

**KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE ON STDs AND HIV/AIDS
AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS
(A Case Study of Sharadanagar V.D.C., Chitwan District)**

**A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO
THE CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION STUDIES
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN POPULATION STUDIES**

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AUGUST, 2014

RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that the thesis

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**KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE ON STDS AND HIV/AIDS
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is Recommended for External Examination.

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VIVA-VOCE SHEET

We have conducted the viva-voce examination of the thesis
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and find that the thesis is an independent work of the student written according to the prescribed format. We accept the thesis as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master of Arts in Population Studies.

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DECLARATION

Except where otherwise acknowledged in the text, the analysis in this thesis represents my own original research.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My heart is delighted to take this opportunity to put my sincere gratitude on record to my thesis supervisor Kamala Devi Lamichhane, Lecturer of Population at the Central Department of Population Studies, for her valuable guidance, encouragement, suggestions, instruction and cooperation during this study.

I want to express my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. Dr. Ram Sharan Pathak, Head of Central Department of Population Studies, T.U. for his valuable suggestions, consistent encouragement and generous co-operation and kind administration. I would like to thank all my respected teachers and staffs of CDPS, T.U., for their co-operation and assistance for this work.

Love and affection of my parents Mr. Tilak Raj Regmi and Sakuntala Regmi who encourage and inspire me to do any work intensively, I am in debt with them for their continuous support in every turn of my life.

I would like to thank to the Head Masters, Health and Population Education teachers and students who were concerned in this study for their kind co-operation and management.

August 2014

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Devendra Regmi

ABSTRACT

The STDs and HIV/AIDS have become major health concerns in Nepal, ever since the first case that was found in 1988 with detection of HIV positive. The number of HIV positive cases has been suggested up to 22,968, as the official data (NCASC, Dec. 2013). However, the other sources estimate a much larger number of people infected by HIV alone. Therefore, it seemed necessary to have research on to what extent the adolescent students are aware about these diseases.

This study is based on the primary data collection from two secondary schools of rural areas of Chitwan district of Central Development Region of Nepal. The major objective of the survey study is to examine the knowledge, attitude on STDs and HIV/AIDS among school adolescents. To meet this objective, 122 respondents are selected from two secondary schools. Among them 70 are boys and 52 are girls, within the age range of 14-20 years.

The knowledge on STDs - HIV/AIDS is found higher on boys than on girls. The background variables such as parent's education, occupation, land holding size, yearly income and mass media facilities have impact on the level of knowledge and attitude. Almost all of the respondents have reported that they have heard about STDs and HIV/AIDS. The adolescents have reported that teachers, textbooks, radios, TV and magazines are the main sources of information on STDs and HIV/AIDS. In every respect related to sexual knowledge, the boys seem more aware than the girls. The main reason behind this may be that the girls do not have opportunity to education and they have to involve in household works. Similarly, unmarried adolescents are more aware on STDs and HIV/AIDS than the married ones.

Hundred percent of the respondents believe that STD is transmitted through sexual contact and respondents say that using condom is the true method for preventing AIDS transmission. According to them the safest method of family planning is condom.

The adolescents have reported that though the lessons on HIV/AIDS have been included in the course, the teachers cannot effectively explain the matter and cannot make the students properly know about it. The main reason behind this, according to them, may be the teacher's lack of sufficient knowledge as well as their hesitation to talk on the matter very clearly. All of the respondents have mentioned that they need knowledge about STDs, HIV/AIDS, sex and family planning methods.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDPS	Central Department of Population Studies
EIA	Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)
HIV	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
ICE	Information, Education and Communication
INGO	International Non-Government Organization
MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population
NDHS	Nepal Demographic Health Survey
No.	Number
NGO	Non-Government Organization
RH	Reproductive Health
STD	Sexual Transmitted Disease
TU	Tribhuvan University
UN	United Nation
UNAIDS	United Nations Joint Program on AIDS
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children Emergency Fund
UNO	United Nations Organization
VDC	Village Development Committee
WHO	World Health Origination