AN ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF HIV/AIDS AWARENESS AND VULNERABILITY IN STATE-OWNED TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS OF BAUCHI NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT*This study was conducted on students of tertiary institutions of Bauchi state which include universities, polytechnics and monotechnics, specifically students of Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic, A.D. Rafa'i College of Legal and Islamic Studies, and Bauchi State University, Gadau. The researcher collected data using both qualitative and the quantitative methods. The first set of datum were made up of surveys(questionnaires)administered on students, while the second set is the qualitative datum obtained from the students using Focus Group Discussions(FGDs).The third set of the datum was obtained from the medical offices and students' affairs of the various institutions using in-depth- interviews(IDIs).The study populations are the entire students of Tertiary institutions in Bauchi State including both male and females students at different level of Educational program. In order to acquire objective and reliable data, the researcher adopted multistage method of sampling where the samples of the tertiary institution were selected,* Stratified sampling was used to divide the Tertiary institutions in Bauchi State were divided into three strata namely; *while simple random samplings were used to selects the samples of the faculties as well as the samples of the departments and the entire samples of the students for the research. Therefore, the target population for the study consists of all students of the state-owned tertiary institutions of Bauchi state. Others are students' affairs officers of the various institutions and medical officers of the various institutions including nurses and doctors. The findings of the research revealed that there is awareness of HIV/AIDS among students of tertiary institutions among students in the study are, there is relationship between awareness and preventive measures of HIV/AIDS, however it was also found that there is no relationship between the awareness of HIV/ADS and program of study among the students of the state-owned tertiary institution of the state,*

Key Words: *Awareness, students, vulnerability, tertiary, institution, and Bauchi*

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INTRODUCTION

According to Harding et al., (2014) Students of Tertiary institutions in Nigeria are aware of HIV/AIDS preventive measures base on the findings on the study he conducted on Nigerian students on the knowledge, perception and behaviors about HIV/AIDS prevention, the results indicated that the students were knowledgeable about transmission and symptomatology and prevention but there were some misconceptions about the mode of transmission of HIV, few students identified themselves to be at high risk even though majority of them (92%) were sexually experienced. The study also showed that even though these students are knowledgeable and concerned about contracting HIV/AIDS from their partners, this did not prevent them from engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse

The Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV): is the causative organism or the virus that is responsible for causing a disease known AIDS, meaning: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The HIV infection presents a spectrum of diseases, with the most severe form being AIDS. HIV infections are serious health and social problem in which there is impaired function of the immune system as well as

multiple social problems associated with it, such as social stigma and discrimination. HIV/AIDS has created a major health and social problems which has estimated to threaten the survival of individuals in most countries. In Nigeria the HIV/AIDS situation is a generally pathetic issue particularly the increasing rate of HIV/AIDS infection and death among college students of Tertiary institution in Bauchi State which is the major concern of the study.

AIDS was first reported in USA in 1981 and two years later HIV was found to be responsible for the disease. It is found to be predominantly transmitted through sexual intercourse and blood transfusion. Factors that enhance the spread of the disease are known to be increasing urbanization, migrant labor, expanding tourist travel and changing attitude towards sexual behavior in the modern society and lack of proper health management policy. "The term Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome" AIDS was coined to describe the disease since the causative agents was unknown. Prolonged infection resulted in disease with protean clinical manifestations that differed to some degree from country to country and from region to region. Clinicians and scientist realized this new disease had a wide spectrum of signs and symptoms. This disease presentation reduced from the capacity of the virus to infect nearly every organ or system, particularly during the more advanced stage of the disease.The students of Tertiary institutions in Nigeria are expected to be aware of HIV/AIDS, its causes, mode of transmissions, clinical manifestations, its history and the preventive methods which will assist to clear any misconception of the diseases and increase the awareness and the practices of the preventive measures among them.

HIV can be transmitted from an infected person to another through sexual activities unprotected sex and non-sexual activities such

as sharing of sharp objects like hypodermic needle, unscreened blood transfusion as well as mother to child transmission during pregnancy. Currently, HIV has no known cure but infected persons can be placed on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) to make them live longer, live a healthier life and also avoid transmission of the infection to other people. Hence the need to focus on health communication strategies in its prevention and control, aimed at increasing awareness of risk factors, mode of transmission of the disease and its effect on the infected (Markowitz 2007; AIDS Info 2017). The awareness of mode of transmissions of HIV/AIDS, preventive, methods and risky sexual behavior among students of Tertiary institutions in Nigeria specifically in Bauchi State can be a key tool to the success of reduction of the spread HIV/AIDS among students of Tertiary institutions in Bauchi State.

