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Comparing the effect of two teaching methods about HIV/AIDS on the students' knowledge and attitude at Islamic Azad University of Lahijan in 2003

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Background: Teaching is a basic strategy in health promotion programs. Concerns on sextually transmitted diseases has dramatically grown in recent years. Teaching can be a proper strategy to prevent these diseases, because these diseases are often acquired through avoidable and changeable behavior.

Objective: To compare the effect of two educational methods, lecture (using film and pamphlet) and poster, on students' knowledge and attitude about HIV/AIDS.

Methods: This research was a quasi-experimental study. The sample consisted of 160 students, chosen using stratified – random sampling and divided into two equal groups of lecture and poster. A questionnaire including three sections with 54 questions (demographic information, knowledge and attitude) was completed by the subjects in two stages, before and after teaching. Independent and paired t-tests were used to analyze the data.

Results: The findings indicated a significant difference between the pretest and posttest of knowledge scores in both teaching methods (P<0.0001). The mean of knowledge scores in lecture group improved from 35.18 to 75.7 and in poster group from 35.8 to 48.51. A Significant difference was observed between pre and post-test of the means of attitude scores for lecture (p<0.0001) and poster (p<0.001). The mean of attitude scores improved from 17.38 to 27.78 in the lecture group and from 15.36 to 18.68 in the poster group. Comparing the two methods, the results showed a significant difference in knowledge and attitude level in two groups (P<0.0001).

Conclusion: Lecture teaching had more effect on improving knowledge and attitude of the students about HIV/AIDS. As a result, the effective and codified educational programs are proved as basic strategies to improve knowledge and attitude of the young about HIV/AIDS in order to prevent this disease.

Keywords: Education, lecture, poster, knowledge, attitude, HIV/AIDS

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