

**Independent Study : Attitudes and Behavior of Sexual Workers
on AIDS Prevention : A Case Study of
Mae Hong Son Province**

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Abstract

The study on "Attitudes and Behavior of Sexual Workers on AIDS Prevention : A Case Study of Mae Hong Son Province" has the following objectives :

1. To study the base line data on the spread of AIDS and preventive behaviors of the disease.
2. To study about the K.A.P. pertaining to the prevention of the spread of AIDS among special profession women.
3. To study the correlations between Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices in AIDS prevention among special profession women.

Two research methodologies have been used which are :

1. Documentary research of which data and information are gathered from related articles and documents.

2. Field research of which 108 special profession women in Mae Hong Son are interviewed. Statistical techniques will be used to evaluate the gathered data.

The study finds that:

1. The Province of Mae Hong Son is confronting the problems of AIDS owing to the trend to rapid spreading. The most risky groups to contract the virus are special profession women and drug addicts. Presently, with the cooperation of public and private sectors, a campaign to fight AIDS is carried out with favorable results such as National Prevention and Control AIDS Project and Thai Family Fights AIDS Project.

2. Base line data from responded questionnaires indicate that most of the respondents come from agricultural families, their parents are uneducated, their average ages ranging between 20-24 years, having no education, have single or married status but presently divorced, have entered the special profession for 1-2 years with out coercion, their average earnings ranging more than 4,000 Baht, enough to send some money to support their families. It is found that most of the respondents know about AIDS from T.V. programs. As a result, condoms are widely used.

3. As for Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices in prevention of AIDS among special profession women, the study finds that most of them have high level of Knowledge at 47.2%,

have favorable Attitudes toward AIDS prevention, and have practices in AIDS prevention at satisfactory level.

4. The study finds that Knowledge and Attitudes of the samples have correlations with the prevention of AIDS.

5. The interviewed samples need help from the Government in terms of finding new careers for them in order to quit this special profession, with conditions that the new careers must be well paid and the work sites are not from their present domiciles.