Tertiary institutions (University/College) environment was found to provide great opportunity for HIV high-risk behaviors. This include high rate of pre-marital sexual activity, drug addictions and cultism among others. These activities which are common phenomenon in Tertiary institutions in Nigeria are potential channels of HIV/AIDS infection. The spread of the virus poses a bigger challenge to Educational institutions and enterprises where the age structure of the population, the congregation of a large number of people in a small space and the mandate of such institutions have direct link with the socio-economic development of the State or country vulnerability assessment is the process of estimating the vulnerability of "elements at risk" in the organization with regard to HIV/AIDS, vulnerability as "defenselessness, insecurity and exposure to risk, shocks and stress". Social structures, institution and one's location can affect the degree to which one is placed in a position of vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

(UNAIDS, 2014), socioeconomic status of the students is related to their vulnerability more specifically the female student where sex can be offered for clothes, cell phone, food or grades.

Students of Tertiary institutions are not a homogenous group; they can be categorized in many ways by sex, year of study, status, environments and so on. These classifications assist to understand what makes them vulnerable, why they engaged in high risk behavior and the kind of intervention is appropriate. As sexually active group many lack the necessary information and skills needed to protect themselves from contracting Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS. Awareness of health risks is basic to disease prevention and health promotion. The goal of prevention in the context of HIV is to avoid or minimize the risk of transmission of HIV from an infected person to an uninfected person. But despite this, HIV prevention measures currently recommended at the individual and community levels are based on awareness of how HIV can be transmitted from person to person.

STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Ideally students of tertiary institution are expected to be aware of the causes, mode of transmission and the preventive measures of the disease, since the disease is considered to be deadly and incurable. Awareness and practice of the preventive measures is the most effective means of curtailing the spread of the disease.

However many students of tertiary institutions in the state are not aware of the disease, while others are aware but are not willing to practice the preventive measures as a results of some factors such as emotional feelings, culture and religious belief,

HIV/AIDS is a global pandemic that hits entire society

specifically the youths who are the mainstay of any socio-economic development of any nation; tertiary students are mostly among the age categories that are vulnerable to the disease. The students of tertiary institution in Nigeria are aware of HIV/AIDS to a certain level. Nevertheless, there is need of further studies to explore the level of the awareness of the disease and its vulnerability across the tertiary institutions in the country.

According to Abdullahi (2009)various studies were conducted on the knowledge of HIV/AIDS by various scholars such as Abdullahi (2004) and Duze, Abdullahi (1997). Although, most of the studies showed that the majority of the respondents have knowledge of HIV/AIDS and mostly those who are aware of HIV/AIDS were younger and males' members of the society. Furthermore, the problem is not restricted to awareness only, but many among the members of the society found it very difficult to believe that it is real. Also according to 93% of the survey sample conducted in a study in (Hadejia and Kazaure) in Jigawa State, Duze and Abdullahi (1997) is aware of HIV/AIDS and 87% mentioned at least two correct ways of preventing HIV/AIDS, 68% of the respondents have only one sex partner. A total of 31% of them have two sex partners and above and most of the partners are commercial sex workers who did not use condoms in their most recent high risk sexual encounters. In another study conducted also in Gwale and Bari Communities of Kano State Duze and Abdullahi (1997) reported that the majority of the respondents have knowledge of ways of contracting and preventing HIV/AIDS, but majority of them do not use condoms and are not willing to use it in future.

Few studies were conducted in the state-owned Tertiary institutions including ATAP Bauchi, in his study Abubakar (2016) stated

that students of the collage were not aware of HIV/AIDS and equally not practice the HIV/AIDS preventive measure. Similarly, a study conducted by John (2017) on awareness/ Practices of HIV/AIDS and its effect on academic performance of students of A.D Rufai CLIS revealed that the students are aware of HIV/AIDS but hesitate to practice the preventive measures. These studies are insignificant to explain the state of awareness and practices of the HIV/AIDS among the students of the tertiary institutions in the state. Based on these backgrounds, the researcher examined the level of awareness and practices of preventive measures among the students of different program of studies including National Diploma ND, Higher National Diploma HND and Degree programs in different Tertiary institutions in the State, including Bauchi State University Gadau BASUG, Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic ATAP and AD Rufai Collage of legal and Islamic Studies (CLIS).

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

This article aimed at addressing awareness and practices of HI/AIDS preventive measures among students of tertiary institutions, awarded in Bayero University Kano (2021) It explained the state of awareness of HIV/AIDS, the state of practices of the HIV/AIDS among the students, and the relationship between the awareness of the preventive measures of the HIV/AIDS and practices of the HIV/AIDS preventive measures, the vulnerability of HIV/AIDS among the students of tertiary institution, and the relationship between the awareness of HIV/AIDS, the practices of the preventive measures and the program of studies of the students of tertiary institutions in Bauchi State. This article extracted specifically assessed the level of the awareness of the HIV/AIDS and its vulnerability among the students of tertiary institution in selected tertiary institutions in Bauchi state.

