



**STUDY ON HIV/AIDS KNOWLEDGE AND SEXUAL ATTITUDE
AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN VIET NAM**

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บัณฑิตวิทยาลัย มหาวิทยาลัยมหิดล

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

2001

ISBN 974-04-0565-7

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2001

4338112 PRRH/M : MAJOR: POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH M.A. (POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH)

KEY WORDS: HIV/AIDS KNOWLEDGE / SEXUAL ATTITUDE / UNIVERSITY STUDENTS / VIETNAM.

DANG VU CANH LINH: HIV/AIDS KNOWLEDGE AND SEXUAL ATTITUDE AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN VIETNAM.

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The objectives of this study were to identify the HIV/AIDS knowledge and sexual attitudes among university students in Vietnam and examine the relationships between background characteristics of students, including information sources HIV/AIDS knowledge, background characteristics of students, and sexual attitude. The data came from the project, "Knowledge, attitudes about sexuality, drug injection and HIV/AIDS among university students in Vietnam", which was conducted in 1997 by the Sub-Academy of Journalism and Communication in collaboration with the National Committee for AIDS Prevention. The 1,139 respondents were aged from 17 to 24 and lived in four cities : Hanoi, HoChiMinh city, Hue, and CanTho.

The finding showed that the majority of students have moderate HIV/AIDS knowledge and sexual attitude. Approximately 86 percent of students has a moderate score on HIV/AIDS knowledge, while 5 percent have low knowledge and 9 percent have high knowledge on HIV/AIDS. In regard to sexual attitude, 58 percent have a moderate sexual attitude, while 14 percent have a liberal attitude and 28 percent have a conservative sexual attitude. From multivariate analysis, the results support the hypothesis that a significant association occurred between gender, year of learning, current living status, father's occupation and education, newspapers/books, TV/radio and HIV/AIDS knowledge. When independent variables controlled each other, there was a significant association between years of learning, previous place of residence, field of study and sexual attitude.

Although university students form a social group with similar educational standards and features, they have shown an unequal knowledge on HIV/AIDS according to different background characteristics. This implies that some students had limited of understanding and accessibility to HIV/AIDS information. On the other hand, this study found that some students expressed a liberal attitude toward in sexual relationships, especially male students (22.6 percent). This indicates that sexual trends have changed in Vietnam.

This study recommends that there is an urgent need to increase and improve Information Education Communication Program, re-establish AIDS and sex education as subjects in school curriculums, consolidate the role of family, strengthen the impact of mass media, and increase the number of studies target university students in the coming years.