



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE RELATED TO HIV/AIDS
PREVENTION AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN KLANG,
MALAYSIA**

MAHTAB MOHAMMADI

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KLANG, MALAYSIA**

By

MAHTAB MOHAMMADI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Science**

February 2010

Dedication

This thesis is especially dedicated to my beloved: Husband Ahmad Mohammadi, Mother Mehrangiz Hosseini, and father Badi Mohammadi, for unconditional patience, support and encouragement throughout this project and my life.

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in
Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Master Degree

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Chairman: Professor Lekhraj Rampal, MBBS, MPH, DrPH, FAMM

Faculty: Medicine and Health Sciences

The HIV/AIDS has killed more than 25 million people since it was first recognized in 1981, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in recorded history. The adolescents generally tend to have high levels of knowledge about the meaning of HIV transmission, however somewhat lower levels of knowledge about effective means of protection lack some critical information and hold a number of misconceptions about the risks associated with casual contact. Knowledge about HIV/AIDS is clearly important for young people to prevent behaviors that place them at risk of contracting HIV, however, knowledge itself, is not necessarily associated with HIV preventive actions such as condom use. The aim of this study was to determine the level of knowledge, attitude and practices related to HIV/AIDS prevention among secondary school students in Klang district.

A cross-sectional study design was used. The study population was secondary school students in Klang district. Data was collected from 9th of February to 28th of March 2009 using a pre-tested self-administrated (Bahasa Malaysia) questionnaire. Data was analyzed using SPSS version 16.0.

Out of the 2273 students; 61.7% were male. Majority were Malays (37.2%) followed by Chinese (35.7%) and Indians (26.0%). The mean age ranged from 14 to 18 years. The overall mean age among the males (15.48 SD \pm 1.14 years) was not significantly different from that of the females (15.49 SD \pm 0.04 years) ($t = -0.26$, $df = 2271$, $p > 0.05$). The main sources of information for HIV/AIDS awareness reported by the respondents were the print media (62.3%). The overall mean knowledge score of the respondents was 7.01 (SD \pm 3.62) and ranged from 0 to 15 points. One hundred and eighteen students 5.2% obtained 0 (zero) marks in knowledge questions score and 88.8% of students had less than 75% of full marks in knowledge question score. The result of this study revealed that although the majority (77.7%) of students knew that AIDS is fatal disease almost 52% were not aware that there is no cure for AIDS and only 23.7% knew that there is no vaccine that can stop people from getting HIV. More than half of the participants believed that HIV transmission was possible through casual contact with HIV-positive persons, such as sharing food (68.6%), sharing a glass of water (71.1%) and from mosquito bites (60.4%). Abstaining from sexual intercourse, having one uninfected faithful sex partner and use of condoms as an HIV prevention measure was not well understood among the participants, as indicated by an incorrect response rate of 55.7%, 63.5% and 67.2% respectively.

Mean attitude score toward HIV/AIDS was 25.32 (SD \pm 3.60) and ranged from 8 to 45 points. Mean practice score regarding HIV/AIDS was 4.53 (SD \pm 1.063) and ranged from 0 to 6 points and mean sexual behavior score was 3.73 (SD \pm 0.78) and ranged from 0 to 6 points. The results also showed that knowledge of respondents was significantly associated with age ($F = 33.41$, $p = 0.001$) and academic grade ($F = 31.47$, $p = 0.001$). Attitude related to HIV/AIDS was significantly associated with age ($F = 10.52$, $p = 0.001$), mother's education ($F = 2.87$, $p = 0.035$) and academic grade ($F = 21.03$, $p = 0.002$). The practice of respondents related to HIV/AIDS was significantly associated with gender ($F = 153.95$, $p = 0.001$), age ($F = 9.32$, $p = 0.001$), religion ($F = 2.82$, $p = 0.024$), family income ($F = 2.88$, $p = 0.035$) and academic grade ($F = 4.56$, $p = 0.001$).

In conclusion, the result of study showed that the level of knowledge related to HIV/AIDS among secondary school students in Klang is not satisfactory. There is considerable misconception regarding transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS. The respondents seem to have unfavorable attitude on the prevention of HIV/AIDS. Among 6.1% of students that admitted to have ever had sexual intercourse, only 43.1% of them reported that they or their partners used condom at last sexual intercourse. It is recommended that peer-led intervention on improvement of knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of secondary school children related to HIV prevention be implemented.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Master Sains.

