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Factors hindering acceptance of HIV/AIDS voluntary counseling and testing (vct): A cross-sectional study among clients' of female sex workers (fsws) of kathmandu valley

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Abstract

Voluntary counseling and testing (VCT), for HIV, allows individuals to determine their HIV status and serve as a gateway for both HIV prevention and early access to treatment, care and support. This study had been carried out 112 male respondents based on the primary data collected through stratified random sampling in Kathmandu valley. The main objective of the study is to assess the factors hindering acceptance of HIV/AIDS voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) among Clients' of Female Sex Worker (FSWs) of Kathmandu Valley. The half of the respondents was in 20-30 years of age group. The highest proportions of respondents were Chhettri (33%) followed by Newar (24.1%) and Brahmin (16.1%) and 83 percent were literate. All respondents had heard about HIV/AIDS and among them 89.3 per cent heard about VCT. The INGOs/NGOs and others TV/Radio had found the imperative role for disseminating information regarding HIV/AIDS and VCT. Nearly all respondents considered HIV transmitted through unprotected sexual intercourse and 94.3 per cent were focused on safer sex behavior for prevention. Moreover, 81.7 per cent perceived that they were in high-risk group of HIV/AIDS but only 20.5 percent of respondent's perceived necessity to get tested for HIV. The hindering factors were fear of VCT result at the top i.e. 60.9%, fear of stigma and discrimination (52.2%), due to hamper in daily income (47.8%), due lack of time (34.8%), due to shame and hesitation (34.8%).

The occupation, place of residence of the respondents, knowledge of HIV transmission and prevention are statistically significant with the acceptance of HIV/AIDS VCT. In addition, respondents perceived that they were in high-risk but there is no practice of getting test for HIV. Therefore VCT service should be made accessible and stigma and discrimination should be reduced to improve the utilization of VCT service.