



A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY OF HIV-RELATED STIGMA IN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND THE RURAL COMMUNITY USING PARALLEL SCALES

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR. KHIN SWE EI AND DR. WENDY DIANA SHOESMITH
SEKOLAH PERUBATAN UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH**

PROJECT CODE SMS0080-SP-2010

**2010-2011
SABAH**



UMS
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH

Abstract

Our study aimed to assess the levels of stigma using a parallel scale in the local population of Sabah with attempts to correlate the determinants of stigma in the local context towards people living with HIV/AIDS using the data collected 2009-2010. With the PPI funding, we collected more data from villages in Sikuati, Kudat (Kumpungs Korina, Laut, Tambuluran, Parapat laut, Parapat Darat, Merabau, Barabangan) and the medical students in 2011. The research was conducted in three phases: **(1) construction and formulation of items in the two parallel scales; (2) administration of the scales with an HIV knowledge scale** in three study samples (village residents, medical students and non-medical students of UMS) **(3) analyses to validate the scales and compare the results.**

On statistical analysis, the three scales were proven to be internally consistent. The three principle components of stigma "Interpersonal distancing," "Shame and blame," and "Positive opinions about PLWHA," were confirmed. All components decreased with increasing level of education with a wide margin between the medical students and other groups.

We confirmed the factor structure of personal stigma, using confirmatory factor analysis, (RMSEA= 0.061 (0.42-0.79), $pclose=0.158$). The fit of the factor structure for attributed stigma was not as good (RMSEA= 0.090 (0.71-0.10), $pclose<0.001$). This project resulted in a validated stigma scale to be of use locally for future research and behavioral interventions.

