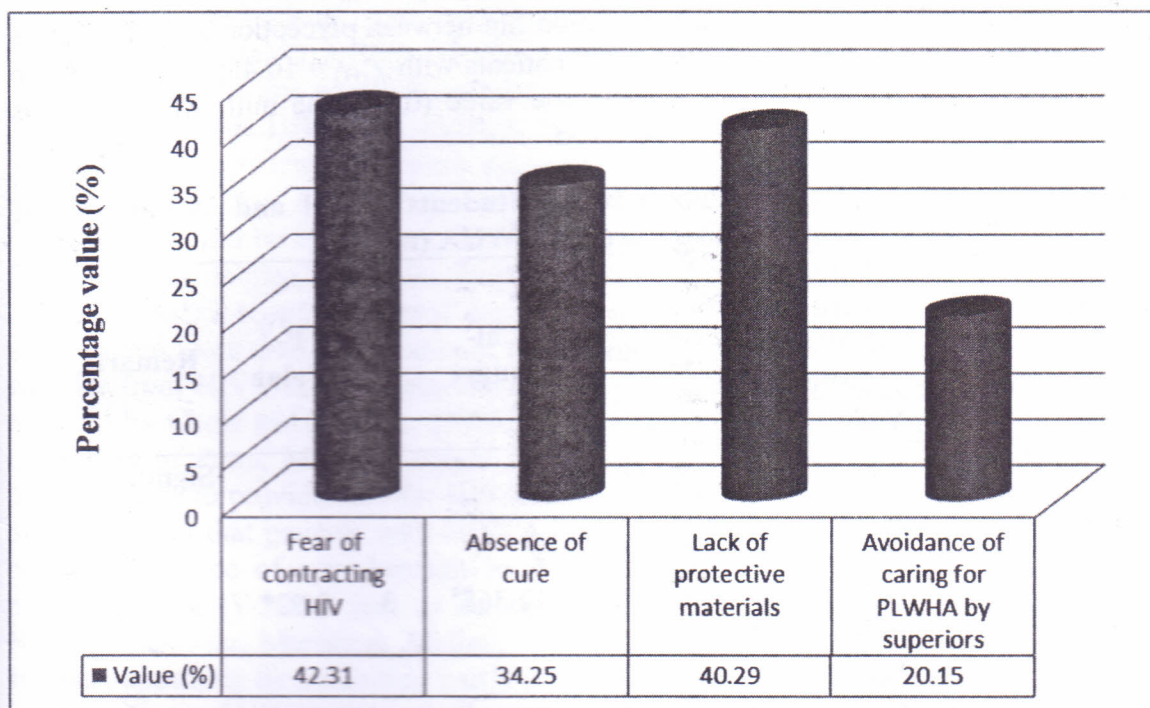


Figure 1: Reasons for Unwillingness to Care for HIV/AIDS Patients

Figure 1 shows reasons for unwillingness to care for HIV/AIDS patients, 42 (31.0%) of the respondents gave fear of contracting HIV as their reason for not willing to care for HIV/AIDS patients, 40 (29.0%) identified lack of protective materials; 34 (25.0%) gave absence of a definitive cure for HIV as their reason while 20 (15.0%) said avoidance by their superiors to care for HIV patients also influences them.

Table 4: Analysis of Relationship between Perception and Willingness of Clinical Students to Take Care of HIV/AIDS Patients (n=225)

Variable Response	Perception towards care of HIV/AIDS patients		Total	Chi-Square X^2	df	P-Value	Remark
	Negative	Positive					
Willingness to care for HIV/AIDS patients	Yes	0	131	10.483 ^a	1	0.032*	Significant
	No	16	78				Ho Rejected
Total	16	209	225				

*= Significant at $p < 0.05$

Table 4 shows that there is a significant relationship between perception and willingness of clinical students to take care of HIV/AIDS patients with $\chi^2_{(1)} = 10.48$; $p < 0.05$. Since the p-value is less than the stated significance value (0.05), the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative hypothesis accepted.