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REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Awareness of HIV/AIDS

According to the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA, 2012) good health is basic to human welfare and is a fundamental objective of social and economic development. HIV/AIDS and poor reproductive health (RH) still constitute major challenges to health and development in Nigeria. Addressing health challenges starts with identifying the problems, their causes and determinants. The health environment is ever changing and shaped by new science information policies and socio-cultural forces. Thus, there is the need to actively continue the collection of reliable data on health knowledge, attitude and on the magnitude of the HIV & AIDS epidemic. This is necessary in order to improve the awareness, prevention needs, challenges and opportunities as well as stimulate appropriate public health action that will ensure that on-going interventions and the future direction in policy formulation and program development to remain evidence-based.Awareness of HIV/AIDS is an aspect of curtailing the disease condition in a society. Students of tertiary institutions were to some extent found to be aware of the disease, however there is need of further intensification of the awareness program among the students, furthermore not all of the students that are aware of the disease are willing to practice the preventive measures which may be as a result of trust and confidence between friends, lower risky social behavior and fear of an unknown.

Awareness of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria

Nigeria has undoubtedly made some progress over the years in containing and creating awareness on the scourge of HIV/ AIDS. Many

lives have been saved through the awareness campaigns and provision and access to the antiretroviral (AVR) drugs for people living with HIV/AIDS. There are Federal and State agencies created and charged with the responsibilities of handling HIV/AIDS issues (NACA). This is in line with the objective of study in order reduce the mortality and the morbidity rates among the students of tertiary institutions in the state. In a similar studies conducted by Abdullahi (2004) revealed that the majority of the respondents demonstrated awareness of HIV/AIDS. The study was conducted among the people in different risk groups and the result of the studies indicated that the majority of Female Sex Workers (FSW) believes that AIDS is real, and 86% of them seen AIDS patients, and they are also aware about ways of contracting and preventing AIDS. Similarly majority of the respondents in the study revealed their awareness of the disease but they are not willing to practice the preventive measures due to socio-cultural reasons.

Even though they really believed that AIDS is real, their different life experiences and the various preventive practices they are engaged in, shows that many believe that there is no protection but God's protection which show the degree of compliance to culture and religion among some people. The above studies showed that larger number of members of the society have knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS. But the major problem lies in the lack of willingness to accept and practice preventive measures by many people who belong to the high risk group due to socio-cultural reason.

According to Dele (2011) considerable attention has been paid in social science, medical, and public health research to the factors influencing HIV/AIDS risk behaviors Nigerian many models of health behavior, such as the AIDS Risk Reduction Model, the Information-

Motivation-Behavioral Skills Model, and the Health Belief Model, posit that awareness about the facts of HIV/AIDS transmission will lead to more preventive behaviors and less risky behavior. Also Dele Stated that HIV/AIDS knowledge among young people is of great concern in Nigeria, where HIV prevalence among 15-24 year olds is 10.3%. As in many other less developed countries, the primary method of HIV/AIDS transmission in Nigeria is heterosexual intercourse.

However the ARRM focus on the socio-cultural issues that influenced the risk of an individual and neglect an individual's behavior choices and ability to take action, for instance according to (McGrafth et al, 1993), many women in an ARRM study in Campala Uganda, felt at risk for HIV/,not due to their own behavior but because of their sexual partners…an issue the women reported was outside of their control.

Perception of Youth on the Prevalence of HIV/AIDS

Recent studies on the perception of youth on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among youth in Nigeria and other African countries have found at least moderate levels of knowledge about HIV/AIDS, but important gaps in HIV/AIDS awareness remain. Condoms, abstinence, and monogamy or limiting the number of partners is the most frequently named methods of preventing HIV/AIDS, although condoms are mentioned far more often than the other methods.

The relationship between HIV/AIDS awareness and behaviors has been debated by Omoregie.Engagement in high risk HIV/AIDS behaviors (e.g., multiple sex partners, inconsistent condom use) despite awareness about HIV/AIDS has been found in some studies of youth in Africa, but other studies on the AIDS risk and prevention Boyer (2012) has found positive associations between HIV/AIDS awareness and

HIV/AIDS prevention behaviors. Furthermore, recent evidence on the sexual behaviors of young Nigerians indicates that preventive behaviors (condom use and fewer sexual partners) have increased.

Contrary to the above findings, it was found in the study that there are low practices of the use of condom among the students of tertiary institution of Bauchi state, which may be unrelated to socio-cultural and religious factors. The preventive measure that is widely accepted among them is the abstinence which is found also to be strongly influenced by cultural and religious factors among them.

Equally, Dele (2011) further stated that besides risk behaviors, a number of other factors may be correlated with level of HIV/AIDS awareness among young people in Africa. Young people who know someone living with HIV/AIDS or who died of the disease may be more knowledgeable about the disease than others. Youth who have completed more grades in school may have received more information about HIV/AIDS than others, and a positive association between Educational attainment and HIV/AIDS awareness has been found in some studies in Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania.

