

# Awareness for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS): Analysis for Truck Drivers of Punjab, India

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**Abstract:** *Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in India is facing the hard instance in 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In India, the potential of Truck Drivers is of great significance due the transfer of goods for its connectivity for meeting the requirements across the length and breadth of the country. The keenness to understand the awareness for AIDS amongst the truck drivers of Punjab is the main objective of the study. The study uses a survey analysis for 100 Truck Drivers of Punjab in India to understand their level of awareness for AIDS. The study has been conducted in Punjab in India. Punjab is a progressive state of India. Punjab has been ranked as one of the growing states of India. The study uses Descriptive Statistics to find the important outcomes and the results depict that majorly of truck drivers want for added necessity for educating about controlling of the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection. Further 88% truck drivers are well conscious that AIDS is incurable disease.*

**Key words:** Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Truck Drivers, Punjab.

## **Introduction:**

To understand Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is of immense importance since it is believed to be very dangerous disease and additionally truck drivers are considered to be more powerful carriers for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Time has come to focus on measures for preventing of this deadly disease. Negative attitudes towards HIV positive persons are an obstacle in utilization of diagnostic and treatment facilities for HIV/AIDS. Attitude and beliefs of family members and friends of HIV positive persons are important because they play role in providing care and psycho- social support to them [1]. The aim of Integrated Counseling & Testing Centers (ICTCs) is to make all HIV-infected people in the country aware of their status so that they adopt healthy lifestyles and prevent the transmission of HIV to others, and access life-saving care and treatment. Thus, counseling and testing services are an important component of prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the country [2]. HIV/AIDS is deeply symbolic of the collective malaise that our society faces in the era of globalization and liberalization. The first serological evidences of HIV infection in India was discovered amongst female sex workers in Tamil Nadu in 1986. Since then, there is remarkable increase in the HIV/ AIDS infection. [3]. AIDS has now become a major public health issue in India. It is caused by HIV, which is transmitted mainly through sexual intercourse. India has one of the largest road networks in the world, involving millions of drivers and helpers [4]. India has the third largest HIV infected population in the world, through the prevalence rate continues to be lower than one per cent. After UNAIDS revised the estimated number of people living with HIV in India downwards from 5.7 million to 2.5 million in 2007, it appeared that the burden of the disease in the Indian society was not as important as other issues, such as basic sanitation and food security [5]

Several studies have been done for understanding the awareness for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) amongst Truck Drivers and on the basis of comprehension the following factors are identified: Educating the citizens about controlling the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection, Infrastructure for treatment of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) needs to be upgraded, More Blood Banks are required to be established, Subject on AIDS awareness to be introduced in the Primary School Level, HIV testing facilities to be established in the entire Healthcare centers, Speeding up the efforts in creating AIDS awareness, Counseling unit for generating awareness on AIDS, AIDS patients to be treated more friendly, HIV testing twice in a year to be made compulsory for each citizen, New medicines for HIV patients should be given free of cost.

**Objectives of the Study:**

- To identify the critical factors for the Awareness for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) for Truck Drivers of Punjab.
- To analyze the awareness level for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) for Truck Drivers of Punjab.

**Materials and Methods:**

The present study has been based on a survey analysis conducted in the state of Punjab, one of the growing states of Indian economy. Data has been collected through a self-structured questionnaire from 100 truck drivers [Fig. 1] of Punjab from the following regions: Malwa (36), Doaba (34), Majha (30).

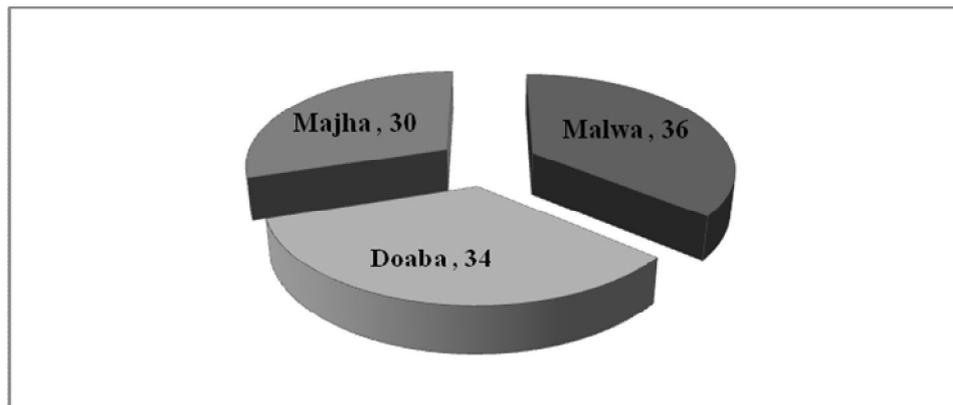


Figure 1

Due to huge transportation business emerging in Punjab, lots of people are connected and importantly truck drivers are integral part of it. Punjab the land of five rivers wherein the people are hard workers makes it a very progressive state of India and youth contribute maximum to its growth for which Age [Table 1] has been also considered for the study since 78% of truck drivers are up to the age of 45.