**PENGETAHUAN, SIKAP DAN AMALAN BERKENAAN PENCEGAHAN
HIV/AIDS DI KALANGAN PELAJAR SEKOLAH MENENGAH DI
KLANG, MALAYSIA**

Oleh

MAHTAB MOHAMMADI

February 2010

Pengerusi: Professor Lekhraj Rampal, MBBS, MPH, PhD, FAMM

Fakulti: Perubatan dan Sains Kesihatan

HIV/AIDS telah membunuh lebih daripada 25 juta orang sejak pertama kali ditemui pada tahun 1981, menjadikannya ia salah satu pandemik pemusnah dalam sejarah. Remaja umumnya cenderung memiliki tahap pengetahuan yang tinggi tentang erti penularan HIV, namun tahap pengetahuan yang rendah mengenai perlindungan efektif adalah kekurangan beberapa maklumat penting dan sejumlah kesalahfahaman tentang risiko yang berkaitan dengan hubungan biasa. Pengetahuan tentang HIV/AIDS jelas penting bagi golongan muda untuk mencegah perilaku yang meletakkan mereka berisiko untuk menjangkiti HIV, bagaimanapun, pengetahuan itu sendiri, tidak selalunya berkaitan dengan tindakan pencegahan HIV seperti penggunaan kondom. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk menentukan tahap pengetahuan, sikap dan amalan yang berkaitan dengan pencegahan HIV/AIDS di kalangan pelajar sekolah menengah di daerah Klang.

Penyelidikan kajian irisan lintangan digunakan. Populasi kajian ini adalah pelajar sekolah menengah di daerah Klang. Data dikumpul dari 9th Februari hingga 28th Mac 2009 dengan menggunakan pra-ujian (Bahasa Malaysia) borang soal selidik. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan SPSS versi 16.0.

Daripada 2273 pelajar yang menyertai kajian; 61.7% adalah lelaki. Majoriti responden adalah Melayu (37.2%), diikuti dengan Cina (35.7%) dan India (26.0%). Lingkungan purata umur pelajar adalah daripada 14 hingga 18 tahun. Tiada perbezaan signifikan di antara umur pelajar lelaki (15.48 SD \pm 1.13 tahun) dan umur pelajar perempuan (15.49 SD \pm 0.039) ($t = -0.26$, $df = 2271$, $p > 0.05$). Sumber utama responden memperolehi informasi kesedaran HIV/AIDS adalah melalui media cetak. Purata skor pengetahuan responden adalah 7.01 (SD \pm 3.62) dan berkisar dan antara 0 - 15 mata. Satu ratus lapan belas pelajar 5.2% memperolehi 0 (sifar) markah bagi soalan skor pengetahuan dan 88.8% pelajar mempunyai kurang dari 75% daripada nilai penuh dalam soalan pengetahuan skor. Keputusan kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa walaupun majoriti (77.7%) daripada pelajar mengetahui bahawa AIDS adalah penyakit yang fatal, hampir 52% tidak sedar bahawa tidak ada ubat untuk AIDS dan hanya 23.7% tahu bahawa tidak ada vaksin yang menghalang orang daripada menjangkiti HIV. Lebih separuh daripada peserta percaya bahawa ada kemungkinan penularan HIV melalui hubungan biasa dengan orang HIV-positif, seperti berkongsi makanan (68.6%), berkongsi segelas air (71.1%) dan daripada gigitan nyamuk (60.4%). Berpantang daripada hubungan seksual, mempunyai pasangan seks yang tidak dijangkiti dan penggunaan kondom sebagai pencegahan HIV adalah tidak difahami dengan baik di antara para peserta, seperti yang ditunjukkan oleh kadar respons yang salah 55.7%, 63.5% dan 67.2% masing-masing.

Min skor sikap terhadap HIV/AIDS adalah 25.32 (SD \pm 3.60) dan berkisar di antara 8 - 45 mata. Min skor amalan mengenai HIV/AIDS adalah 4.53 (SD \pm 1.06) dan berkisar di antara 0 - 6 mata dan min skor perilaku seksual adalah 3.73 (SD \pm 0.78) dan berkisar di antara 0 - 6 mata. Keputusan juga menunjukkan bahawa pengetahuan responden mempunyai hubungan yang signifikan dengan usia ($F = 33.41$, $p = 0,001$) dan darjah akademik ($F = 31.47$, $p = 0.001$). Sikap berkaitan HIV/AIDS mempunyai hubungan signifikan dengan usia ($F = 10.52$, $p = 0,001$), tahap pendidikan ibu ($F = 2.87$, $p = 0.035$) dan darjah akademik ($F = 21.03$, $p = 0.002$). Praktik responden berkaitan HIV/AIDS mempunyai hubungan yang signifikan dengan jantina ($F = 153.95$, $p = 0.001$), usia ($F = 9.32$, $p = 0.001$), agama ($F = 2.82$, $p = 0.024$), pendapatan keluarga ($F = 2.88$, $p = 0.035$) dan darjah akademik ($F = 4.56$, $p = 0.001$).