Knowledge of HIV/AIDS and how it is transmitted among Students at Tertiary Institutions

According to Uys (2012) there is abundance of knowledge among students at Tertiary institutions about HIV/AIDS and how it is transmitted. Although students know how to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS, they still put themselves at risk because they experience pressure from their peers to use alcohol and to engage in sexual activities. Despite these dilemmas, some students accept responsibility for their lives and for protecting themselves against HIV/AIDS by finding out their HIV status, aim of this study was to access these students' awareness

and practices of HIV/AIDS preventive measures among the students.

In line with the above, Harding et al., (2012) Students of Tertiary institutions in Nigeria are aware of HIV/AIDS preventive measures base on the findings on the study he conducted on Nigerian students on the knowledge, perception and behaviors about HIV/AIDS prevention, the results indicated that the students were knowledgeable about transmission and symptomatology and prevention but there were some misconceptions about the mode of transmission of HIV, few students identified themselves to be at high risk even though majority of them (92%) were sexually experienced. The study also showed that even though these students are knowledgeable and concerned about contracting HIV/AIDS from their partners, this did not prevent them from engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse. It appears that students are exercising caution when negotiating new sexual relationships, as they are likely to discuss (and insist on) using condoms, and ask to have a monogamous relationship.

Chang et al. (2015) also stated that the Students obtained information about HIV/AIDS and prevention primarily from the media rather than from school classrooms and homes, which suggests a need to increase Educational efforts at the University. Many students of this University may be at risk of becoming HIV infected due to their age bracket, level of sexual activity and past/present sexual behaviors. Awareness and knowledge on certain aspects of HIV/AIDS is very high among the students of Ebonyi State University, south eastern Nigeria., despite high knowledge about HIV transmission and prevention, students still engage in high risk sexual behavior such as practicing pre-marital sex, having multiple sexual partners, non-use or inconsistent use of

condom during sexual intercourse and sharing unsterilized sharp objects. This is probably due to low perception of self-vulnerability to HIV infection among the students.

Consequences of Failure to perceive HIV Infection as a Personal Risk among students of tertiary institution

Failure to perceive HIV infection as a personal risk has prevented majority of the students from making commitment to sexual behavior change. This is as a result of negative perception of the causes and courses of the disease, some of the students have a belief that the cause of the disease is related to violation of cultural norms which attract punishment by the supernatural being, while others also have a belief that use of certain traditional methods such as use of charm can make them to be less at risk. Similarly some of the students are of the opinion that retaining a sexual partner even if they engage in an unprotected sexual relationship may not make them to be at risk, sharing syringe and needle among drug addicts and others who derive less sexual satisfaction with the use condom needs intensive awareness campaign. This will help to improve their practice of safe lifestyles and reduce the incidence of HIV infection and death recorded among the youth.

DISCUSSION OF BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

What is now known as Bauchi was until 1976 a province in the then North-Eastern State of Nigeria. According to the 2006 census, the state has a population of 4,653,066.Bauchi State has gone through tremendous transformation over the years. The Ajawa language was spoken in Bauchi State, but became extinct between 1920 and 1940 as speakers switched to Hausa. During the colonial era up to independence, it formed part of the Bauchi Plateau of the then Northern Region, until the

1967 state creation exercise, when the Bauchi, Borno, and Adamawa provinces constituted the former North-Eastern State. With the creation of Bauchi State in 1976, then comprising present Bauchi and Gombe States, it included 16 local government areas. The number of local government areas in the then Bauchi State was increased to 20 and later to 23. However, in 1997 when Gombe State was created out of Bauchi and additional local governments were created in the country, Bauchi State was left with 20 local government areas. These ethnic groups have lived relatively in peace since the time immemorial. As a result, they intermarry among themselves and have increased in population. That therefore speaks to how various diseases; including HIV/AIDS could have been contracted and spread – thereby necessitating the need for assessing the awareness and vulnerability of HIV/AIDS among the populace, especially students of state-owned tertiary institutions in the state.

The study populations are the entire students of Tertiary institutions in Bauchi State including both male and female students at different levels of educational programs. Therefore, the target population for the study consists of all students of the state-owned tertiary institutions of Bauchi State. Others are Students' Affairs Officers of the various institutions and the Medical Officers of the various institutions including both the nurses and the doctors.

