

School intervention for STIs prevention

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Introduction/Summary

- ASA, Associazione Solidarietà AIDS, is a charity founded in 1985 in Milan active in HIV and STIs prevention field and in the support of people living with HIV
- School intervention is a strategic initiative to prevent HIV infection and STIs among adolescents
- The initial segment was led by a psychologist, who addressed the core topics related to HIV and STIs, including modes of transmission, etiology, diagnosis, prevention strategies, and available treatments
- During the latter segment of the intervention a testimony offering insights on living with HIV and addressing stigma was offered by a PLHIV volunteer

Study Design

- A school intervention was held by ASA ODV between January and April 2024 across secondary schools in the geographical area of Milan
- Each session lasted 2 hours and included a theoretical lecture and a testimony from a PLHIV volunteer
- To raise awareness on the STIs asymptomaticity a game was introduced

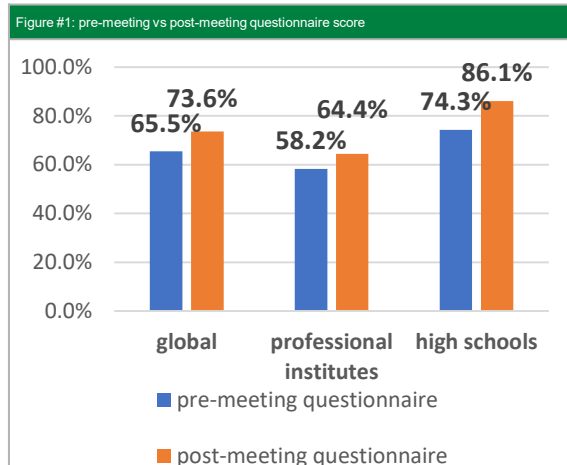
Methods

- Each session was supported by multimedia materials and slides
- To test the efficacy of the intervention a pre/post meeting questionnaire were administered. Both questionnaires were anonymous. The same 10 multiple choice items testing the knowledge on HIV and STIs were administered to the students right before the start and immediately after the end of the lecture
- In addition, a satisfaction survey was asked to answer to evaluate the usefulness and effectiveness of the meeting

Results

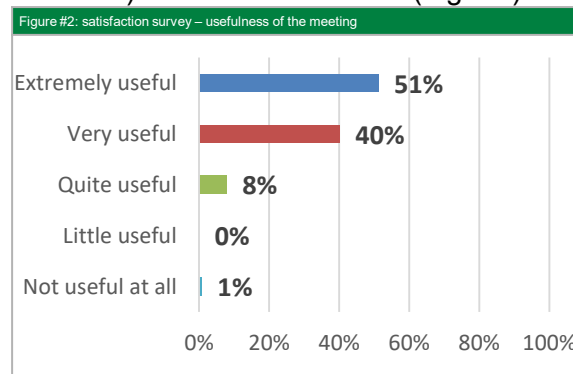
Pre/post meeting questionnaire

- Out of the 160 students involved, 154 completed the pre-meeting questionnaire, scoring an average of 65,5% correct answers
- The post-meeting questionnaire, completed right after the end of the lecture, was completed by 140 students of the initial group, with a decrease of 9% of active students
- The analysis revealed an overall improvement of +12% of correct answers among participants
- Upon further examination, it was observed that high school students exhibited a more significant improvement (16%) compared to their counterparts in professional institutes (11%). (Fig. #1)

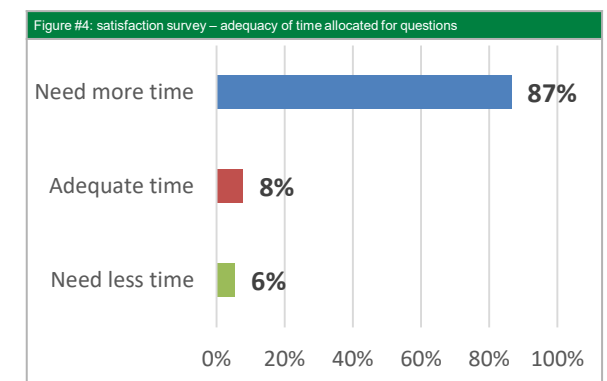
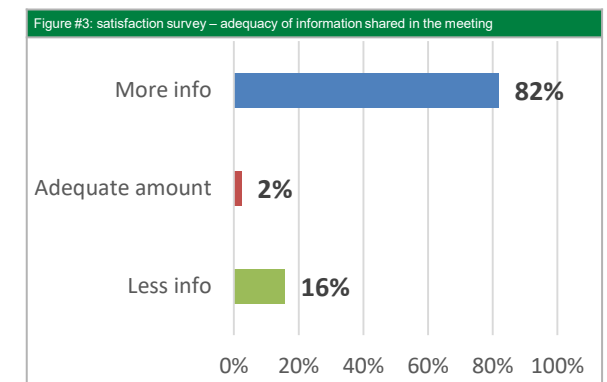


Satisfaction survey

- Out of 160 students, 127 answered the satisfaction survey
- This last questionnaire yielded positive results, with 91% of respondents expressing satisfaction (extremely + very useful) with the intervention (Fig. #2)



- However, there was a notable demand for more information (82%, fig. #3) and additional time for questions (87%, fig. #4), highlighting areas for potential improvement



Conclusions

- The results highlight the positive impact of the group intervention
- Testimonies from PLHIV, supplemented by audiovisual aids and interactive sessions, effectively engaged students and contributed to a reduction in stigma surrounding HIV and STIs
- Looking ahead to the 2024-2025 school year, plans include expanding opportunities for student engagement by providing more time for questions and introducing the option for anonymous inquiries
- A growing interest among students in exploring topics such as pregnancy prevention and sexual pleasure was noticed. Therefore, it was decided to include these topics in future interventions

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