

Best Practice in Reduction of Vulnerability of Girls to HIV/AIDS

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The objective of this study is to evaluate the implementation of project that aims to reduce the vulnerability of girls to HIV/AIDS. Sema-Pattana Cheewit Project was selected to be evaluated. This project provided scholarships to girls who are finished grade 6 and are at risk of entering into prostitution to continue their education until finish grade 9. Data derived from both secondary and primary sources including in-depth interviews with project personnel at both central and provincial level and teachers in selected schools. Focus group discussion and questionnaire were used to collect data from girls participated in the project.

The study showed that majority of girls who are selected to get scholarships are conform with the criteria set by Ministry of Education. Majority of girls (81%) who finished grade 9 continue their education, 9% began working and 1.01% dropped out from school. The most common problem found was the delay in transferring money to the students. The process took about a semester for the students to get their scholarship. Drop out girls are another major concern and needs greater attention. This group of girls are at risk of becoming commercial sex workers. Yet, little has been done to follow them and help them to find another career alternatives in line with Sema-Pattana Cheewit project aims.