

**STI/HIV/AIDS KNOWLEDGE AMONG RURAL HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS IN BANGLADESH: AN EVALUATION OF THE  
EFFECTIVENESS OF AN STI/HIV/AIDS BOOKLET**

**FARIHA HASEEN**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS  
(POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)  
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY**

**2007**

**COPYRIGHT OF MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY**

**STI/HIV/AIDS KNOWLEDGE AMONG RURAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
IN BANGLADESH: AN EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AN  
STI/HIV/AIDS BOOKLET****FARIHA HASEEN 4938529 PRRH/M****THESIS ADVISORS: PRAMOTE PRASARTKUL, Ph.D.;  
BUPPHA SIRIRASSAMEE, Ph.D.****ABSTRACT**

Adolescents in Bangladesh are not free from the risk of contracting STI and HIV/AIDS. Thus, different programs have been implemented for them. School-based intervention using an STI/HIV/AIDS booklet is one such programme that has used to increase students' knowledge of sexual and reproductive health. So, the objective of this study was to examine the effectiveness of the STI/HIV/AIDS booklet on the knowledge level of these students.

Data used were from school-based research conducted by the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B). Altogether, there were 3757 male and female students who participated in the baseline survey and 3477 male and female students who took part in the end line survey. This study compared the STI and HIV/AIDS knowledge levels among school students in 2001 and 2002 before and after distribution of the STI/HIV/AIDS booklet to examine the effectiveness of the booklet.

The results show that STI knowledge and HIV/AIDS knowledge had increased in the end line survey when compared to baseline survey. Males had more knowledge than females in both the surveys. While the older male adolescents had more knowledge than the younger male adolescents in the baseline survey, the older female adolescents had more knowledge compared to younger female adolescents in end line survey. This study shows that a booklet on sensitive topics like STI and HIV/AIDS can increase knowledge among the school students in Bangladesh. So, the study found that it is one of the effective ways to disseminate information on STI and HIV/AIDS among the students.

Thus, there is a need to use this booklet through peer educators, especially to increase the knowledge level among the female students. This study should draw the attention of policy makers to address this issue. In addition, different versions of booklet should be developed for younger and older adolescents.

**KEY WORDS: STI/HIV/AIDS KNOWLEDGE/EVALUATION/STI/HIV/AIDS/  
BOOKLET/SCHOOL STUDENTS**

50 pp.