Table 1: Population of the Study

S/N	Category	Tertiary Institutions in Bauchi State	Students Enrolment		Total
			Male	Female	
1	University	Bauchi State University	1266	1048	2314
2	Polytechnic	Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic Bauchi (ATAP)	8128	10128	18,256
3	College	A.D Rufa'I College of Legal and Islamic Studies (CLIS) Misau	5672	2328	8,000
4	College	College of Education Azare (COE)	7500	3500	11,000
5	Collage	School of Nursing Bauchi (SON)	314	159	473
6	Collage	School of Midwifery Bauchi (SOM)	0	450	450
7	Collage	Adult and Non -formal Education Kangere (ANFE)	1842	2023	3,865
8	Collage	College of Health Technology Ningi (CHT)	1250	1207	2,457
9	Collage	Social Development Institute (SDI) Ningi	1616	1617	3,233
10	Collage	College of Administration and Business Studies (CABS) Azare	356	294	650
	TOTAL		27944	22754	50,698

Source: Multiple Sources (Registrars' offices students' enrollment, 2014/2015)

METHODOLOGY

Research design is governed by the notion of 'fitness for purpose' since there is no single blue print for planning research design. In general the purpose of the research determine its design methodology This research is a combination both in purpose and in design of cross-sectional research design and survey research because it seeks to investigate the awareness and practices of HIV/AIDS preventive measures among students of public-owned tertiary institutions in Bauchi state. On the other hand, it is a survey research because it is based on the collection of data directly from the target population through questionnaires, FGDs, and IDIs methods.

The primary data for this study were collected using both the qualitative and the quantitative methods of data collection. The first set of data is made up of the collected through survey with the aid questionnaire from the students, while the second set is the qualitative data obtained from the students using Focus Group Discussion Method (FGD) while the third set of the collected was obtained from the medical offices and students affairs of the various institutions using in-depth- interview method (IDI).

The questionnaire was presented in English language which consisted of three sections: A–C. Section A contained information on demographic data of the respondents; age, sex, place of birth, Educational program, source of income and religion; Section B contained items 1-14 collects data on the awareness of students on HIV/AIDS while section C contained items 1-10 sought data about the

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practices of HIV/AIDS preventive measures by students. Three trained research assistants were used to dispatched and retrieved the questionnaires

Focus Group Discussion method of collecting data was used to generate qualitative data to supplement the collected quantitative data, the FGD was organized in two groups from each Tertiary institution comprising nine participant from male and female categories making group of six in all the three selected Tertiary institutions making a sample of fifty two respondents from the three groups in order to support the data collected with the questionnaire. The FGD was conducted using recording and writing material, the related questions were presented to the respondent, where the answers were recorded transcribed and presented.

In-depth-interview method of collecting data was used to generate qualitative data that complimented the quantitative data using questionnaire. The interview method was structured and open-ended to compliment the deficiencies found in the quantitative data. The interview was conducted in English language, the data was recorded transcribed and used in the analysis of the findings. Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected and used in the study.

DISCUSSION OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS

The findings of the research revealed that the students of the tertiary institutions under study were aware of HIV/AIDS and its preventive measures (79.2%). The students/respondents indicated their high level of awareness of the disease in the table below:

Table 2: Respondents' Awareness of HIV/AIDS Preventive Measures

The result that verifies the awareness of HIV/AIDS among the students is stated below; Respondents' Awareness of HIV/AIDS Preventive Measures.

Awareness	Institutions			Total
	BASUG	ATAP	A.D RUFA'I (CLIS)	
Yes	251 (80.4%)	212 (77.4%)	255 (79.4%)	718 (79.2%)
No	61 (19.6%)	62 (22.6%)	66 (20.6%)	189 (20.8%)
Total	**312 (100.0%)**	**274 (100.0%)**	**321 (100.0%)**	**907 (100.0%)**

Source: Field Survey, 2016

2 above indicate, 79.2% among the respondents are aware of HIV /AIDS while 20.8% are not aware of HIV/AIDS. This verifies; the students of Tertiary institution of Bauchi State are aware of HIV/AIDS preventive measures.

I, am not interested in knowing what HIV/AIDS is all about and I don't believe in its existence because I know it's all about punishment of those offended God, in fact it's a means of punishment to the sinners (Male FGD University)

This indicates that some of the respondents do not believe in existence of the disease, they are not interested in its existence, while others believe that there is no disease that has no treatment, so even if it exist there is treatment for it; there perceptions shows, some of the respondents cannot differentiate between the actual treatment and symptomatic or palliative treatment of the disease They assume that receiving palliative treatment that enhance the immunity of the infected person is permanent cure of the disease while in actual sense HIV/AIDS has no permanent cure, the People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) have to be on drugs for life.

