

**KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE ON HIV/AIDS AMONG FORM SIX
STUDENTS IN KOTA KINABALU, SABAH.**

HO CHIN YEE

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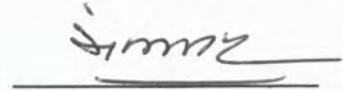
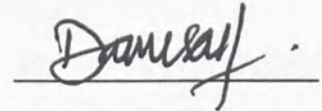
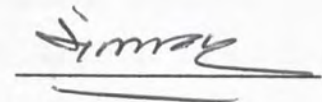
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1. SUPERVISOR**(PROF. MADYA DR. AMRAN AHMED)****2. EXAMINER 1****(MS. DARMESAH GABDA)****3. EXAMINER 2****(MDM. SITI RAHAYU MOHD. HASHIM)****4. DEAN****(PROF. MADYA DR. AMRAN AHMED)**

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ABSTRACT

HIV/AIDS is a major public health problem in the country. A study was done by distributing questionnaires to all the Form Six students from eleven schools in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. The objectives of this study was to examine the existing level of knowledge and attitude on HIV/AIDS among Form Six students in Kota Kinabalu and to determine is there any relationship between the students' knowledge on HIV/AIDS and their attitude on HIV/AIDS. There are altogether 701 respondents in this study with 215 males and 477 females. About 98 per cent of the respondents have heard of HIV and AIDS. The main source of information on HIV/AIDS is the television and most of them would consult the doctors and they are the most convincing agent to provide HIV/AIDS information. This study found that nearly 93 per cent of them answer correctly regarding knowledge on modes of transmission by unprotected sexual activities, intravenous drug injections, blood transfusion and through mother and child. There were some misconception on transmission of HIV/AIDS through mosquito bite and casual contacts like sharing food and shaking hands. The respondents' attitude towards HIV/AIDS is generally fair with positive attitude. Besides that, this study found that there were significant differences in the knowledge and attitude on HIV/AIDS among some sociodemographic characteristics such as religion, their mother's education level, and family monthly income. Lastly, this study shows that knowledge on HIV/AIDS does relate with the attitude towards HIV/AIDS among the respondents. The more knowledge of HIV/AIDS of the respondents, the better attitude the respondents have toward HIV/AIDS. Still there is 41 per cent were not sure whether their awareness towards HIV/AIDS is sufficient. Therefore, it is recommended that HIV/AIDS awareness campaign should be implemented to provide sufficient information that are correct and easy to understand.



**KAJIAN PENGETAHUAN DAN SIKAP TERHADAP HIV/AIDS DI
KALANGAN PELAJAR TINGKATAN ENAM ATAS DI
KOTA KINABALU, SABAH.**

ABSTRAK

HIV/AIDS merupakan satu masalah kesihatan yang besar di negara ini. Satu kajian telah dijalankan dengan mengedar borang soal-selidik kepada pelajar Tingkatan Enam daripada 11 buah sekolah di Kota Kinabalu. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk menguji kewujudan tahap pengetahuan dan sikap terhadap HIV/AIDS di kalangan pelajar dan menentukan sama ada terdapat hubungan di antara pengetahuan dan sikap pelajar terhadap HIV/AIDS. Terdapat 701 responden di dalam kajian ini dengan 215 lelaki dan 477 perempuan. Sebanyak 98% responden pernah dengar tentang HIV dan AIDS. Sumber maklumat utama adalah televisyen dan kebanyakan daripada mereka merujuk kepada doktor dan menganggap mereka sebagai agen yang paling meyakinkan dalam memberi informasi HIV/AIDS. Sebanyak 93% menjawab dengan betul mengenai cara jangkitan melalui kegiatan seks yang tidak terlindung, berkongsi jarum suntikan, pemindahan darah dan melalui ibu kepada bayi. Terdapat salah tanggapan bahawa HIV/AIDS boleh berjangkit melalui gigitan nyamuk, berkongsi makanan dan berjabat tangan. Sikap terhadap HIV/AIDS di kalangan responden adalah positif. Perbezaan yang signifikan terhadap pengetahuan dan sikap didapati di antara agama, tahap pendidikan ibu dan pendapatan bulanan keluarga. Kajian juga menunjukkan pengetahuan berkait dengan sikap mengenai HIV/AIDS. Jika pengetahuan mereka tinggi, maka sikap mereka adalah positif. Empat puluh satu peratus responden masih tidak pasti sama ada tahap kesedaran mereka mengenai HIV/AIDS adalah mencukupi. Jadi, eloklah kempen HIV/AIDS diadakan untuk memberi cukup maklumat yang betul dan senang difahami.



