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ABUL KAISER MAHMOOD SAIEDUR RAHMAN: UTILIZATION OF AMPHETAMINES AMONG TAXI MOTOR CYCLISTS AND ITS CORRELATES, IN NAKORNPATHEM PROVINCE, THAILAND. THESIS ADVISORS: BOONYONG KEIWKARNKA M.P.H., Dr.P.H., JAREET JANRASAMEEWILAI M.D., DOUNGSAMORN CHINCHOTIKASEM M.A., 68 p. ISBN: 974 – 662 – 155 – 6

A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted on factors affecting the utilization of amphetamines among taxi motor cyclists in Nakornpathom province, Thailand, with the aim to identify the socio-demographic, psycho-social, interpersonal and environmental factors which affect the utilization of amphetamines.

One hundred ninety six motor cyclists were interviewed by using structured questionnaire. Out of 196 respondents, 103 were amphetamines utilizers. Among utilizers 91 had no family history of drug utilization. Almost all of the utilizers said main reason for utilization was peer pressure and the peers were friends. From the result it was found that the largest group of the respondents were between 21 to 26 years old and mean age was 27.526 years with SD 6.758 years, which showed that amphetamines utilizers tended to be young adults in this area. The largest group (45.9 %) were unmarried, 75% had primary and secondary school complete educational level, about half of the respondents had monthly family income within the range of 5,001 to 10,000 baht. The result of the study further revealed that 57.6% had poor level of knowledge about amphetamine utilization but 88.8% had negative attitude towards amphetamines utilization. There was significant association ($p=.03009$) between utilization of amphetamines and attitude at the level < 0.05 . The majority of respondents said amphetamines can get around their working areas, price of amphetamines was not reasonable and higher in this province, there was barrier to purchasing amphetamines, amphetamines can't be purchased whenever desire. From the result of this study, governments can provide more emphasis on health education, campaign and counseling against the amphetamines utilization problem with involvement of men and community participation. The study could also be a guideline for further study in different aspects to achieve the goal of amphetamines eradication among taxi motor cyclists in Thailand.