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IREN PERVEN BADHAN: STUDY ON KNOWLEDGE OF HIV/AIDS AMONG MARRIED WOMEN IN BANGLADESH. THESIS ADVISORS: ASSOC. PROF. AMARA SOONTHORNDHADA, M.A., ASST. PROF. CHURNRURTAI KANCHANACHITRA Ph.D. 62 P. ISBN-974-663-003-2

A cross sectional descriptive study was carried out among 1781 married women in Bangladesh, with the aim to assess the AIDS knowledge of the respondents using a structured questionnaire. The study was conducted through secondary data from the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 1996-97, under authority of the National Institute for Population Research and Training (NIPORT) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The study revealed that women with higher socio-economic status had better knowledge about AIDS transmission and prevention. Results showed that over seventy percent of the women had low level of knowledge about AIDS, whereas only 4.9% women had higher knowledge about AIDS. In addition, it was found that there was an association between certain socio-demographic characteristics and respondent's knowledge of AIDS.

The Relationship between AIDS Knowledge and practice of reproductive health services, divided into the variables visit to health clinic, visit by family planning workers in the last 6 months, number of visits by family planning workers and ever used contraceptive method, was examined. Among the above four variables, visit to health clinic had a significant inverse relationship with AIDS Knowledge. This contradicted the hypothesis.

Media access, such as television, radio and newspapers were found to have a profound influence on the knowledge of the women. The association between knowledge and access to source of information was found to be statistically significant. Among the mass media, television appeared to be the most wide spread mode of information dissemination about HIV/AIDS for majority of the women, but newspaper seemed to be more effective for making the women more knowledgeable about AIDS. The study indicates that women having more exposure to sources of information have higher knowledge than women with low or no access to source(s) of information about HIV/AIDS.