

**PERCEPTION, ATTITUDE, AND CONDOM USE FOR HIV & AIDS PREVENTION AMONG MARRIED WOMEN:**

**A QUALITATIVE STUDY IN SEMARANG CITY, CENTRAL JAVA PROVINCE, INDONESIA**

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**ABSTRACT:**

The highest cumulative AIDS cases in Indonesia in 2011 are found to be among housewives. Condom use is one of the strategies to prevent HIV through sexual transmission; however, Indonesia is one of the few countries to record a decline in the use of condoms during a time when condoms have been promoted as part of the global fight against AIDS. To get an understanding perceptions and attitudes of condom use to prevent HIV & AIDS among married women, four focus group discussions with general married women and seven in-depth interviews with potentially high-risk married women, that is truck drivers' wife were conducted in a sub-district in Semarang, Central Java Province, Indonesia. Data were coded and analyzed using analytical comparison methods.

This study found that participants have low knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Married women are unfamiliar with condoms. None of them uses condoms to prevent HIV & AIDS, however some of them use condoms to prevent pregnancy, especially after giving birth. Married women have low risk perception of HIV & AIDS, even if they are in the potentially high-risk group. There are some misconceptions related to condom use. Participants perceive condom as contraceptives. Even though condoms are used by female sex worker, participants think they are related to pregnancy prevention. Other kinds of contraception methods are also perceived to have similar function to condoms in preventing HIV & AIDS. It was also found that husbands have a strong influence on decision making related to condom use.

It is recommended in this study that promoting information, education, and behavior change communication programs targeting married women should be strengthened to increase their knowledge about HIV&AIDS and safe sex practices. The programs should also highlight the vulnerability of women who may get HIV infection from their partner as well as empower women to be able to discuss and negotiate their husband about safe sexual behavior.

**KEY WORDS: PERCEPTION&ATTITUDE/ CONDOM USE/ HIV&AIDS PREVENTION/ MARRIED WOMEN/INDONESIA**