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AIDS Awareness Among the School Children of Bahawalpuria Community of Patiala (Punjab)

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KEY WORDS: AIDS. Awareness. Survey.

ABSTRACT The present survey was an attempt to check the level of AIDS awareness among the students, belonging to Bahawalpuria community, studying at the schools located in Tripuri township, a suburb of Patiala. The sample comprised of 250 students ranging in age from 13-18 years. A questionnaire prepared especially for this purpose dealing with different aspects of AIDS was prepared and the students were asked to fill it independently. It was observed that a very low percentage of the students were aware of the full form of AIDS/HIV however, 82.8 per cent students mentioned virus as the causative agent. Certain myths and misconceptions prevailed regarding HIV transmission. Majority of the students were aware that there is no cure but a few had some misconceptions. Only 34 per cent students were aware of all the precautions to be taken to avoid AIDS.

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