Developing Volunteer Spirit Model of HIV Prevention at Schools in Bangkok

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Thailand

Area: 513,115 sq km
Population 2013: 66.4 million
Per capita income: $8,643 US
Death Rates from Major Causes among Thai People

Source: Bureau of Health Policy and Plan and Division of Epidemiology, MOPH.

Note: Death data on AIDS were found approximately 3.33 times under reported, according to a study by Division of Epidemiology.
HIV cases in Thailand are 530,000.

50,800 will develop AIDS related illnesses this year and approximately the same number will die of AIDS complications.

Approximately 2% of Thai men and 1% of Thai women are HIV infected.
HIV/AIDS Epidemics in Thailand

From specific to general populations

- Homo/Bisexuals
- Injection Drug Users (IDUs)
- Prostitutes
- Male with Multiple Partners
- Pregnant Women
- Children
- Youth and mobile population
- Other population


2020
National Report of Sexual health behavior

• Nearly 30% of the new HIV infections in Thailand are in teenagers due to their unaware of the risks of unsafe sexual behavior.

* Behavior modification of safe sex in Youth in Thailand

13-19 years: (2013)

- Knowledge attitude and practice 75%
- Using Condoms when having first sexual contact in High school students 53%
Program: Volunteer Spirit of Preventing HIV Among Youth at schools

**Characteristics:**

- **Use of trained youth/peer facilitators/teachers**
- Content specific to skills for reducing sexual risk behaviors:
  - Refusal skills
  - Condom use skills
  - Communication skill
- **Use of interactive, participatory educational strategies in 20 high schools in Bangkok.**
Project of volunteer spirit of peer group in prevention HIV in Youth
Life Skill Training
AIDS IS A ISSUE
Objective:

1. To assess the knowledge and awareness of HIV prevention among teens

2. To develop volunteer spirit model of HIV prevention at schools.
Participatory action research was conducted.

Capacity building of volunteer spirit and skill building of HIV prevention were provided for 1765 teens at 20 schools in Bangkok.

Data were collected using questionnaire of knowledge and awareness of HIV prevention.
Qualitative research was conducted.

- Eight focus groups were conducted with a total of 20 male and 20 female teens and 20 teachers from 20 high schools that conducted ‘volunteer spirit’ programs.
- Data were collected using a set of semi-structure interview about factor influenced on volunteer spirit program of HIV prevention.
- Focus group discussions were tape-recorded and transcribed, and themes were identified through content analysis.
38.6% were male teens and 61.2% were female teens.

Female teens and male teens’ age were 15-18 years old.

88.6% of teens are living with parents and families.

The income of families are enough for living about 80%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience of Using Condoms</th>
<th>Female (n=1259)</th>
<th>Male (n=506)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using condom during each intercourse</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>26.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never have experience of sexual intercourse</td>
<td>922</td>
<td>73.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About 46% of teens had inadequate knowledge of HIV prevention and transmission.

### Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myth</th>
<th>Responses with Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Drinking together can spread HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>981 N, 55.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. HIV/AIDS can spread by using condom during each intercourse with water Gel lubricant.</td>
<td>974 N, 55.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Mosquito bite can spread HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>1071 N, 60.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. HIV/AIDS can spread through common / public toilet</td>
<td>1281 N, 72.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. HIV/AIDS can spread through blood donor from Blood bank</td>
<td>923 N, 52.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. HIV/AIDS can spread through food cooked by people with HIV</td>
<td>1170 N, 66.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. HIV/AIDS can spread through kissing</td>
<td>1350 N, 76.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. HIV/AIDS can spread through visiting patients at hospital</td>
<td>1197 N, 67.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. HIV/AIDS can spread through using common / public telephone</td>
<td>1003 N, 56.8 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attitude of Using Condoms</th>
<th>Agree (n=1765)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I am very sure that using condom during each Intercourse can prevent HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>776, 44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I am not sure that using condom during each Intercourse can prevent HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>989, 56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Female should ask partner to use condoms during each Intercourse to prevent HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>847, 47.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Male should use condom during each Intercourse to prevent HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>918, 52.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About 56% of teens were not sure that condoms could prevent HIV transmission.
Positive attitudes of ‘volunteer spirit’

- Giving without repayment and being happy to do good things
- Helping vulnerable people to be happy without harm to others.
- Contributing to society without any problem

“Volunteer spirit means giving with happiness, smile and giving every thing without repayment… it does not make us have any trouble.”

“The receivers feel good and happy. If we go to help them with volunteer spirits, we will work or do activities effectively…”
Factors influencing teens to perform ‘volunteer’ activities

1. Empower ourselves to have volunteer spirits

“We have to empower ourselves to have ability to help others. If we do not have any confident to help someone, we will have some problems or cannot do any thing well. So, every student who participate in the project have good grade and all are activists who have good willing to help friends and others.”
Factors influencing teens to perform ‘volunteer’ activities

2. School environment: Peer groups and teachers

“The teachers and my friends persuade me to enroll the volunteer spirit program. We could learn both the sexual transmission disease and HIV. We know how to prevent HIV infection. We also can decide the activities by ourselves ....we also encourage our friends to join the program.”

“The school facilitates us to do the program of volunteer spirit. We can use school radio to campaign volunteer spirit project and we broadcast the information of teens news and how to prevent HIV transmission....via school radio..."
Factors influencing teens to perform ‘volunteer’ activities

3. Parents and Community support

“The parents encourage us to join the activities. They drove the car to school when we have activities on the weekend. They also donated money or things to support our project. We told our parents, so they understood what activities we did.”

“When we campaign about HIV prevention in the community near our school. The leader and volunteers in the community also support us. They gave us the budget or the thing to support our project.”
Model of volunteer spirit Program

1. Empowering teens to be role models

“We have to be a good role model to our friends. We are proud to perform volunteer spirit activates …we do not help other people but also help our friends for everything such as friends’ consultant….we saw my friend had some serious problems, we ask them….so they told us about the problem..we listened to them,, they felt better…we also got more friendship from our friends who come to join this project....”

“We have to demonstrate that we make a contribution to do good thing to our friends or our group. When we went to the camp of project we told them what we had done, so they want to join the activities like us.”
Model of volunteer spirit Program

2. Enhancing capacity of friends/ networks

“In this projects, we join a capacity building of volunteer mind, learn more relevant information about HIV prevention. We gain more knowledge that HIV can transmit from mother to child. So, we make the poster and show the information at our school.”

“We encouraged the students built network with other schools to share their experience of volunteer spirit and activities of HIV prevention”
Results

3. **Advocacy Public Awareness**

“we also built network with secondary school for young students because we want them to know about how to prevent AIDS before they are teenager. We also built network with community nearby. The training program were integrated with smoke cessation, drug addict and HIV prevention now...they have aware of AIDS.”
“we establish the project to visit children with HIV. So, we understand people with HIV...we can live in the same society...we went there to encourage children they felt lonely...we went there to do activity and made them happy..
Example: Project and Networks

- AIDS prevention campaigns,
- Life skill training,
- Caring of HIV children,
- Advising peers about HIV prevention information via social media
- Establishing networks in community.
Conclusions/Recommendations:

• The ‘volunteer spirit’ models of HIV prevention were teens’ acceptable program that can be applied in sex education program and help shape school health policy to improve quality of HIV education
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