Kesimpulannya, hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa tahap pengetahuan berkaitan HIV/AIDS di kalangan pelajar sekolah menengah di Klang adalah tidak memuaskan. Terdapat banyak salah faham tentang transmisi dan pencegahan HIV/AIDS. Responden didapati mempunyai sikap buruk mengenai pencegahan HIV/AIDS. Di antara 6.1% pelajar yang mengakui pernah melakukan hubungan seksual, hanya 43.1% daripada mereka melaporkan bahawa mereka atau pasangan mereka menggunakan kondom pada hubungan seksual terkini. Adalah disyorkan agar 'peer-led' intervensi untuk peningkatan pengetahuan, sikap dan perilaku anak-anak sekolah menengah berkaitan dengan pencegahan HIV dilaksanakan.

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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on (11-2-2010) to conduct the final examination of (Mahtab Mohammadi) on her Master of Science thesis entitled “Knowledge, Attitude and Practice related to HIV/AIDS Prevention among Secondary School Students in Klang District, Malaysia” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Sciences. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

Name of Chairperson, PhD

Assoc. Prof. Dr Rozita Rosli
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Name of Examiner 1, PhD

Assoc. Prof. Dato’ Dr. Faisal Ibrahim
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Name of Examiner 2, PhD

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mary Huang Soo Lee
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Name of External Examiner, PhD

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Rusli Abdullah
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
Universiti Sains Malaysia
(External Examiner)

BUJANG KIM HUAT, PhD

Professor and Deputy Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

This thesis submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

LEKHRAJ RAMPAL, MBBS, MPH (HONS), DRPH, FAMM

Professor
Department of Community Health
Faculty Medicine and Health Sciences
University Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Hejar Binti Abd. Rahman, M.D., Masters Community Health

Associate Professor
Department of Community Health
Faculty Medicine and Health Sciences
University Putra Malaysia
(Member)

Maha Binti Abdullah, PhD

Department of Pathology
Faculty Medicine and Health Sciences
University Putra Malaysia
(Member)

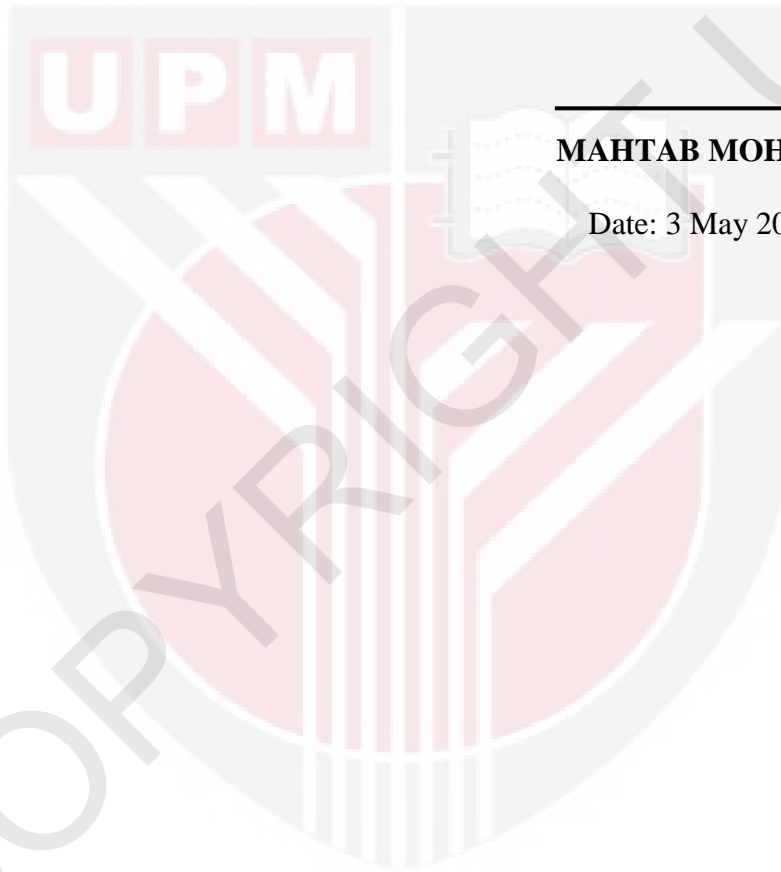
HASANAH MOHD. GHAZALI, PhD

Professor and Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date: 13 May 2010

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations, which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.



MAHTAB MOHAMMADI

Date: 3 May 2010

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