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ABBREVIATION LIST

AIDS	-	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANOVA	-	One-way Analysis of Variance
ARZ	-	AIDS-associated Retrovirus
AZT	-	Azathioprine
<i>F</i> test	-	Fisher Test
FDA	-	Food and Drug Administration
H_0	-	Null Hypothesis
H_1	-	Alternative Hypothesis
HIV	-	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDU	-	Intravenous Drug Use
MSE	-	Mean Square for Error (within samples)
MST	-	Mean Square for Treatments (between samples)
PPMC	-	Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient
SIV	-	Simian Immunodeficiency Viruses
SM	-	Sekolah Menengah
SMK	-	Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan
SSE	-	Sum of Squares for Error (within samples)
SST	-	Sum of Squares for Treatments (between samples)
STD	-	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STI	-	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UNAIDS	-	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
WAD	-	World AIDS Day
WHO	-	World Health Organization
ZDV	-	Zidovune



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 HIV/AIDS FIGURES

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is now recognized as a critical global problem that impacts the social, cultural, and economic systems of families, communities and nations. Currently, it is estimated that 40 million people are infected with HIV worldwide. That number will rise to at least 70 million in the next decade. Over 20 million have died since the first cases of AIDS were identified in 1981.

Ninety five per cent of all infections occur in developing countries and continents; the major brunt of the epidemic is being seen in Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia. It is estimated that 6.5 million of them are in the South and Southeast Asia region. AIDS has now surpassed tuberculosis and malaria as the leading cause of death from an infectious disease in the world (Alcamo, 2002). The AIDS epidemic is the most serious infectious disease epidemic in history.



1.2 HIV/AIDS IN MALAYSIA

The HIV/AIDS situation is recognized as a public health problem in Malaysia and one that is of a national concern especially with regards to the spread of HIV/AIDS among young people and to newborns through mother-to-child transmission. The first case of AIDS in Malaysia was detected in December 1986 from an American citizen on a social visit.

The epidemic status of HIV/AIDS in Malaysia is a concentrated epidemic. This means that the HIV prevalence is consistently more than five per cent in at least one defined subpopulation and less than one per cent in pregnant women in urban areas (Wan Mohammad, 2004).

Malaysia's rate of HIV infection is the fifth-fastest in the Asia-Pacific region. According to WHO (2003), estimated that there are over 45 000 cases of HIV/AIDS in the country in 2003, although it is believed that the actual number is significantly higher. The actual findings of all people with HIV infection in Malaysia, whether or not they have developed symptoms of AIDS, alive at the end of 2003 are 58 000 cases. This shows that it is 22 per cent higher than the estimation of WHO in 2003. The number of people who died of AIDS during 2003 is around 6 000 cases. This is very alarming and disturbing because according to UNAIDS (2004), the number of AIDS deaths will be only close to 6000 cases only in 2010.

According to The Star (18 January 2005), about 20 new HIV cases reported everyday in the country, of which, three are confirmed as AIDS and two people die



everyday because of AIDS and related complications. The most depressing and sad news is that more than 75 per cent of the total involves are those between the ages of 13 and 39.