It was also revealed in the study that the students had multiple

sources of awareness of the disease which make them to have high level of the awareness. This is explained in the table below

Table 3 Respondents' Sources of Information on HIV/AIDS;

Sources	Institutions									Total
	BASUG			ATAP			A.D RUFA'I (CLIS)			
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	
Television	270 (86.5%)	42 (13.5%)	312 (34.4%)	232 (84.7%)	42 (15.3%)	274 (30.2%)	282 (87.9%)	39 (12.1%)	321 (35.4%)	907 (100%)
Radio	312 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	312 (34.4%)	274 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	274 (30.2%)	321 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	321 (35.4%)	907 (100%)
Newspapers	312 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	312 (34.4%)	274 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	274 (30.2%)	321 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	321 (35.4%)	907 (100%)
Pamphlet	258 (82.7%)	54 (17.3%)	312 (34.4%)	219 (79.9%)	55 (20.1%)	274 (30.2%)	266 (82.9%)	55 (17.1%)	321 (35.4%)	907 (100%)
Health Care Workers	173 (55.4%)	139 (44.6%)	312 (34.4%)	129 (47.1%)	145 (52.9%)	274 (30.2%)	167 (52.0%)	154 (48.0%)	321 (35.4%)	907 (100%)
Campaigns	67 (21.5%)	245 (78.5%)	312 (34.4%)	56 (20.4%)	218 (79.6%)	274 (30.2%)	67 (20.9%)	254 (79.1%)	321 (35.4%)	907 (100%)
Religious Leader/Community	142 (45.5%)	170 (54.5%)	312 (34.4%)	135 (49.3%)	139 (50.7%)	274 (30.2%)	158 (49.2)	163 (50.8%)	321 (35.4%)	907 (100%)
Family Member	125 (40.1%)	187 (59.9%)	312 (34.4%)	107 (39.1%)	167 (60.9%)	274 (30.2%)	125 (38.9%)	196 (61.1%)	321 (35.4%)	907 (100%)
Friend	139 (44.6%)	173 (55.4%)	312 (34.4%)	124 (45.3%)	150 (54.7%)	274 (30.2%)	156 (48.6%)	165 (51.4%)	321 (35.4%)	907 (100%)
Sexual Partner	36 (11.5%)	276 (88.5%)	312 (34.4%)	37 (13.5%)	237 (86.5%)	274 (30.2%)	46 (14.3%)	275 (85.7%)	321 (35.4%)	907 (100%)
Workplace	60 (19.2%)	252 (80.8%)	312 (34.4%)	76 (27.7%)	198 (72.3%)	274 (30.2%)	74 (23.1%)	247 (76.9%)	321 (35.4%)	907 (100%)
Others	7 (2.2%)	305 (97.8%)	312 (34.4%)	5 (1.8%)	269 (98.2%)	274 (30.2%)	11 (3.4%)	310 (96.6%)	321 (35.4%)	907 (100%)

*Source: Field Survey, 2016.*Table 3 above shows that the major sources of the information of HIV/AIDS of the respondents were from; television86.4%,radio 100%,newspaper100%,pamphlet 81.9%,health care workers 51.7%,while the other sources played include; campaigns 20.9%, religious leaders/community 48.0%,family members 39.4%,friends 46.2% sexual partner 13.1% work place 23.2%,others 2.5%. The presentation shows print and electronic media plays vital role in prevention of HIV/AIDS among students of Tertiary institution of Bauchi State with the highest percentages of 100% to radio and newspapers while television carried 86.4% and pamphlet with 81.9% this cannot unrelated with the accessibility of the print/electronic media and the Educational statuses of the respondents While other sources including, campaign groups, family members religious leaders work

places sexual partners and other source plays less role in prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Family members, religious organization, work places and others are also like, me they do not have sufficient knowledge of HIV/AIDS to make me aware of the disease that's why I prefer to acquire the awareness from the right sources (Male FGD BASUG).

Table 4:Respondents'Awarenessof Methods HIV/AIDS Preventive Measure

S/N	Awareness	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Abstinence	503	55.5
2.	Use of Condom	274	30.2
3.	Faithfulness to a partner	82	9.0
4.	Avoidance of sharing utensils	48	5.3
	Total	**907**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2016

The result shows that the students of the tertiary institutions in Bauchi State have awareness of HIV/AIDS. More specifically the respondents believe that the only accepted way of HIV/AIDS prevention is abstinence which may be related to awareness of the religious injunction by the respondents. Buttressing the above, a respondent in the FGD said:

Abstinence is what our religion propagated; our religion does not allow pre-marital and extra-marital sexual relationship that is why I see no reason for engaging in any, with or without the use of condom(A Female Discussant)

Another respondent reveals his agreement of the use of condom as a preventive measure to HIV/AIDS. He said:

I was informed from the media that condom can prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and I agree with the information male).

On vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, the findings of this research

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revealed that majority of the students are less vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. This is because they do not engage in risky sexual behavior such as sharing of infected syringe and needle, having multiple sex partners and engaging in an unprotected sex with their partners.

Table 5: Respondents' Number of Partners of Sexual Relations

Sexual Partner	Frequency & Percentage			Total
	BASUG	ATAP	A.D RUFA'I (CLIS)	
Regular Partner	83 (26.6%)	63 (23.0%)	87 (27.1%)	**233 (25.7%)**
More than one partner	47 (15.1%)	44 (16.1%)	55 (17.1%)	**146 (16.1%)**
None	182 (58.3%)	167 (60.9%)	179 (55.8%)	**528 (58.2%)**
Total	**312 (100%)**	**274(100%)**	**321(100%)**	**907(100%)**

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table above shows that the students of tertiary institutions are less vulnerable to HIV/AIDS as the majority of them indicates having no sexual relation with their partner, while others having the sexual relation maintain only a partner, very few among them are vulnerable as result of having risky sexual relation 25.7% .Majority of the respondents practice abstinence which is in line with the FGD Respondents BASUG.

