

Thesis Title                    A Study of Knowledge, Attitude, Beliefs  
Toward AIDS Among AFS Students in  
Thailand

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#### ABSTRACT

The objective of this study were to assess media exposure, source of information, risk behaviour on the KAB of AIDS and condom among AFS students in Thailand. The total respondents were 67.1%, 36.5 % male and 63.5% female. With the most response (56%) being Thai AFS. The least response was 16% from returnee.

The distribution of the students were equally over the country, both sexes as well as Thai students were from all parts. They lived in cities other than large, small towns

or villages: 53.6%, 54.5% and 34.4% for Foreign, Thai and Returnee respectively. Foreign students stayed in Thailand an average length of 8.32 months.

Students from Australia and New Zealand were majority of foreign students (about 50%). About of 50% of Thai AFS would go to USA and Canada. Thai Returnee 81.3% came back from South Sea countries. The average age of the students was 16.84 years.

Information about sexually transmitted disease, prostitution and drug addicts were all available in the communities of the students at the range of 57.1 % - 92.0%.

About half of all types of students watched TV every day, with no difference in gender. Foreign male students 54.5% read newspaper and female 44.1% watched TV most days. About 70% of Thai AFS watched TV everyday, while Returnees watched 50% both sexes.

In the measurement of the clinical course of AIDS, all of them had a satisfied results except for the mode of perinatal transmission.

This study revealed that there was no difference among the AFS students. All respondents could mention the correct methods to prevent the spread of the virus.

All students got the health information through mass media 75.9%, 88.6%, 89.1% for Foreign, Thai, Returnee and from personal contact 50%, 69.1%, 71%.

Foreign AFS never discussed AIDS with their host family 45.5% & 50%, but they discussed with their friends at 36.4% & 41.2%. Thai AFS had more exposure from media, and discussed with family and friends more frequently.

The beliefs in getting AIDS, Foreign AFS had very small chance 57.1% and slight worried 39.3%. Thai had no chance 53.6% and slight worried 32.1%. Returnees had small chance 50%. and did not worry about getting AIDS.

The students believed that the AIDS patients should get more advice and information and should be kept in a special place. More than 90% of the students believed both government and NGO should take steps in preventing the spread of AIDS.

80.4% of all the AFS students wanted to take a blood screening test: 80.4%, 74.1% & 71.9% in Foreign, Thai and Returnee, and about 80% of them wanted to know the result.

For the measurement of KAB on condom and contraceptive devices, almost of the students had heard of condoms. Only few (3.6%, 3.1%) in Thai AFS and Returnee had never heard of condom. There was no significant difference in knowledge of the place where condoms were available among sexes of AFS students. There was also no significant difference of knowledge of where to buy condom among the types of AFS students.

There was no difference between the sexes on the knowledge of contraceptives to prevent AIDS. There was

significant difference on contraceptives to prevent AIDS among the Foreign AFS and Returnees.

There was a difference between male and female students on knowledge of condom . Female had better knowledge. Foreign students had difference in KAB on condom to the Thai group. Thai students had more knowledge than Foreign.