

**Thesis Title** Study of Attitudes of Housewives on AIDS  
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#### ABSTRACT

Unlike the initial assumption on HIV/AIDS spread it has already become a problem of heterosexual population. Prevention and treatment efforts had produced knowledge as well as attitude changes in all sectors of adult population. Knowledge and attitudes are inter-related and often go together. The objective of this study was to assess the attitudes of housewives on HIV/AIDS disease in special reference to familial circumstances.

A community study done in the month of April 1994 at two areas of Ratchaburi Province, a suburb area of Bangkok in central Thailand. A face to face structured

interview questionnaire designed containing scales on infection, severity, transmission, symptom, risk behavior and consequences in each knowledge and attitudes. The study population was married women or housewives non-separated or divorced under 40 years, on assumption that this sub group of population is sexually active within the married life and vulnerable to acquire the HIV infection through the risk behaviors of the husbands and their attitudes will be crucial on different aspects of HIV/AIDS. All together 201 women interviewed and they responded well.

Analysis of the data showed that the average age of respondents was 32 years and 47.8% were housewives and rest had some other occupations as well. The results show that 99.5% housewives had completed the compulsory or higher education. Likewise, almost 66% housewives had involvement in community development activities. Findings of the study show that the knowledge was quite high on HIV/AIDS and in certain aspects it was 100%. The average score on knowledge was 80%, while in attitude the score was low in comparison to knowledge. The findings also showed that the knowledge and attitudes were poorly correlated with coefficient correlation (Pearson) value  $r = .2032$ . A strong statistical association found between socio-demographic variables and knowledge and attitudes of the respondents.