

DESCRIBING STI/STD AND CONDOM USE BEHAVIOR AMONG POLICE EMPLOYEES IN POLICE TRAINING COLLEGE AT SHEHDADPUR, SANGHAR, SINDH

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Abstract

Background: STI/STD are diseases related with unsafe sexual practices or infections. It is estimated that more than 340 million new cases of curable sexually transmitted infections. Throughout the world in men and women aged 15–49 years, with the largest proportion in the region of south and south-east Asia, Followed by sub Saharan Africa, and Latin American and the Caribbean.

Objectives: To assess the perception and awareness regarding STI/STD and use of condom and to assess the barriers for condom use as prevention of STI/STD among police Employees.

Methods: A cross sectional study was design to collect data from male police employees of police training college of Shahdadpur, Sanghar, aged 20 to 50 years, and total study sample was calculated to be 105. A questionnaire was developed for collection of the data, and data was analyzed by using different tools of MS-excel and SPSS 20.0 versions.

Results: 90% of the participants were aware about sexually transmitted infections (STIS), 82% were also aware that to be limited only one sexual partner .75% of them were known that condom can protect from STIS. Whereas 90% of the participants believed that by sharing food with any STI patient it does not spread the disease.94% participants were aware that the STIS and HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from mother to her child during pregnancy. Overall 80% were aware about hepatitis A, B, C and HIV/AIDS and remaining 90% were unaware about other STIS.

Conclusion: The study concludes that police employees has high level of knowledge about condom usage as prevention of STIs but stigma attached with usage of condoms as they feel shy by purchasing the condoms.

Key words: Sexually Transmitted Infection, knowledge, attitude, practices, condom, police employees.

Introduction:

More than 30 bacterial, viral and parasitic pathogens are transmissible sexually (1). While sexually transmitted infections are mostly transmitted through sexual intercourse, transmission can occur also from mother to child during pregnancy and childbirth, and through blood products or tissue transfer, as well as occasionally through other nonsexual means. Including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection that leads to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), they have been recognized as a major public health problem for many years(2).

It is estimated that more than 340 million new cases of curable sexually transmitted infections, namely *Treponema pallidum* (syphilis), *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Trichomonas vaginalis*, occur every year worldwide in male and female aged 15–49 years(3). All these infections develop a huge health and economic burden, especially for developing countries where they account for 17% of economic losses caused by ill-health worldwide (4). Human papillomavirus, another major sexually transmitted viral pathogen, causes about 500,000 cases of cervical

cancer annually with 240,000 deaths, mostly in resource-poor countries (5-6). Hepatitis B virus, which may be transmitted sexually and through needle sharing, blood transfusion and from mother to child, results in about 350 million cases of chronic hepatitis and at least one million deaths each year from liver cirrhosis and liver cancer (7). A vaccine to prevent HBV infection, and thereby decreases the incidence of liver cancer, exists (8-9).The life style of police officials like any other armed forces is different from civilians. Where less awareness and faces many barriers to use Condom to prevent and protect from sexually transmitted infections and disease. This study is designed to assess perception, awareness and barriers. To the knowledge of author this topic is less researched in country as we were not able to find any study against the topic in our country. This study helps to intervention for advocacy.

Methodology:

Cross sectional study design was adopted for conducting this study. This study was conducted between October 2015 to December 2015. The police Employees who were under training at PTC Shehdadpur, aged between 20-50 years were selected

as sample by simple random sampling technique by draw methodology at two stages initially at time of selecting a lot of police employees under training and then for selection of employees from that lot by the process total 105 police employees were selected for interviews through closed ended questionnaire forms. The forms were checked thoroughly to ensure quality and then forms were coded and filed. The data was entered in SPSS 20.0 version and was analyzed for getting results through MS excel and SPSS version 20. Written consent was obtained before enrolment in the study. The Police Employees were informed that they have the right to withdraw from the study or refuse to provide any information at any point without any consequences on government health care services. Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the Ethical Review Committee of Health Service Academy.

