

**HIV/AIDS RISK BEHAVIOURS AMONG
MARITIME STUDENTS IN MYANMAR
MERCANTILE MARINE COLLEGE**

THAN LWIN AUNG

**MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF PUBLIC HEALTH
YANGON**

2012

ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted in 2012 to describe the HIV/AIDS risk behavior among maritime students in three classes of Myanmar Mercantile Marine College. Data was collected through self-administered questionnaire on September 25, from the 225 students with the classes of maritime course, Chief Engineer Officer Course (35, 15.6%), Master [Foreign Going] Course (80, 35.6%), and Officer In-charge of an Engineering Watch Course [OEW] (110, 48.8%).

Majority of students (48%) were age between 25 and 34. In relation to marital status, more than half respondents are married persons (53.3%) followed by other persons are single (45.8%) and divorced (0.9%). With respect to education, most of them are graduate (67.2%) and the rest were high school level (12.4%) and marine diploma level (20.4%). The average income per person (last paid on board) was 3264 US\$ with + or - 2660 US\$ standard deviation. Regarding knowledge on HIV/AIDS, majority i.e. 84.9 percent knew that unprotected sex as the commonest mode of transmission. Knowledge about the HIV treatment, majority of the respondents (73.3%) knew the anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and knowledge about the places for HIV/AIDS care, treatment and support, more than half (53.3%) of respondents knew these places. In this study majority of the students (59.6%) had above the mean knowledge score. According to this study more than half of the respondents, 52 percent had above the mean attitude score. Majority of the respondents (86.2%) got information about HIV/AIDS from both media and persons and the rest of them (13.8%) got one source media or persons. In this study, extramarital sex was 13.1 percent and premarital sex was 52.4 percent which were among the male maritime students. The condom usage among the maritime students who engaged in sexual activities in last 12 months was also high (92.8%). The respondents who used condom during their sexual activities stated that they did not want to get the STI/AIDS (92.3%), 60/65) or not to get child (46.2%, 30/65). More than half of them (52.9%) found alcohol drinking habit before sex among the respondents who had extramarital

and premarital sex behavior during the past 12 months. None of respondents used intravenous narcotic substances previously.

In conclusion, with the intention of preventing HIV transmission among maritime persons as well as low risk population in Myanmar, the information from this study should be taken into consideration by the policy makers, local and international non-government organizations who implement the preventive and treatment interventions. In addition, life skills and social norms such as talking about condom use, whether they use condoms correctly and how to avoid risky practices in order to reduce risk behavior among maritime population, sustainable safe sex behaviour and good knowledge and attitude in this population should also be maintained.