

ABSTRACT

Abstract of thesis submitted to the Graduate School of Maejo University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Agricultural Economics

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF AIDS EPIDEMIC : A CASE STUDY
FROM AIDS SUFFERERS IN CHIANGMAI PROVINCE, THAILAND

By

DUSSADEE HANG-HONG

OCTOBER 1999

Chariman : - Assistant Professor Dr. Varaporn Punyawadee

Department/Faculty : Department of Agricultural Economics and Cooperatives,
Faculty of Agricultural Business

This study was conducted to find out socio-economic impacts of AIDS epidemic in Chiangmai province in the fiscal year 1998 by using 150 samples of AIDS-infected people of five occupations selected by the Multi-Stage Random Sampling : 1) farmers, 2) laborers/unskilled workers, 3) merchants/private business owners, 4) government employees/private employees, and 5) housewives.

This study also analyzed the costs arising from AIDS epidemic, consisting of 1) direct costs for medication of AIDS-infected individuals, and 2) indirect costs irrelevant to medication such as AIDS prevention and control budget, loss of income due to sickness, and food and transportation expenses. Future loss of income to be earned by AIDS-infected people and problems faced by their families were also studied.

The results revealed that 68 samples (45.33%) were at the stage of symptomatic HIV+ and 82 samples (54.67%), AIDS or full blown AIDS; 71 samples

(43.7%) were male and 79 (52.7%) female. Most of them were in their working ages, 30 to 34 years old (45.33%), married, were heads of the families and had at least one child.

Annual direct cost for medication of symptomatic HIV+ was 13,994.81 Baht per person (7,445.54 Baht for outpatients and 6,549.24 Baht for inpatients) and that of full blown AIDS was 49,874.38 Baht per person (11,740.56 Baht for outpatients and 38,133.82 Baht for inpatients). Indirect cost of symptomatic HIV+ was 11,152.68 Baht per person per year (7,412.54 Baht for outpatients and 3,740.14 Baht for inpatients) and that of full blown AIDS was 28,013.95 Baht (9,763.53 Baht for outpatients and 18,250.42 Baht for inpatients). The total amount of 25,147.49 Baht per person per year was spent on those with symptomatic HIV+ and 77,888.33 Baht on those with full blown AIDS. In the fiscal year 1998, public health agencies in Chiangmai spent a total amount of 41,660,248.00 Baht for medication and care of those infected with AIDS and 13,292,000.00 Baht for AIDS control and prevention campaigns. Besides, a total of 15,166,000.00 Baht was spent for helping those AIDS-infected people.

An important economic impact was the loss of income that would have been earned by AIDS-infected people, unable to work and died earlier than usual. Traders or businessmen infected with AIDS would lose a total amount of 4,890,000.75 Baht in 30.5 years; government employess and private employees, 2,502,450.00 Baht in 18.5 years; laborers and unskilled workers, 1,871,345.00 Baht in 29.5 years; and housewives, 668,100.00 Baht in 30.5 years.

AIDS epidemic has brought about many problems, agony and sufferings, in the families of those infected : 1) lack of family heads, 2) decrease in family income, 3) increase in family debts, 4) decrease in children's education opportunity, 5) family isolation, and 6) families increasing burden. All these family problems could affect the whole society. Social problems arising from AIDS epidemic were 1) increase in the government's budget to provide assistance to AIDS-infected people and those affected by AIDS epidemic ; 2) increase in number of children whose parents died of AIDS ; and 3) transmission of tuberculosis by AIDS-infected people.