

## **Evaluation of AIDS Education and Promotion for Factory Worker Project.**

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The evaluation of the AIDS Education And Promotion for Factory Workers Project, funded by the Australian Embassy, was undertaken by the Thai Association for Voluntary Sterilization and Quality of Life Development (TAVS & QLD). The outcome of the evaluation is positive and indicates that the Project was successful as it met all of its objectives. The investigation shows that workers between the ages of 15 to 39 know what AIDS is and they understand that certain types of behaviour must change in order to avoid the risk of HIV infection. They now have a better attitude towards AIDS patients, are more willing to accept them and can associate with them in every day life.

All the parties : TAVS & QLD; Provincial Health Officers ; Labour Protection and Welfare Officers ; Industrial Officers of Pathum Thani and Ratchabuti Province ; - Factory Owners ; and Management Staff and AIDS Volunteers, involved in the project worked very hard even though co-operation and co-ordination among the public and private organizations as well as factories could have been improved, especially with regard to joint planning and the process of selecting qualified AIDS volunteers. This point is very important because volunteers have to be able to provide as much knowledge as possible about AIDS to factory workers.

It is recommended that meetings of factory executives and other people involved in the project be held on a regular basis, possibly every three months, to achieve a better understanding of what an AIDS education project entails. News and information updates on the HIV epidemic should also be provided regularly. Factory AIDS volunteers should, from some kind of club, association or network that would allow them to exchange information and support one another. Their training should be

continuous and their knowledge evaluated from time to time because they have to be confident and competent in giving advice to the workers. The project should be extended to include more factories as there are as many as 2,000 factories in Pathum Thani and Rachaburi provinces. Last year, AIDS volunteers only worked in 60 factories. It is therefore strongly recommended that more volunteers be recruited so that education on AIDS can be spread to more people. When this is achieved, the reduction in the number of HIV infected will be a real possibility.