

Thesis Title

The Effectiveness of Peer Education Program and
Higher Commander Reinforcement on Sexually
Transmitted Diseases Preventive Behavior among
The Royal Thai Army Recruits in Aranyaphathet
Border

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ABSTRACT

Sexual Transmitted diseases and AIDS problem in Thailand is a serious one both in the big cities in Bangkok and in the border areas in Aranyaprathet based on the incidence rate reported by the Department of Communicable Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health. It is written in the Seventh National Public Health Development Plan that one of the plan objective is to achieve proper preventive self reliance in different diseases among the Thai population and institutions through different health education activities. This study aimed to evaluate the health education activities, peer counseling and higher commander reinforcement in promoting STD and AIDS preventive

behavior among the Thai Army Recruits. The total of 117 Thai army recruits were purposively selected and randomly assigned to an experimental and a control group. The experimental group received two counseling sessions by their peers who had trained by qualified trainers. In addition to the counseling, the experimental group also received verbal reinforcement and condom distribution from the higher commander, the experimental period occurred within 6 weeks during September and October 1992. Data were collected and analysed by using descriptive statistics. The level of acceptance lies in 95 percents confidence interval.

Results indicated that after the experiment, the experimental group had a higher and statistically significant mean score level in STD preventive perception, condom using attitude, and preventive action than those in the control group at the 95 percent confidence interval. Moreover, the reported incidence rate of STD in the experimental group is decreased statistically at 0.05 significant level. Therefore, the peer education and higher commander reinforcement methods should be recommended to promote STD and AIDS preventive behavior for other male risk groups.