

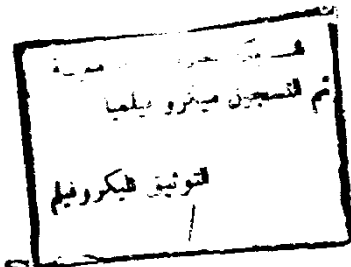
THE IMPACT OF AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
ON SELFPROTECTION AGAINST
HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS INFECTION
FOR NURSING INTERNS

THESIS
SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR
DOCTOR DEGREE
(COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING)

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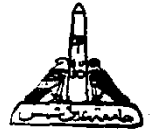


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العهد العالي للتمريض

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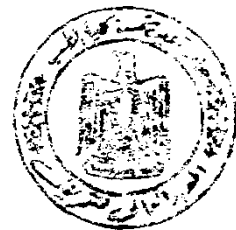
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INTRODUCTION

The acquired immunodeficiency syndrome [AIDS] is the end-point of infection by the human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] that has spread rapidly throughout the world since the syndrome was first recognized in 1981 (*Hatcher et al, 1989*). The epidemic of AIDS is an international health problem of extraordinary scale and extreme urgency (*Magarich & Burkman, 1988*). It represents an unprecedented challenge to the public health services of the world. The epidemic affects both developed and developing countries, crossing all socioeconomic and ethnic barriers. (*AIDS series 1, 1988*)

Our experience with AIDS over the last decade has confirmed that this is a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectorial and multi-dimensional problem (*Wahdan, 1992*). AIDS has produced not one but three related world-wide epidemics that must be prevented or controlled; HIV infection, AIDS and other clinical manifestations of HIV infection, and the social, cultural, economic and political reaction and response to the first two epidemics. The third epidemic -the intense global reaction to AIDS and HIV- is just beginning (*AIDS series 8, 1990*).

AIDS will only be controlled through a combination of aggressive national programs and a maximum of international cooperation (*AIDS series 1, 1988*). With no vaccine or cure in sight and symptomatic treatment far outside financial reach in economically disadvantaged countries, the spread of information

about the disease is the critical weapon (*Black, 1990*). Prevention and control will depend primarily on effective education and information campaigns that describe the situation as openly and honestly as possible (*AIDS series 1, 1988*).

Throughout the world, health care workers (HCW) have become increasingly concerned about the occupational risk of acquiring HIV infection (*Newton, 1991*). It is imperative that innovative educational strategies and intervention programs be developed to reach to all HCW, to affect change in knowledge and attitude and to influence behavioral change. To achieve maximal effectiveness, HIV prevention and risk reduction programs must be based on the most recent medical and epidemiological information (*Boyer & Kegeles, 1991*).

AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to evaluate the impact of an in-service education program for the interns of The High Institute of Nursing, Ain Shams University on self-protection against the occupational risk of HIV infection.

The main objectives are:-

- 1- To assess the attitudes, knowledge, and practices of the interns in relation to HIV/AIDS issues.
- 2- To plan and implement an in-service education program to augment intern's knowledge about HIV/AIDS, dispel misconceptions about casual contagion, enhance perception of personal susceptibility to occupational exposure to infection, promote attitudes towards AIDS patients, and improve self-protection skills in their day-to-day practices.
- 3- To evaluate the outcome of the program on the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills of interns in relation to self-protection against the occupational risk of acquiring HIV infection.