Results:

Our study findings shows that 86.7% of the participants were from age group of 31 to 50 years of age, whereas 40% of the study participants graduates in their studies and 41.9% had income in between PKRs 25001 to 35000. In this study (Table 1) it is revealed that 90% of the participants were aware about sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). The 82% were also aware that to be limited only one sexual partner i-e wife, can protect from STIs. The 40% of them said that STIs can also spread by Mosquito's bite. The 75% of them know that Condom can protect from STIs. 86% Of participants feel shy when they purchase condom (Table 1). The question asked about that family member who is affected with any STI would you want remain a secret? The 73% of them replied in positive sense D&SD that they will not keep it secret remaining 9% gave in negative sense A&SA that they will keep it secret. While 18% of responded Neutral and mixed response. In case of roommate who is affect with any STI would you be willing to care for him. The 91% of them responded in positive sense that they will care for him and remaining 5% of them responded in Negative sense that they will avoid to care for. The practices about use of Condom (Table 2) that 66.7% police employees never avail commercial sex and 39.5% availed sometimes and 2.9% are used to. Employees who are used to avail commercial sex, A few (13.3%) of them use condom during sex, employees who availed commercial sex sometimes 21.9% of used condom during sex. The 4.8% employees who sometimes availed sex and always use condom. The 90.5% did not avail sex in substitute of bribe and on basis of free offer. Data shows the distribution level of Information about Lab: Diagnosis and Health regarding Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) of the police employees who are under training at PTC Shahdampur. The descriptive statistics shows that n=50 i.e. 47.6 % samples have high level of knowledge, While n=57 i.e. 54.3% samples consider it as stigma and similarly n=93 i.e. 88.6% samples have idea about use of condom.

Table 1. Percent awareness of the respondents regarding STIs

Sr. #	Question	N= 105	%age
1	Have you ever heard of STI?	95	90.5
2	Can people reduce their chance of getting STI virus by have just one uninfected sex partner who has no other sex partner?	87	82.9
3	Can people get STI/AIDS from mosquito bite?	64	61.0
4	Can people reduce their chance of getting STI by using condom every time they have sex?	79	75.2
5	Can people get any STI virus by sharing food with a person who has any STI?	71	67.6
6	Is it possible for healthy looking person to have any STI virus?	90	85.7
7	Can people get any STI through which craft or other super natural means?	81	71.1
8	Do you know of a place where people can go to get test for any STI virus?	88	83.3
9	Can the virus of any STI causes be transmitted from mother to her baby?	99	94.3
10	How many disease do you know which are associated with STI?	96	91.4
11	When you have sex intercourse do you use of condom?	97	92.4
12	Do you know types of condoms?	101	96.2
13	Do you know types of STIs?	93	88.6
14	Can somebody protect form STIs with use of condom during sex intercourse?	102	97.1

Table –2: Distribution of (Attitude/Stigma) towards STIs/STDs of police employees at PTC Shahdapur.

#	Statements	SD	D	N	A	SA
		N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)
1	Would you buy fresh vegetable from green grocer or vender if you knew that this person had any STI virus?	9(8.6)	19(18.9)	19(18.9)	57(54.3)	1(1.0)
2	Do you feel shy when you purchase condom from shops?	(6.7)	(6.7)	1(1.0)	67(63.8)	23(21.9)
3	Can you in your opinion if female teacher has any STI virus but it is not sick should she be allowed continuous teaching	2(1.9)	12(11.4)	16(15.2)	71(67.6)	4(3.8)
4	If member of your family got infected with any STI virus would you want to remain a secret?	26(24.8)	50(47.6)	19(18.1)	8(7.6)	2(1.9)
5	If your roommate became sick with any STI virus would you be willing to care for him?	2(1.9)	3(2.9)	4(3.8)	84(80.0)	12(11.4)
6	Have you ever thought you might have an STI or had an STI care?	8(7.6)	13(12.4)	78(74.3)	6(5.7)	00(00)
7	Is it a moral obligation that STI/AIDS patients should be treated in the same equal, ethical and practical manners as other patients?	2(1.9)	2(1.9)	5(4.8)	95(90.5)	1(1.0)
8	Have you ever felt getting tested for STI?	2(1.9)	6(5.7)	69(65.7)	23(21.9)	5(4.8)
9	Do you think you would be able to tell if a guy has an STI by looking?	17(16.2)	43(41.0)	37(35.2)	1(1.0)	7(6.7)
10	Do you worry about now in or future about symptoms of STI virus?	2(1.9)	00(00)	7(6.7)	69(65.7)	27(25.7)
11	Do condoms often leak or slip during sex?	12(11.4)	15(14.3)	73(69.5)	4(3.8)	1(1.0)

