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**HIV/AIDS KNOWLEDGE
AMONG OUT OF SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS
IN ONE TOWNSHIP OF MYANMAR**

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**With compliments
of**

บัณฑิตวิทยาลัย มหาวิทยาลัยมหิดล

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The objectives of this study are to identify the level of knowledge of HIV/AIDS among out-of-school late adolescents aged 15-19 and to explore the factors that determine the level of knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Secondary data from the project "Awareness of Behavioral and Reproductive Health Issues" among 15 to 19 years old out-of-school adolescents, which was conducted in a peri-urban township of Yangon, Myanmar in 2001 was used. The total sample was 319 males and 316 females. Only unmarried adolescents were included in the data analysis, 307 males and 290 females or a total sample of 597 cases. The analysis was based on bivariate analysis and multivariate analysis.

The findings indicate that 82 percent of the sampled adolescents were aware of the sexual mode of transmission of HIV infection. About half believed that they would not get HIV infection from their first sex. One-third did not think that healthy people would have HIV/AIDS infection. About 68 percent perceived that condoms can prevent HIV/AIDS, and 60 percent still believed that HIV can be transmitted through mosquito bites and sharing clothes. It is interesting that 10 percent of the sampled adolescents did not have any correct information about HIV transmission and preventive measures. The average HIV/AIDS knowledge score was 3.95 (from a maximum score of 7).

Education, discussion with health staff, perceived response from father and perceived condom as a contraceptive have statistically significant positive relationships with HIV/AIDS knowledge among out-of-school adolescents. The adolescents whose education was higher than primary school level had a score about one point higher for HIV/AIDS knowledge than those with no education. Adolescents who could discuss the HIV/AIDS issue with health staff had a score about 0.86 higher for HIV/AIDS knowledge than those who could discuss it but were not sure about the answer. Adolescents who perceived that their father could explain about sex and sexuality had a score about 0.5 higher for HIV/AIDS knowledge than those who perceived that their father could not explain or could explain but they are not sure about the answer. Adolescents who perceived that condoms could be used as contraceptive have about 1.1 score of HIV/AIDS knowledge than those who do not perceived that condom is used as contraceptives. It is surprising that the relationship with their mothers had a negative association with HIV/AIDS knowledge. Age, gender, occupation, living arrangement, relationship with father, visiting the health center, and perceived response from mother are not statistically significantly related to HIV/AIDS knowledge.

The study recommends a strengthening of health staff knowledge of HIV/AIDS, a condom promotion program for out of school adolescents, and an increase in fathers' involvement with their children.