

ABSTRACT

A descriptive study "To Assess the Psycho-Social Impact of Children Suffering from AIDS and their Principal Care-givers, Issues and challenges of the Future"

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY: -

1. To identify the psycho-social impact of children suffering from AIDS and their principal care-givers.
2. To assess the psycho-social impact of children suffering from AIDS and their principal care-givers.
3. To determine the psycho-social impact of children suffering from AIDS and their principal care-givers.
4. To correlate the psycho-social impact of children suffering from AIDS and their principal care-givers and the supportive role of the nurse in counseling them.
5. To associate the psycho-social impact of children suffering from AIDS and their principal care-givers with selected socio-demographic data.

The non-participatory observation technique was used. The investigator devised a four-point scale Interview schedule consisted of questionnaires for children suffering from AIDS and their principal care-givers, which was related to the four domains, namely, physical, psychological, social and spiritual aspects of the individual. The investigator had utilized W.H.O. QOL-Bref Field trial version December 1996, a validated tool. In addition, the burden assessment schedule a standardized stress related illness checklist, the EPQ (J) questionnaire was used.

The investigator provided individual counseling and family counseling to the children suffering from AIDS and their principal care-givers. The total score of each psycho-social variable was analysed and highest score was allotted for a healthier pattern of adjustment which indicates bon adaptation, the least score indicates maladjustment which requires further adjustment and coping towards an individual's life and illness. The study included 300 children suffering from AIDS and their (n=300) principal care-givers admitted in the Government institute of thoracic medicine and chest diseases, Tambaram Chennai-47. The subjects were selected according to the criteria's set by the investigator. Convenient sampling technique was used to select the subjects and the data was analysed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

FINDINGS: -

- The illness status of the children suffering from AIDS and their principal care-givers indicated pressing demands on the family system and their responses indicated the severity of the psycho-social impact which had an lasting effect on their quality of life, which included highly significant differences in the association between the psycho-social variables related to the four domains namely, physical, psychological, social spiritual of the children suffering from AIDS and their principal care-givers.
- Majority of the principal care-givers had experienced severe financial burden.
- Significant and positive correlation was found among the association between the socio-demographic data and the psycho-social variables of children suffering from AIDS and their principal care-givers.
- The findings of this study was significant and the psychological distress experienced by the children suffering from AIDS and their principal care-givers was severe indicating a greater psycho-social impact