Table 3: Practices variable for STIs of police employees at PTC Shahdadpur

#	Questions	Always	Sometime	Never
		N= 105(%)	N= 105(%)	N= 105(%)
1	Do you avail commercial sex?	3(2.9)	32(30.5)	70(66.7)
2	Do you use condom with commercial sex worker?	14(13.3)	23(21.9)	68(64.8)
3	Do you avail sex as bribe, relaxation, or on basis of free offer?	5(4.8)	5(4.8)	95(90.5)
4	Do you use condom in above three sex practices?	1(1.0)	6(5.7)	98(93.3)
5	Have you ever paid for sex or traded sex for drugs, food, clothing and other Accessories?	1(1.0)	6(5.7)	98(93.3)
6	Have you ever had sex while high on drugs or alcohol?	2(1.9)	28(26.7)	75(71.4)
7	Have you ever had sex knowingly with someone infected with STI virus?	1(1.0)	6(5.7)	98(93.3)
8	Have you ever had sex with someone who injected drugs?	1(1.0)	3(2.9)	101(96.2)

Discussion:

This study was conducted on the police employees who were under training at police training college Shehdadpur, Sanghar, Sindh.

This study focused to check the general knowledge of the study, a vast majority replied that they know that STI can be reduced by limiting one sexual partner and more than seventy five percentages participants showed positively convinced that STI can be reduced by using condom while having sex, our results showed that people have knowledge about where to go for test (lab tests) if have any STI above finding consist with study conducted by P Mayaved et al (10). It showed that most of the people that is above ninety percentages has knowledge that STI can be transferred from mother to baby. When asked about having knowledge about some particular diseases which may spread STI most of the participants have knowledge about main diseases like Hepatitis A,B,C and HIV/AIDS but a big ratio of participants did not know about some particular

diseases which may cause STI which are Syphilis (bad blood), Genital, Gonorrhea, Herpes, Chlymedia, Trichomonas above finding consistent with study conducted by K Janson et al(11). When asked about the usage of condom more than ninety percentages replied that in case of STI or for family planning they do use condoms. When asked about having knowledge about STIs less than ninety percentages of the participants said that STI is a viral infection above seventy five percentages replied that it is Bacterial infection and some participants had limited knowledge that STI is Fungal and Parasitic infection. When asked about the protection measures with condom usage about more than ninety percent participants replied that yes condom can protect them from having any STI. It is very clear that condoms are very effective against STI when there is consistence use of it (12). The experience of an STI was significantly associated with the total number of sexual partners (13). To know about the attitude/stigma attached with STI and general acceptance in our society

this study has looked into attitude/stigma with STI. Pre-exposure vaccination is one of the most effective methods for preventing transmission of some STDs(14). Results illustrate that about seventy percent agree that they will allow teachers of their kids for teaching them if he/she having any disease of STIs, and less than thirty percent strongly disagreed and more than forty replied that they disagreed to keep the STIs a secret if anyone from their family has infection but there were just above nine percent of participants who replied they would like to keep STI a secret as they felt that this can make some problems for relations or marriages of their kids or family members. Study results showed that mostly participants were of the view that they would care about their roommate if he has any disease due to STI, and about ninety percentages the participants were of the view that morally and ethically we should equally treat in good manner to the patients of STI.

This study has also focused on to research about the health status of the participants. And it was revealed that above ninety percent participants do not have any disease due to sexual intercourse during last year, more than ninety percent and less than eighty percent replied that they do not have abnormal genital discharging and genital sore and ulcer during last year respectively and about twenty four percent replied that they got treatment for above mentioned complications. When asked that if both of the sex partners have STI should they avoid or avail the intercourse about forty seven percent replied yes they should avail and more than fifty percent replied that they must not have intercourse in this situation.

A trail study conducted in four cities of Thailand between male and female condom user groups. Results showed that condom use was very high in both groups (15). The results show condom usage near to our study.

The descriptive statistics portion of this study showed about all variables general knowledge, attitude/stigma, practices, health and knowledge about condom usage shows that above forty percent have high level of knowledge about STIs, more than fifty four percent showed that stigma/attitude are positively associated with STIs, less than fifty percent participants have good practices for condoms against STIs, positive attitude for personal health was about fifty seven percentages and more than eighty five percent participants has high level of information and knowledge about use of condoms.

Conclusion:

The study concludes that police employees has high level of knowledge about STIs which is 47.6%, but stigma attached with usage of condoms as 84% participants replied that they feel shy by purchasing the condoms although 41.9% participants have good practices for condom usage against STIs, 54.3% showed that stigma/attitude are positively associated with STIs, positive attitude for personal health was about 57.1% and 88.6% participants has high level of information and knowledge about use of condoms.

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