

**KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HIV/AIDS TRANSMISSION AMONG  
FEMALE YOUTH IN LAO P.D.R**



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

**2008**

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M.A. (POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)

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CHANYA SETHAPUT, Ph.D.**ABSTRACT**

This study aims to identify the knowledge on HIV/AIDS transmission as well as determine effective sources of information on HIV/AIDS among female Laotian youth. Data for this study is derived from the Lao Reproductive Health Survey in 2000, conducted by the National Statistical Centre of Lao P.D.R. The analysis includes 4590 females aged 15-24 years. The majority of them never married and live in rural areas. Approximately one-third of the sample had no education.

It was found that only 62 % of female youth in this study have heard about HIV/AIDS. The HIV mode of transmission that respondents knew the most was through sexual intercourse, while mother to child was the least known by female youth. Youth in the older age group and those living in urban areas knew more about HIV/AIDS than those who were younger and lived in rural areas. The respondents who had higher education had greater knowledge of HIV transmission than those who had a lower educational level. The respondents who had heard about HIV/AIDS were most likely to hear about it through radio, television, health workers, and friends/relatives. Newspaper/magazine, school teachers and posters were mentioned by less than 20 % of them.

Multiple regression analysis was used to determine factors that related to HIV transmission knowledge among the 2844 females who had heard of HIV/AIDS. It was found that only the level of education was statistically related to knowledge of respondents. Controlling for socio-demographic characteristics, it was found that the most effective sources of information about HIV/AIDS, which contributed to the increase in HIV transmission knowledge of female youths were posters, school teachers, television, and health workers.

The results indicate that education is a significant factor related to HIV knowledge of female youth. Interpersonal communication such as teachers and health workers were also effective sources of information among female Laotian youth. The mass media campaign for HIV/AIDS prevention among youth could also be integrated in school curriculum and community based programs through health workers.

**KEY WORDS: FEMALE YOUTH / HIV/AIDS TRANSMISSION KNOWLEDGE /  
SOURCE OF INFORMATION / LAO P.D.R**

42 pp.