INFLUENCES OF STIGMATIZATION AND DISCRIMINATION ON CARE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (PLWHA):
A STUDY OF HOME BASED CARE SERVICES 
IN PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this thesis was to investigate stigma and discrimination against People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) by home based care teams, and to investigate the meaning and definition of stigma and discrimination against PLWHAs in home based care services by using labeling theory. Purposive sampling was employed in this study. In-depth interviews as qualitative research were conducted in the Chamkarmon slum area in the center of Phnom Penh. Six people living with HIV/AIDS were selected as informants. Six health care providers were also interviewed as key informants. Data was collected during a period of four months from July to October 2006.

It was found that the three women and three men with HIV/AIDS infection were stigmatized and discriminated against home based care providers and their slum communities. The stigma and discrimination also affected the PLWHAs in access to health care services; some PLWHAs become isolated, hid their face from public view, because the people in the slum called them insulting names such as AIDS man and Chum Ngeuv Sral which made them stigmatized. The stigma accompanies discrimination could be from ordering people, health care workers, colleagues, friends, families, and PLWHAs themselves.

Recommendations are to provide more incentive and more education for Home Care Teams, and to revise home based care guidelines in order to change Home Based Care Teams' behaviors and attitudes. In addition, Home Based Care teams should provide food to PLWHAs in accordance with the World Food Program’s policy. Further research should extend the population target group and the research should be conducted both qualitatively and quantitatively.

KEY WORDS: INFLUENCES/STIGMATIZATION/DISCRIMINATION/CARE/PLWHA/HOME BASED CARE

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