

Thesis Title Behavioral Risk Reduction to Prevent the Spread of
 AIDS among Prostitutes in Payao Province

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this research are to examine the behavioral risk reduction and factors relevant to behavioral risk reduction to prevent the spread of AIDS among prostitutes in Payao Province.

Data collection was performed on interview under the questionnaire towards the sample prostitutes openly rendering service in brothels of 7 districts in Payao. The proportion of sample selected is 40 percent. The sample of research is selected by simple random sampling and 171 samples were selected. Qualitative research technique, i.e. Observer as participant and In-Depth Interview was applied to penetrate the lives of prostitutes and the owners of brothels.

Data analysis was based on statistical, percentage, frequency, mean and median to describe general data and behavioral risk reduction to prevent the spread of AIDS. In addition, Chi-square test was applied to examine factors relevant to behavioral risk reduction to prevent the spread of AIDS among prostitutes.

The results of research point out that prostitutes in Payao are aged between 15-39 years and the median age is 20 years. Most of them are single and the average highest standard is grade 4. They earn Baht 30 - 50 from each time of service. They render averagely 6 times of service a day, so earning approximately Baht 5,000 per month.

The result of quantitative data analysis indicates that factors of Problem perception, Commitment to change behavior and Taking action have no relation of statistical significant implication at the level of 0.05 with the behavioral risk reduction to prevent the spread of AIDS among prostitutes.

According to analysis of qualitative data, the prostitutes do not realize that AIDS may affect their health severely nor do they feel serious about it for they have decided to take this occupation. They believe that behavioral risk reduction is the business of their customers and are not competent to bargain or enforce. Besides, the brothel owners depend on the customers and the prostitutes themselves need a lot of money in order to repay debts as soon as possible. If customers neither take any prevention nor are afraid, they are not afraid either. In addition, the brothel owners convince the prostitutes that to take urine-driving medicine will prevent AIDS, so it is a pity if they refuse to render service to a few customers who fail to take prevention. The male customers believe that to take preventive accessory is to oppose nature and restrict their maximum sexual desire response.

According to this research it is remarkable that both the prostitutes and male customers bear risky behavior and believe that AIDS is not a seriously fatal problem they are confronting.

For suggestion on policy, the problem of AIDS shall be regarded in connection with other factors causing the problem of prostitutes in thailand. Every unit should cooperate to solve the problem seriously as it is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Health or the prostitutes themselves only. Campaign to educate people of different groups should take account of the language to be used according to perception of each group and production of media should be vital and reflecting the actual disaster potentially caused by AIDS.