1.2.1 HIV/AIDS in Sabah

Where else in Sabah, statistics collected from the Unit of Controlled Disease, Ministry of Health, Sabah, there are a total of 380 HIV cases and 77 AIDS cases with 40 death cases reported as at June 2004. It is believe that the actual figure is definitely and significantly higher. This is because not all HIV cases are reported and with the geometrical situation in Sabah, it is impossible to collect the actual figure. From the figure reported, 31 per cent of the cases fall in the age group of 13 to 29 which are 147 HIV cases and 19 AIDS cases.

1.2.2 HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Malaysia

In Malaysia, there are a few ways of obtaining HIV/AIDS surveillance data. They are through notification of confirmed cases by medical practitioners to the state AIDS/STD units of the Ministry of Health and then to the National AIDS/STD Unit, routine voluntary screening of IDUs in rehabilitation centers, high risk prisoners, sex workers, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections patients and antenatal mothers at government facilities. Besides that, there is mandatory screening of blood donors, migrant workers and armed force civil servants. Other than that, there are also specific epidemiological studies on vulnerable groups of population and also HIV behavioral surveys (Chong, 1999).



The latest testing available in Malaysia is the anonymous voluntary HIV testing. It is piloted in Johore in 2000. The details such as age, race and sex were recorded but not volunteers names. Conformity test will be done when it is necessary (Chong, 1999).

1.3 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study are:

- a) To examine the existing level of knowledge and attitude on HIV/AIDS among Form Six students in Kota Kinabalu,
- b) To identify areas of confusion on HIV/AIDS among Form Six students in Kota Kinabalu and
- c) To evaluate is there any relationship between the students knowledge on HIV/AIDS and their attitudes on HIV/AIDS.

The first two objectives will be examine and identify using a comparative statistical analysis, One-way Analysis of Variance or ANOVA and the last objective will be evaluate using Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient.

1.4 RESEARCH SCOPE

This research scope is within the Form Six students in Kota Kinabalu Sabah. Questionnaires on HIV/AIDS were distributed among the Form Six student schools. A list of Form Six schools was collected from the Education Ministry of Sabah, there are eleven Form Six schools in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. They are :-



- 1) SMK Agama Kota Kinabalu,
- 2) SMK All Saints,
- 3) SMK Bandaraya,
- 4) SMK Inanam,
- 5) SMK La Salle Tanjung Aru,
- 6) SMK Likas,
- 7) SMK Lok Yuk Likas,
- 8) SMK Perempuan,
- 9) SMK Sanzac,
- 10) SM Maktab Sabah and
- 11) SM Tinggi Kota Kinabalu.

SMK Agama Kota Kinabalu is located in Bukit Padang, SMK All Saints, SMK Likas, SMK Lok Yuk Likas and SMK Perempuan are all located in Likas, SMK Bandaraya is located in Menggatal, SMK Inanam is located in Inanam, SMK La Salle Tanjung Aru is located in Tanjung Aru, SMK Sanzac and SM Maktab Sabah is located in Sembulan and lastly, SM Tinggi Kota Kinabalu is located in Penampang.

The questionnaires were distributed in the third week of April 2005 and collected back from the schools from the same week till the last week of April 2005. Take note that during that period the Form Six students are only consist of the upper form and not the lower form. This is because the Lower Form Six students have not started their schools yet. The Lower Form Six students only started their school in May 2005.



Therefore, the Form Six students that are mentioned here are the Form Upper Six and from now onwards the students that answered the questionnaires will be referred as 'respondents' for this study.

From the list that have been collected, there are a total of 808 Form Upper Six students altogether with 260 males and 548 females. The total of Form Upper Six class is 25 classes with 18 non-science stream classes and 7 science stream classes. The numbers for non-science stream students are 592 students and 216 students for the science stream students. Lastly, there are five schools with non-science stream and science stream classes and six schools with only non-science stream classes.



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