

**PERCEPTION TOWARD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN OF HEALTH PROVIDERS OF
THE THANH NHAN GENERAL HOSPITAL IN
HANOI, VIETNAM**

PHAM THI KIM LOAN

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HANOI, VIETNAM

PHAM THI KIM LOAN 4838005 ADPM / M

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

THESIS ADVISORS: WIRAT KAMSRICHAN, Ph.D., SIRIKUL ISARANURUG,
M.D., Dip. Thai Board of Pediatrics

ABSTRACT

This descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted to detect perception of domestic violence against women (DVAW) of health providers of the Thanh Nhan general hospital, Hai Ba Trung district, Hanoi city, Vietnam.

The subjects were 380 health providers from clinical departments of the Thanh Nhan general hospital who had direct contact with DVAW patients. They included doctors, assistant doctors, nurses, and midwives in these departments. The data was collected in January, 2006. A structured self-questionnaire was used to collect the information of this study. Data were analyzed by using percentage, mean, standard deviation, chi-square, and multiple logistic regressions.

The findings revealed that 55.5% of the experimental sample group had a positive perception toward DVAW and 44.5% had a negative perception. Health providers had positive trend but in general still supported the traditional view of the man's role as family leader. Female health providers had significantly more positive perception but less knowledge toward DVAW than male health providers ($p < 0.05$). Nurses had more positive perception than other respondents, even doctors ($p < 0.05$). Health providers of the surgery department had significantly more positive perception and better knowledge toward DVAW than health providers from other departments ($p < 0.001$). 21.1% the respondents had good knowledge of DVAW; 64.7% fair knowledge; and 14.2% poor knowledge. The results show health providers with good knowledge have a more positive perception than those with poor or fair knowledge of DVAW ($p < 0.001$). The health providers with more experience had a more positive perception toward DVAW than health providers with less experience ($p < 0.05$). Approximately 20% (37/187) of the health providers in all relevant departments revealed that they never ask DVAW patients they work with directly about DVAW. Overall, 80 percent of health providers would personally welcome training on this matter.

The main recommendation is to set up a strategy of intervention to improve the health care response to DVAW at health facilities. This response might include training courses on DVAW; establishing a counseling room in the hospital, and collaboration among local organizations in community, etc. It might also involve the development of a specific protocol on examination and treatment of DVAW victims, and Guidelines for health staff on working with DVAW victims.

KEY WORD(S) : DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN