

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

According to the Joint Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) over 36 million people are living with HIV infection at the end of 2000 and more than 90% of them live in the developing world. Most of these cases do not know that they are infected (1). By the late-1980s, the explosive epidemic of HIV was documented in several South and Southeast Asian countries (2). In Vietnam, similar to other developing countries, the epidemic has developed and spread nation-wide. As of 30th December 2000 a total of 27,619 people have been identified as HIV infected, including 4,548 AIDS patients of whom 2,401 have died (3). HIV prevalence, as estimated by sentinel surveillance, now exceeds 64% among Injecting Drug Users (IDUs). In the study of risk behaviors assessment of HIV infected persons in Quang ninh province (4), the result revealed that almost (97%) of HIV infected persons are male and 87% of them have had sex with their female sex partners. The percentage of proper condom use of HIV infected men who have had sex is only 43%. Therefore, the main issues addressed here are how to increase the number of female sex partners who know they are at risk of HIV infection, their HIV status and who receive HIV counseling and testing services to reduce HIV infection from HIV infected men.

This study focused on counseling and testing, the problems which were pointed out by some previous studies in Vietnam. The thesis title is “HIV prevention partner counseling and testing in Quang ninh, Hai phong and Hai duong, Northern Provinces, Vietnam”.

This thesis contains six chapters: chapter I is the introduction; chapter II is the essay; chapter III is the proposal; chapter IV is the data exercise; chapter V is the presentation; and chapter VI is the annotated bibliography.

In chapter II, the essay, I present the argument and its causes indicate for an partner counseling and testing intervention, the introduction in chapter II provides a summary of arguments in favor of partner counseling and testing. Based on the findings of HIV surveillance system, and previous studies, this chapter indicates that HIV transmission among the female sex partners of HIV men is becoming a serious problem in Vietnam. Alternating an effective prevention strategy is the most important point to reduce HIV transmission as well as the consequences of the epidemic on health, socio-economic situation.

Chapter III is the proposal of the study to expand the HIV prevention partner counseling and testing services in the North Region, Vietnam. Based on the guideline of the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control of the United States (CDC) and lessons learned from the previous study of the HIV prevention partner counseling and testing in

Quang ninh, Hai phong, and Hai duong, Vietnam, this chapter tries to elaborately describe all the major phases of the proposed study to expand the HIV prevention partner counseling and testing in the North of Vietnam. The general objective of the study is to reduce HIV transmission among steady female sex partners of HIV infected men in the northern provinces of Vietnam.

Chapter IV, the data exercise consists of the objective, methodology, findings and limitations of the cross-sectional descriptive study “HIV prevention partner counseling and testing in Quang ninh, Hai phong and Hai duong, northern provinces, Viet nam”. Discussion section has been included to compare findings with other studies. Similarly, important lessons learned from the data exercise have been presented.

Chapter V is the information on the presentation made during the thesis examination. It includes briefly three parts of the essay, the proposal the data exercise, and major findings.

Chapter VI, the annotated bibliography, describes some of the literature used for consulting and writing this study.

References

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