Abstract

Men's Views on Reproductive Health Behavior of HIV-Positive Women

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This study aims to investigate men's views towards HIV positive women's reproductive health behavior. Methodology of the study is qualitative method. The focus group discussions were held with male participants. Their average age was 40 years old. The oldest discussant was 62 years old while the youngest was 20 years old. In terms of occupation, they were either farmers or laborers. The report represents a part of the project entitled, "HIV Positive Women: Voices and Choices," a project implemented by and for HIV positive people in Thailand. The findings reported here are from the group of men. Some of these men may or may not be HIV positive, but all of them have female family members who are HIV positive. As the title implies, the paper will concentrate only on how these men view the reproductive health of HIV positive women. The results from this project reveal that these men's opinion on HIV positive women who are part of their family, are compassionate. If these HIV positive women were not family members, the men's feelings would be less compassionate, even though these same men may have female relatives who are HIV positive. Moreover, no matter whether the men are HIV positive, the majority of men felt that the women should not bear children, since the babies may be HIV positive or unhealthy, or that the child will be a burden to other family members and the society in the long run. Therefore, providing information on contraceptives and pregnancy termination are felt necessary for HIV positive women.

The men's view on the reproductive health of HIV positive women are that they should learn about safe sex (using contraceptive methods) and keeping themselves healthy. In order to reduce HIV infection, the men felt that sex education is important in reducing infection rates. They also believed that a special clinic or hospital for HIV positive people is needed so that they would not feel reluctance to seek services.