

Youth and the Global HIV/AIDS Crisis: Impact of Knowledge towards Sexual Behavior

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Abstract - About 34 million people living with HIV/AIDS globally and Philippines is one of the nine countries where the number of HIV/AIDS infections have increased by greater 25% per year from 2001-2011 in the Global Report 2012 of UNAIDS. According to the Department of Health Philippines as of January 2013, there are 12,082 people living with HIV in the Philippines and Filipino youths are said to have significant contribution to the statistics. The main objective of this study is to determine the impact of knowledge and attitude on HIV/AIDS to the sexual behaviors of selected students in the nine (9) colleges and schools in Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology. A descriptive-correlational approach was used in this study where 400 respondents from ages 15-24 were chosen employing Sloven's formula. They were given a standardized questionnaire which assessed the level status of the respondents in terms of knowledge and attitude towards HIV/AIDS and their sexual behavior. Results of the study showed that majority of the respondents had an average level of knowledge on HIV/AIDS. On the sexual behavior, it was noted that out of 400 respondents, 69 of them were already engaged into sexual activity. The results further revealed that the age, type of sexual relationship and year level had a significant relationship towards the level of knowledge to HIV/AIDS. However, the level of knowledge and attitude towards HIV/AIDS did not affect the respondents' sexual behavior. Based on the findings, it is highly recommended that there is a need to conduct health education on HIV/AIDS to this population group since this is the age where the respondents are starting to explore not considering the risk involved.

Keywords - Attitude, Knowledge, HIV/AIDS, Impact, Sexual Behavior

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