Table 5: Analysis of Relationship between Students' Level and Willingness of Clinical Students to Take Care of PLWHA (n=225)

Level of Study	Willingness to care for HIV/AIDS patients		Total	Chi-Square	df	P-Value	Remark
	Yes	No					
200	20	7	27	12.368 ^a	3	0.02*	Significant
300	13	5	18				
400	40	33	73				Ho
500	40	37	77				Rejected
600	18	12	30				
Total	131	94	225				

*= Significant at $p < 0.05$

Table 5 shows that there is a significant relationship between students' level and willingness of clinical students to take care of HIV/AIDS patients with $\chi^2_{(3)} = 12.37$; $p < 0.05$. Since the p-value is less than the stated significance value (0.05), the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative hypothesis accepted.

Discussion of Findings

This study examined the perception and willingness of clinical students to care for patients living with HIV/AIDS in University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, Ilorin, Kwara State. It was observed that most of the students were within ages 20 and 30 years. This was so because candidates who are considered for admission into Nigerian universities must be up to 16 years. Besides, undergraduate admission into Nigerian universities is highly competitive. Thus, many candidates were able to secure admission after several yearly attempts. This explains why many of the students were above 25 years. Furthermore, some might be having extended stay due to certain challenges. Less than 15% of the students were married. This may be as a result of the societal value which expects adolescents to have a minimum of first degree before marriage.

Nearly all the students (96%) were not afraid of contracting HIV/AIDS and disagreed that the disease is a punishment from God. The expression of this category of participants was somehow different from previous studies, where it was reported that more than three-quarters of the participants were afraid of caring for HIV/AIDS patients (Röndahl, Innala, & Carlsson, 2003; Lui, Sarangapany, Begley, Coote & Kishore, 2014). However, the

expression of the students in the current study was possibly as a result of their exposure to classroom lectures on HIV/AIDS related issues.

Findings from this study demonstrated that the majority of students have positive perception towards HIV/AIDS patients. However, the presence of fear towards coming near HIV/AIDS patients that were demonstrated in this study cannot be ignored. For instance, more than 40% of the respondents were of the view that patients with HIV/AIDS should be isolated while more than half (52%) said they would prefer caring for other patients than caring for those PLWHA. Furthermore, over 40% said patients with HIV/AIDS should be cared for by experienced health personnel instead of the students and more than one-quarter of the students said that collection of blood and other samples from HIV/AIDS patients should be avoided during care. Similar findings were reported by Chew and Cheong, (2013) in a study conducted among medical students in University of Putra, Malaysia where 10-15% of these students sample used, expressed unwillingness to provide care for HIV/ AIDS patients and more than 70% of them were of the opinion that patients with HIV/ AIDS should be cared for separately. There was obvious evidence of apprehension in the students regarding coming in contact with patients with HIV/AIDS just as among other non-professionals in the society (Reis, Heisler, Amowitz, Moreland, Mafeni, Anyamele, & Iacopino, 2005). Nevertheless, the students appear to be exhibiting partly professional and non-professional characteristics regarding care of HIV/AIDS patients (Wagner, McShane, Hart, & Margolese, 2016). The reason for the paradoxical report in this study is likely to be the fact that it is often very difficult to erase long-term erroneous ideas from people (Watzlawick, Weakland, & Fisch, 2011).

The study revealed positive association between students' level, perception and willingness to care for HIV/AIDS patients. This means that the higher the students' level, the more positive their perception and willingness to care for HIV/AIDS patients. Nevertheless, similar findings were found in which the higher the knowledge level regarding AIDS, the more positive the attitudes and the higher was the willingness to care for AIDS patients (Goldenberg & Laschinger, 1991; Bliwise., Grade, Irish & Ficarrotto, 1991; Ouzouni, & Nakakis, 2012).

Conclusion

Proper care of PLWHA will eventually determine the health outcome and ability of the patient to cope with the various challenges associated with the disease. Although, majority of the students exhibited positive perception towards care of patients with HIV/AIDS, significant number of the students had never cared for PLWHA, and many were not willing to care for this category of patients during clinical postings. Fear of contacting the disease topped the list of reasons for not willing to care for such patients. Therefore, the following recommendations were made.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, proper mentoring and supervision of clinical students in the care of HIV/AIDS by health professionals is a key measure towards reducing the observed discrimination that HIV patients are currently experiencing from health workers, particularly students health workers. Besides, respective management of health care facilities should provide protective materials for both clinical staff and students.

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