



SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS, HIV/AIDS

ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF CONDOM USE AMONG MALES PATIENTS ATTENDED IN A STI CLINIC AT CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH: A CROSS SECTIONAL SURVEY

P. Barua⁽¹⁾

Lab One Health Services, Skin Vd, Chittagong, Bangladesh⁽¹⁾

Introduction: Although there is overwhelming evidence that condoms are highly effective in preventing sexual transmissions of STIs and HIV, but condom use among Bangladeshi population has generally been reported to be very low. To address the problem, recent perceptions of condom use among different population groups are needed to be explored further.

Objective: The aims of the study are to understand the attitude and practice of condom use among male patients attended in a STI clinic and gather information for strengthening condom promotion programs.

Materials and Methods: This cross-sectional survey was conducted with 125 male patients, aged between 18-55 years, attended in a STI clinic at Chittagong, Bangladesh from August 2016 to November 2016. After taking verbal consent, randomly selected participants were interviewed separately using a set of structured questionnaires. Findings were analyzed to comprehend their attitude and practice of condom use.

Results: Out of 125 participants, 64.8% (n=81) were married. Most of them (81.6%) had more than one sex partners. 93 (74.4%) were previously diagnosed as STI patients though none was found positive for HIV. All of them had occasionally experienced with condom use but no one consistently used condom either for contraception or for STIs/HIV prevention. Among all occasional users, 62.4% used condoms for contraception compared to the 31.2% who used condoms for preventing STIs/HIV. Although 39 occasionally used condoms during vaginal/anal intercourse but none was found using it during oro-genital sex. 60.8% of the total admitted sexual contacts with different partner(s) during their symptomatic period of STIs, however, only 8% used condoms.

Conclusions: Despite some limitations, the study demonstrated “low and no condom use” attitude and practice of a group of high risk populations for preventing STIs/HIV. Those findings would provide some directions for researching further and strengthening condom promotion programs in Bangladesh.