Having indiscriminate relationship is detrimental to my life I'm afraid of being infected with the diseases better for me to stay without having sexual relationship with my partner till I get married; it's prohibited in my religion to have premarital relationship with my partner till we get married. (Female)

The table also shows the majority of the respondent believes in abstinence either as a result of moral upbringing or religious norms and values.

Table 6: Respondents' Practices of Using Condom for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS

Use of Condom	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	237	62.5
No	142	37.5
Total	**379**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table above shows among that, even those who had sexual relationship with their partners in table 3 used condom as a preventive measures to HIV/AIDS, this also indicates that the students less vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. There is also others who were not using condom this is explained with FGD result ATAP;

I will rather not have the sexual relation than to have it with a barrier because it seriously reduces pleasure; this is lack of trust and mutual understanding I can't advise my friend to use condom while having our intimate relationship with him because I trust him and I love him (Female)

Another respondent also stated that;

If my friend insisted in using condom while having relationship, I will break the relationship and find a partner that has trust on me because it's all about trust and mutual understanding.(Male)

The table above shows despite the level of the awareness among the tertiary students there are still others who are vulnerable to the disease base on their unwillingness to practice use of condom as preventive measures as a result trust, mutual relation with partner and, reduction of sexual pleasure.

Table 7: Respondents' Practices of Sharing of Syringe and Needle

Practice	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	48	5.3
No	859	94.7
Total	**907**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 5 above shows practices of sharing syringe and needle during injection is very low among the respondents indicating that the majority of the respondents are less vulnerable to HIV/AIDS This may

not be unconnected with explanation of the respondents showing their interest of having safety injection to prevent exposure to HIV/AIDS and other related diseases, the result also predicted low level of drug addiction in the Tertiary institutions among students of Tertiary institutions in Bauchi State.

Table 8: Respondents Risk Perception of HIV/AIDS

Perception	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	159	17.5
No	748	82.5
Total	**907**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2016

Table 6above shows that the majority of the students of the tertiary institution in Bauchi state do not feel at risk of having HIV/AIDS which may be related to the awareness and practices of the preventive measures they have about the disease condition. This is further explained by the FGD respondents ATAP;

I am not at risk at all, why should I, while I abstained myself from premarital sexual relationship with any of my friends (Male)

Contrary to the view of the first respondents in the FGD ATAP another respondent who doesn't agree with use of HIV/AIDS preventive measures stated that;

I don't believe that there is anything like HIV/AIDS in existence it's just an imagination, I don't think I am exposed to anything like that. (Male respondent)

The result also shows since the respondents do not engage in risky sexual behavior, they also have awareness and practices preventive measures HIV/AIDS made them to consider themselves as not at risk categories, while there are also others among the respondents who considered themselves not at risk as a result of the believe they have on HIV/AIDS as just a disease of imagination.

CONCLUSION

This article assessed the awareness and the vulnerability of HIV/AIDS among the students of tertiary institutions of Bauchi state. It demonstrated what HIV/AIDS is, what causes the diseases, awareness of the preventive measures, and the vulnerability of the disease among students of tertiary institutions in the state. Also, the article assessed awareness of HIV/AIDS among the students of tertiary institution in Bauchi state, the practices of HIV/AIDS preventive measures, the relationship between the awareness of HIV/AIDS and the practices of the preventive measures among students of tertiary institutions of Bauchi state, sources of the awareness of HIV/AIDS such as news papers, magazines ,radio religious leaders, clubs/associations and family members, the article also assessed reasons why some of the students hesitated to practice the preventive measures despite the knowledge of the preventive practices acquired, which make them vulnerable to the disease, it was also found that the students are aware of the causes and the predisposing factors of the disease such as HIV as the causative organism and risky sexual behaviors such as having multiple sexual partner, unprotected sex, sharing syringe and needle mother to child transmission as the predisposing factors

It was also seen in the study that the students of tertiary institutions in Bauchi are aware of HIV/AIDS through use of print and electronic media. Other sources of awareness of the HIV/AIDS include family friends and medical workers. peer group, cub and association religious leaders which also play significant role in the awareness of the disease. The students of the tertiary institutions in Bauchi state do not consider themselves as risk individuals. This is as a result of practices of abstinence of the respondents and beliefs of the respondents about what

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HIV/AIDS is and how to contract the disease. There is lower practice of the usage of condom among the students of tertiary institutions in the study area. This study concluded that the students of tertiary institutions in Bauchi state also prefer abstinence as a major means HIV/AIDS prevention, because of religious influence.

