**Factors associated with knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDs among married women in Bangladesh: evidence from a nationally representative survey**

**Abstract:**

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is one of the most pandemic spreading diseases in worldwide and women in Bangladesh share a breeding ground of HIV compared to men. Knowledge about HIV/AIDS is crucial to prevent the HIV/AIDS disease burden, especially for the married women of reproductive age. The aim of this study is to describe the knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS among the Bangladeshi married women.

**Introduction**

(definition type sentence; like abstract). Despite of numerous progress in the sector of information, diagnostics, treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS, the number of deaths is still increasing. (1, 2) Around 24.5 million people living with HIV were under antiretroviral therapy, majority of them were married women aged 15-44 because women experience a lot of hormonal changes, microbial ecology and physiology. (3, 4, 5, 6) Globally, 770000 people have died from HIV related causes and 37.9 million people are living with HIV as of 2018. (3)

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to only 12% of the global population but the burden of the global HIV epidemic is disproportionately concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, where—in 2017—75% of deaths and 65% of new infections occurred yet accounts for 71% of the global burden of HIV infection (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).; The Gap Report ISBN: 978-92-9253-062-4.; 2014. [Accessed on 12 July 2015]). According to UNAIDS, at the end of 2013, in Asia and the Pacific there were 4.8 million people living with HIV, with China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam accounting for more than 90% of the people living with HIV in the region. The number of AIDS-related deaths in Asia fell by 37% between 2005 and 2013 (<https://scholar.google.com/scholar?q=UNAIDS+:++The+Gap+Report+.++Geneva,+Switzerland+,++2014+>).

In Bangladesh, as of 2018, people aged 15 and over living with HIV was 13000 with a prevalence rate of 0.1%. The number of death cases of people aged 15 and over was less than 1000 while the number of newly infected cases was 15000 on average. (7) Though the number of infected cases among the women in Bangladesh is in a decreasing rate compared to men in recent years, the chance of expanding rate of HIV among women can’t be underestimated. The factors for expanding the infections of HIV in Bangladesh are mainly poverty, medical facilities, education, lack of sufficient screening practices and unprotected sexual practices. (9) Especially in the southern part of Bangladesh, with the influx of forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals or the Rohingya people in 2017, the risk of HIV infections increased due to increased sharing of syringes, needles, unprotected sexual practices and most importantly lack of knowledge. (10)

Women in Bangladesh are considered to expose a high risk of HIV due to lack of opportunity for general and health education because of gender inequality and male dominance. (11) According to several studies, it’s reported that the level of knowledge among women is less than compared to men in Bangladesh. Mostly, women share the heavier weight of the consequences of the disease due to their less advantaged socio-economic position, limited access of sexually and reproductive health care (12, 13,14) and that’s why women are in more vulnerable situation to HIV infection and transmission. It’s also true that women in Bangladesh about HIV/AIDS is contaminated with myths and rumors which increases the number of HIV infection or transmission. (15)

**Literature review**

Many studies have been conducted to know the level of knowledge and awareness about HIV/AIDS among the married women in Bangladesh using both primary and secondary data.

(findings from many studies)

Since there is no cure still invented and there is now a high risk of spreading in Bangladesh, higher level of awareness is needed among the people. (16, 17) In this situation, further research can show the present view of knowledge level among the married women of Bangladesh. Therefore, in this study, we aimed to explore the knowledge and awareness of HIV among the married women in Bangladesh, using the most recent Bangladesh Demographic and health Survey (BDHS) dataset. We also intend to find out the factors of changing knowledge, attitude and intensity of HIV as well as the impact where advancement is required to enhance the knowledge of HIV.

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