

**ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH):
VOICES OF WOMEN WITH HIV IN YANGON, MYANMAR**

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M.A. (HEALTH SOCIAL SCIENCE)

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ABSTRACT

In the era of HIV/AIDS, the absence of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) for people living with HIV (PLWHA) has resulted in care behavior receiving greater global attention. This study used a social science approach to explore the SRH problems and unmet needs of women with HIV in Myanmar. The results will provide effective program outcomes for future health designs for PLWHA in Myanmar.

This qualitative research study was undertaken with nine women with HIV for life history interviews, three husbands of women with HIV for key informant interviews, five males and five females for separate focus group discussions, a leader of a PLWHA self-help group, a medical doctor and a nurse as additional key informants. The results revealed that all the women with HIV suffered SRH problems and unmet needs in different ways in their daily life. The majority of the women faced a lack of reproductive health knowledge and services, unwanted pregnancy and induced illegal abortion under patriarchal capitalist society in Myanmar. The most difficult point to negotiate with their partner was using condoms. The strong patriarchal capitalist socialization determined the life of women with HIV through production, reproduction and sexuality which leads SRH problems and unmet needs in health seeking opportunity for women with HIV. The results suggest that effective and comprehensive SRH education and services for PLWHA should be developed and provided. These education and services will target females mainly but include males for their understanding and support for women in SRH. HIV/AIDS knowledge and counseling training should be provided to all health care personnel for reduction of stigma and discrimination to PLWHA, regarding the SRH issues in Myanmar.

KEY WORD : MYANMAR/ WOMEN WITH HUMAN IMMUNO-DEFICIENCY
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