

ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND RISK  
BEHAVIORS REGARDING HIV/AIDS AMONG MYANMAR  
MIGRANT WORKERS IN BANGKOK, THAILAND



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Bangkok, Thailand


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Program in : Master of Public Health (Health Systems Development)  
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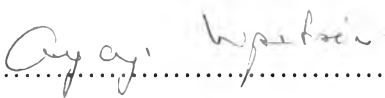
Thesis Advisor : Tanawat Likitkererat, M.Sc


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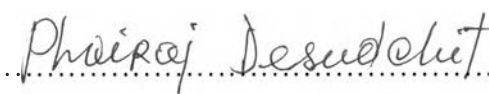
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## ABSTRACT

## ID 02335 : Major Health Systems Development

Key words: knowledge / attitudes / risk behaviors / Myanmar migrant workers

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This study was conducted to determine and describe knowledge, attitudes, risky behaviors, and the factors influencing risky behaviors, regarding HIV/AIDS among Myanmar migrant workers in Bangkok. Quota sampling method was used to select 367 Myanmar migrants contacted at two churches and a recreational park frequented by the migrants. A questionnaire, consisting of components regarding socio-demographic factors, and knowledge, attitudes and risk behaviors regarding HIV/AIDS, was used for data collection. The reliability of the questionnaire was ensured and descriptive statistics; Chi-square test and Independent Sample T-test were used for data analyses.

Following were the main results of the survey:

1. The total mean score of the knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS of Myanmar migrant workers was at “fair” level (Mean= 0.65, SD= 0.22), higher than a previous study involving Myanmar migrants conducted in Sangkhlarburi and Ranong provinces. About half of the migrants (47.4%) had “fair” level of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS; in particular being aware of various ways HIV is transmitted. However, there were several beliefs contrary to facts resulting from insufficient knowledge and confusion.

2. The total mean score of the attitudes regarding HIV/AIDS of migrants was at “moderate” level (Mean=14.58, SD=3.55). Most of the migrants (70.8%) had “moderate” level of attitude, including willingness to be tested for HIV, and a negative or a neutral attitude toward PLWHAs. But there were also some unsubstantiated attitudes such as neglecting the use of condom a few times in would not cause infection.

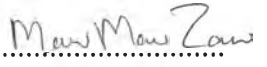
3. Sexual contact in risky situations without or only occasionally using condoms, homosexual behavior, and women not getting tested for HIV before being pregnant were the main risky behaviors. About 52% migrants had sexual experience; about half of them were single/divorced and the rest of the half married. Condom use was very low, and only 17% migrants with sexual experience were using condoms regularly.

4. Only the relationship between gender and risk behaviors, including homosexual experience, having more than one sexual partner, and ignorance about use of condom found to be statistically significant at p-value 0.001, 0.029 and 0.007, respectively. This shows that practices between males and females were different. Relationship between knowledge and risk behaviors of condom use were found to be significant at p value

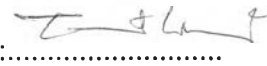
0.004. Also relationship between attitudes and risk behavior was significant at p-value 0.024.

5. Recommendations involve regular programs to improve knowledge and attitudes and behaviors among Myanmar migrants, and policy initiatives to improve migrants' access to information and health services. Present research could serve as a baseline to assess effectiveness of these programs. Further qualitative research needs to be conducted to improve understanding of Myanmar migrants' attitudes and behaviors.

Field of study: Health Systems Development

Student's signature: 

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## LIST OF CONTENTS

	Pages
ABSTRACT .....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	v
LIST OF CONTENTS .....	vi
LIST OF FIGURES .....	ix
LIST OF TABLES .....	ix

### CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Significance of Problem .....	1
1.2 Purpose of the Study .....	5
1.3 Objectives of the Study .....	5
1.4 Research Questions .....	5
1.5 Research Variables .....	5
1.6 Operational Definitions .....	6

### CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome(AIDS) .....	7
2.1.1 Prevention of HIV/AIDS .....	8
2.1.2 Migrants and HIV/ADIS .....	10
2.1.3 Knowledge Regarding HIV/AIDS .....	11
2.1.4 Attitude Regarding HIV/AIDS .....	12
2.1.5 Risk Behaviors Regarding HIV/AIDS .....	13
2.2 Conceptual Framework of the Study .....	14

### CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design .....	16
3.2 Population and Sample .....	17
3.2.1 Sampling Method .....	19
3.3 Inclusion Criteria .....	20
3.4 Research Instrument .....	21

3.5 Reliability and Validity.....	22
3.6 Setting and Timing of the Study.....	23
3.7 Measurement Methods.....	23
3.8 Data Analysis.....	25
3.9 Ethical Considerations.....	25
3.10 Limitations of the Study.....	26
3.11 Expected Benefits.....	26
3.12 Follow-up.....	27
<b>CHAPTER IV RESULTS OF THE STUDY</b>	
4.1 Part One: Socio demographic Characteristics of the Respondents.....	29
4.2 Part Two: Knowledge of Respondents Regarding HIV/AIDS.....	36
4.3 Part Three: Attitudes of Respondents Regarding HIV/AIDS.....	41
4.4 Part Four: Risk Behaviors of Respondents Regarding HIV/AIDS.....	45
4.5 The Factors Influencing Risk Behaviors of Respondents Regarding HIV/AIDS.....	51
<b>CHAPTER V DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
5.1 Discussion	
5.1.1 Research Objective 1.....	56
5.1.2: Research Objective 2.....	61
5.1.3 Research Objective 3.....	63
5.1.4 Research Objective 4.....	68
5.2 Conclusion and Recommendation.....	69
5.2.1 Conclusion.....	70
5.2.2 Limitations of the Study.....	71
5.2.3 Recommendations for Further Action and Research.....	72
<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	74

**APPENDICES**

Appendix A. Survey Budget.....	78
Appendix B. Schedule of Activities.....	79
Appendix C. Interview Questionnaire .....	80
<b>CURRICULUM VITAE</b> .....	<b>85</b>



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Research Conceptual Framework

Figure 2: Flow-chart of the Research Design

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Dummy Table of Research Study

Table 2: Frequency and percentage of respondents by age and gender

Table 3: Frequency and percentage of respondents by gender and marital status

Table 4: Frequency and percentage of respondents by gender and education

Table 5: Frequency and percentage of respondents by ethnicity and religion

Table 6: Frequency and percentage of respondents by gender and occupation

Table 7: Frequency and percentage of respondents by monthly income and occupation

Table 8: Frequency and percentage of respondents by monthly income and ability of Thai language

Table 9: Frequency and percentage of respondents by information on the use of health care services in Bangkok

Table 10: Frequency and percentage of respondents who could give name of a sexually transmitted disease

Table 11: Frequency and percentage of respondents who received information regarding HIV/AIDS and sources of information

Table 12: Frequency and percentage of responses to questions on knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS

Table 13: Frequency and percentage of respondents by the level of knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS

Table 14: Cumulative HIV/AIDS knowledge score

Table 15: Frequency and percentage of responses to questions on attitudes regarding HIV/AIDS

Table 16: Frequency and percentage of respondents classified by the level of attitudes regarding HIV/AIDS

Table 17: Cumulative HIV/AIDS attitude score

Table 18: Frequency and percentage of respondents according to risk behaviors regarding HIV/AIDS

Table 19: Marital status of respondents having more than one partner and their condom use

Table 20: Frequency and percentage of respondents with sexual experience who never used condom

Table 21: Frequency and percentage of respondents using condom according to partner

Table 22: Risky behavior relating to condom use

Table 23: Frequency and percentage of respondents who had blood transfusion

Table 24: Frequency and percentage of respondents with blood transfusion who received screened blood

Table 25: Frequency and percentage of the female respondents who got themselves tested for HIV

Table 26: Frequency and percentage of respondents receiving medication by injection and sharing needles with others

Table 27: Correlation between gender and risk behavior (homosexual experience) regarding HIV/AIDS in 2x2 table and Chi-square value

Table 28: Correlation between gender and risk behavior (more than one sex partner experience) regarding HIV/AIDS in 2x2 table and Chi-square value

Table 29: Correlation between gender and risk behavior (condom use) regarding HIV/AIDS in 2x2 table and Chi-square value

Table 30: Correlation between knowledge and risk behavior relating to condom use regarding HIV/AIDS by t-test (n=159)

Table 31: Correlation between attitude and risk behavior relating to condom use regarding HIV/AIDS by t-test (n=159)