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M.P.H.M. (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT)

KEY WORD : PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR/ UNIVERSITY STUDENTS/  
HIV INFECTION/AIDS

MUKHTAR ALI: PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR OF MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY  
STUDENTS ON HIV INFECTION AND AIDS. THESIS ADVISORS: SANTHAT  
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This cross-sectional analytical, study about preventive behavior on HIV infection and AIDS among first years students of Mahidol University was conducted from March till May 2000. Data were collected from 384 first year students in Mahidol University with self-administered questionnaires. The instrument elicited information about socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge, perception, and preventive behavior of the students.

The findings revealed that 79.9 percent had high preventive behavior about HIV infection and AIDS. More than 80 percent of the students had knowledge that condoms prevent HIV/AIDS during sexual intercourse and the main route of spreading infection was sexual contact. The preventive behavior was higher in female students as compared to male students. Among various socio-demographic characteristics, such as sex, religion, age, education and occupation of mother and father, permanent/present residence, and hobbies and between preventive behavior there were no statistically significant association found. There was a statistically significant association between having a lover and preventive behavior.

There was a statistically significant association between knowledge and perception of severity, perception of barriers and preventive behavior of students. It was also observed that there was a statistically significant association between knowledge and hobbies of the students. The results showed that the most important source of information seeking about HIV/AIDS were television and print media. Teachers, parents, health personal and friends played only a minor role in disseminating valuable information.

The results of the study can be used for setting a health education program to promote preventive behavior of students.