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Using drama for investment and management of HIV and AIDS risk reduction practices in selected universities in Abia State: A controlled study

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Introduction: Studies have shown that performing on stage allows individuals to use rational and holistic approaches to suggest solutions to problems. Following this, using drama as an intervention strategy could result to internalizing both the emotional and cognitive dimensions of a problem to produce positive changes. This study used drama to create awareness on HIV and AIDS risk reduction practices among university students.

Materials & Methods: First year students in three universities, Federal, State and Private Universities were used for the study. It was assumed that using drama as a form of intervention for the first year students will create awareness on the likelihood of sexual overtures in tertiary institutions. A random sample of ninety (90) students made up of 30 students from each of the three universities studied was used. The completed copies of self-administered pre- and post-drama questionnaire were collected and analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively using tables and percentages.

Results: Results showed that 27 (90%) of students in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture (MOUA), 28 (98%) in Abia State University (ABSU) and 28 (93%) in Rhema University were aware that HIV is a viral infection. Also a good number of students 29 (97%) in MOUA, 28 (93%) in ABSU and 27 (90%) in Rhema viewed sharing sharp objects like razor blades and syringes as risk factor for HIV infection. Knowledge on meaning of unprotected sex, showed that 25 (83%) of students in MOUA, 22 (73%) in ABSU and 23 (77%) in Rhema viewed unprotected sex as having sex without condom.

Conclusion: Based on result of the study, drama is a valuable and timely intervention strategy that is capable of encouraging HIV risk reduction among university students.

Biography

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