



- 5 SEP 1996

AN ANALYSIS OF GENDER INEQUALITY IN VIETNAM'S PATRIARCHAL  
SOCIETY : THE CASE OF HIV INFECTION AMONG COMMERCIAL SEX  
WORKERS IN HO CHI MINH CITY

LE NGOC HAI

2

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF ARTS  
(HEALTH SOCIAL SCIENCE)

With compliments  
of

ศาสตราจารย์ ดร. นงนิตย์  
.....

IN

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY

JH

H 149a  
1996

1996 Copyright by Mahidol University

36127

**Thesis title:** An analysis of gender inequality in Vietnam's patriarchal society : The case of HIV infection among commercial sex workers in Ho Chi Minh city

**Name:** Le Ngoc Hai

**Degree:** Master of Arts (Health Social Science)

**Thesis Supervisory Committee** Pimpawun Boonmongkon, Ph.D.

Suphot Dendoung, Ph.D.

Siriwan Grisuraphong, Ph.D.

**Date of Graduation** 17 May BE 2539 (1996)

### **ABSTRACT**

The focus of prevention of HIV/AIDS in Vietnam was neglecting the role of gender in its aim. Gender issue related to power in sexuality is relatively a new concept realm in terms of conducting a study in Vietnam. Thus, this study describes the gender relationships and emphasizes gender factors which contribute towards the most significant elements in contracting HIV infection among women.

Vietnam's social context of patriarchal ideology is still influential for everyday life. Therefore, this ideological system plays a major role in the creation of gender inequality in the society. The data derived from the study has strongly indicated that men's power was a dominant factor which aided to determine vulnerability to HIV among women, especially in heterosexuality. The men's power in heterosexuality

becomes prominent mainly due to the women's lack of ability in negotiating with male partners to have safe sex. Therefore, it seems that there is no alternative for women to enjoy gender equality when they are not empowered by various movements and actions to release themselves from patriarchal confinement.

In the development of national policies, women's issues must be considered with much weighted. A successful outcome would not be derived if gender inequality is still ignored since the consequences are inconsiderable.

