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CHAN SOUK CHANTHAPADITH: CHANGE OF SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIOR OF BARGIRLS AS RELATED TO HIV/AIDS IN VIENTIANE, LAO P.D.R. THESIS ADVISORS: ASSOC. PROF. SAIRUDEE VORAKITPHOKATORN, Ph.D, ASST.PROF. CHURNRURTAI KANCHANACHITRA Ph.D, P:70, ISBN: 974-662-997-2.

This study was intended to examine the relationship between perception of risk of AIDS, AIDS knowledge and fear of AIDS and the change of sexual risk behavior among bargirls working in different entertainment places in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The study used data collected from the KAB Survey conducted during 1998 by the National Committee for Control of AIDS (NCCA) of Lao PDR. Data concerning a total of 426 female respondents, aged between 15-41 years was referred to in this study.

Most of the bargirls were found to have low level of AIDS knowledge. Higher knowledge of AIDS was found among bargirls with older age, higher education, and high income. Knowledge of AIDS was also found to be higher among the married bargirls compared to single ones.

Single women perceived themselves more at risk of AIDS and were also found to have greater fear of AIDS than married women. The bargirls with high level of AIDS knowledge and who had fear of AIDS were found to have changed their sexual risk behavior than those with low AIDS knowledge and no fear of AIDS.

The multivariate analysis showed that the change of sexual risk behavior can be influenced by fear of AIDS and high level of AIDS knowledge. Perception of risk of AIDS has no effect on the risk behavior. Level of education, the perception of risk of AIDS, income, age and marital status of respondents were not related to change of sexual risk behavior in this study.