The students of tertiary institutions in Bauchi state… are less vulnerable to HIV/AIDS as a result of the awareness of the disease by the students as a result of the increased awareness of the HIV/AIDS among the respondents which influences their state of practices of the preventive measures. There is no difference between male and female students in their awareness of HIV/AIDS. Equally, similar level of awareness was observed between male and female respondents in the study area. This is because….

The findings of this research also revealed that, there is no significant difference between males and females in their practices of HIV/AIDS preventive measures. It was concluded that there is no sex differences in the vulnerability among the respondents. This is attributed to their level of awareness and practices of the preventive measures. Additionally, awareness of HIV/AIDS among students in tertiary institutions in Bauchi influenced the practices of HIV/AIDS among the students. Furthermore there is lower risky behavior among the students in the study area. This includes sharing syringes and needles. The factors responsible for this are numerous, including religion, less practices of premarital sexual relationship among others.

Use of condom as a major barrier method in prevention of HIV/AIDS was found to be less common in practice as a result of cultural, emotional and religious factors among the respondents of the study. The respondents also considered themselves as less vulnerable as a result of misperception

or cultural and religious factors. Socio-cultural factors influence the risky social behavior of the students as they perceived themselves as less risky. The students were found to be aware of HIV/AIDS equally practice the preventive measures with the exception of few, which are not willing to practice the preventive measures despite the awareness acquired. Program of the study found to be not related with level of awareness and the practices of the preventive measures among the students of the tertiary institution of the state

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

i. There is need by the government and NGOs to intensify awareness campaign on VCT in the Tertiary institutions, as it was found that most of the respondents considered themselves as risk free categories. Government should provide more VCT centers in all the Tertiary institutions. Students of Tertiary institution should be encouraged to test their HIV status more specifically when they are getting married.

ii. A strong collaboration among universities, Polytechnic, colleges of Education and Ministry of Health should be built to help in the design and implementation of comprehensive special Education to curtail the spread of HIV/AIDS in Bauchi State Such programs should begin at the primary school levels and extending beyond formal Education to reach parents and other adults in the larger community. The existence of HIV/AIDS Clubs in some Tertiary institutions in Bauchi State should be scaled up to cover all higher and Tertiary institutions.

iii. Parents, teachers and sex educators should be more involved in

HIV/AIDS Education and prevention strategies. Parents for instance, should be encouraged to discuss sexual reproductive health issues such as condom usage and abstinence with their children. Availability of condoms is definitely important but individuals need to have confidence and firm belief that they can actually use it for effective intervention programs.

iv. The use of the print and electronic media for the dissemination of HIV/AIDS information should be intensified since most of the youth as indicated in this study used that medium. The Bauchi State AIDS Commission should encourage its development partners (Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Based Organizations, etc.) to provide up to date health related HIV information on their websites.

v. The media should direct more advertisement and campaign towards undergraduate.

vi. The University should continue to provide adequate HIV/AIDs information to students with a view to help reduce or eliminate the transmission of the deadly disease among its undergraduate and by extension to its postgraduate students.

vii. Parents and guidance should join hands with the University authority in the prevention of HIV and AIDS among students through parent-school consultative programs

viii. Government should complement the efforts of the school authority and parents through media advocacy program on the prevention of HIV/AIDS among undergraduate students in Nigeria.

ix. Undergraduate Students in the University should form a group of individuals who will serve as advocates of diseases prevention and control among the students.

x. The University authority should provide advertising bill boards that will help disseminate. Public awareness programs on HIV/AIDs prevention and control.

xi. The management of Tertiary institutions in the State and the country should provide adequate accommodation facilities for the students especially the female students. This will go a long way in reducing the problem of cohabitation of male and female students. This can also help in curtailing some of the students' behavioral excesses which predisposes them to HIV/AIDS infection.

xii. Parents, religious leaders and lecturers should devise a means of counseling the students on the need to be morally upright and academically focused. This will help them appreciate the need to imbibe healthy lifestyle and safe behaviors in the Tertiary institutions.

xiii. The management of the various Tertiary institutions should promote productive ventures such as sports and vocational services rather than activities such as organizing parties and beauty pageants which promote illicit sexual behaviors on campuses.

xiv. The management of the Tertiary institutions should enforce decent dress code and discourage every form of indecent dressing in the Tertiary institutions especially among the female students. Indecent dressing by especially the female students is a

provocative act that stimulates sexual behavior.

xv. The Government, voluntary organizations and nongovernmental organizations should intensify effort in the campaign on HIV/AIDS so as to increase the level of awareness. This could be achieved through organizing public lectures, posting of handbill and jingles in media houses.

xvi. The school authorities should continue to enlighten the students on the reality and dangers of HIV/AIDS.

xvii. Religious and clergymen should help to enlighten their followers on the need to have positive behavioral attitude.

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