Age	No. of Truck Drivers
≤ 23	28
24-29	30
30-45	20
>45	22

Table 1

The truck drivers remain mainly on highways and are away from their homes for maximum duration and are mainly illiterate however awareness is a very vital subject for them and 38% of the truck drivers in Punjab are aware by the symptoms of AIDS which indicates the apprehension towards the dangerous disease and significantly 88% truck drivers are well conscious that AIDS is incurable disease. Unconsciousness is also ubiquitous in certain truck drivers of Punjab for which 8% of them believe that AIDS is spread by shaking hands / food sharing.

**Results and Discussion:**

New medicines for HIV patients should be given free of cost in addition to HIV testing facilities to be established in the entire healthcare centers across Punjab are the highest preferences amongst the truck drivers in Punjab [Table 2]. Educating the citizens of Punjab about controlling the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection and establishment of more blood banks are the slightest predilection.

Factors	Mean	Std. Deviation
Educating the citizens of Punjab about controlling the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection	2.20	0.94

Infrastructure for treatment of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) needs to be upgraded in Punjab	2.98	0.89
More blood banks are required to be established in Punjab	2.64	1.10
Subject on AIDS awareness to be introduced in the Primary school level in Punjab	2.78	0.88
HIV testing facilities to be established in the entire healthcare centers across Punjab	3.08	0.85
Speeding up the efforts in creating AIDS awareness	2.82	1.02
Counseling unit for generating awareness on AIDS is well-known in Punjab	3.02	0.93
AIDS patients of Punjab are required to be treated more friendly	2.88	0.91
HIV testing twice in a year to be made compulsory for each citizen of Punjab	2.96	1.14
New medicines for HIV patients should be given free of cost	3.14	1.17

Table 2

As per Table 3, it depicts about the overall awareness level for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) for Truck Drivers of Punjab for which 58% of them Disagree that Educating the citizens of Punjab about controlling the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection is pertinent and it needs to be educated more. Infrastructure for treatment of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) needs to be upgraded in Punjab is another main apprehension for which 26% of truck drivers are fully concurrence to it. Another factor i.e. more blood banks are required to be established in Punjab has a pessimistic view from the truck drives with 38% of them disagreeing. Subject on AIDS awareness to be introduced in the Primary school level in Punjab has a mixed response i.e. 42% from the truck drivers. 38% of truck drivers are of the positive view for establishing HIV testing facilities in the entire healthcare centers across Punjab. Speeding up the efforts in creating AIDS awareness is another important factor which has a very important rejoinder from truck drivers with 56% in protract for it. Counseling unit for generating awareness on AIDS is well-known in Punjab is another main concern for which 32% of truck drivers are in harmony with it. 42% of the truck drivers disagree that AIDS patients of Punjab are required to be treated more friendly. 62% truck drivers extend their consensus that HIV testing twice in a year to be made compulsory for each citizen of Punjab. New medicines for HIV patients should be given free of cost has an unenthusiastic response from truck drivers with 36% of them not in benevolence with it.

<b>Factors</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Moderately Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
Educating the citizens of Punjab about controlling the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection	18.00%	58.00%	14.00%	6.00%	4.00%
Infrastructure for treatment of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) needs to be upgraded in Punjab	4.00%	24.00%	46.00%	22.00%	4.00%
More blood banks are required to be established in Punjab	14.00%	38.00%	22.00%	22.00%	4.00%
Subject on AIDS awareness to be introduced in the Primary school level	6.00%	32.00%	42.00%	18.00%	2.00%

in Punjab					
HIV testing facilities to be established in the entire healthcare centers across Punjab	-	30.00%	34.00%	34.00%	2.00%
Speeding up the efforts in creating AIDS awareness	8.00%	36.00%	24.00%	30.00%	2.00%
Counseling unit for generating awareness on AIDS is well-known in Punjab	-	36.00%	32.00%	26.00%	6.00%
AIDS patients of Punjab are required to be treated more friendly	-	42.00%	34.00%	18.00%	6.00%
HIV testing twice in a year to be made compulsory for each citizen of Punjab	10.00%	28.00%	26.00%	28.00%	8.00%
New medicines for HIV patients should be given free of cost	6.00%	30.00%	22.00%	28.00%	14.00%

Table 3

As per Table 4, for analyzing the criteria's for Optimistic and Pessimistic perspective amongst the truck drivers of three regions of Punjab viz. Malwa, Doaba and Majha, it is apparent that the awareness factors as a whole for Optimistic is more than the Pessimistic in Malwa and Doaba regions respectively whereas it is almost equal for Majha region.

Factors	Malwa		Doaba		Majha	
	Optimistic	Pessimistic	Optimistic	Pessimistic	Optimistic	Pessimistic
Educating the citizens of Punjab about controlling the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection	22%	78%	35%	65%	13%	87%
Infrastructure for treatment of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) needs to be upgraded in Punjab	83%	17%	65%	35%	67%	33%
More blood banks are required to be established in Punjab	50%	50%	47%	53%	47%	53%
Subject on AIDS awareness to be introduced in the Primary school level in Punjab	61%	39%	59%	41%	67%	33%
HIV testing facilities to be established in the entire healthcare centers across Punjab	72%	28%	65%	35%	73%	27%

Speeding up the efforts in creating AIDS awareness	56%	44%	82%	18%	27%	73%
Counseling unit for generating awareness on AIDS is well-known in Punjab	72%	28%	41%	59%	80%	20%
AIDS patients of Punjab are required to be treated more friendly	78%	22%	59%	41%	33%	67%
HIV testing twice in a year to be made compulsory for each citizen of Punjab	61%	39%	71%	29%	53%	47%
New medicines for HIV patients should be given free of cost	72%	28%	59%	41%	60%	40%
<b>Average</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>48%</b>

Table 4

**Conclusion:**

Further it can be revealed that the Awareness for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) amongst the truck drivers of all the three regions of Punjab viz. Malwa, Doaba and Majha have an enormous impact on their track of practices with attentive contemplation across all the factors pertinent [Fig. 2]. Truck drivers of Punjab have a great control for transporting goods and at the same time are very much conscious towards the principles being followed and gratuitously being targeted as unacquainted with AIDS.

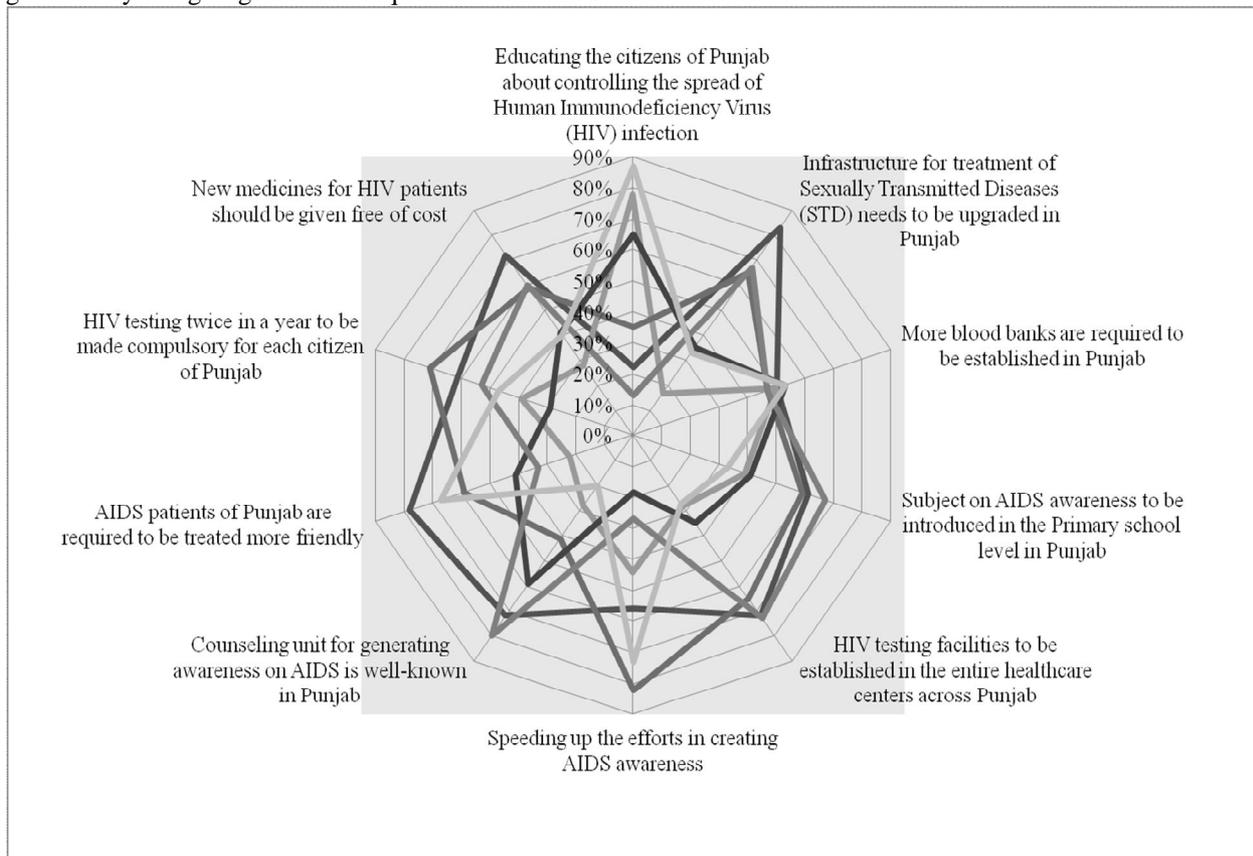


Figure 2

This study has given a great range for understanding the routine outline of truck drivers with intent for balancing the awareness level for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in conjunction with broad-spectrum shadowing of regimented existence.

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