ABSTRACT

A descriptive study at Ratchawithi, Prapokklao, and Maharat Hospitals in Bangkok, Chanthaburi and Nakorn Ratchasima involving 146 HIV positive pregnant women was conducted to record their reactions after discovering their HIV positive status and to determine their decisions towards making future plans for their children.

The study revealed that seventy percent of the women belonged to the age group 20 to 29, which is the age of maximum fertility and sexual activity. There was an association between certain socio-demographic characteristics and respondents’ knowledge and perception concerning HIV/AIDS. Women with higher educational attainment had better knowledge and perception of prevention and future childcare.

Social factors including media, counseling, childbearing press and knowledge of AZT had a profound influence on the perception and knowledge of the women. A significant association of knowledge and perception with both mass media and AZT was revealed. Among the mass media, television was the most widespread mode of information dissemination, but hospitals were the best source of accurate information.

Slightly over ten percent of these women opted for termination of pregnancy. The majority of them belonged to the middle income group. A significant correlation between the number of times married and termination of pregnancy was observed.

It was also revealed that knowledge had a significant association with decision of future childcare. The majority of the women viewed close relatives as their first choice for future guardians for their children. The next choice was other relatives with orphanage being the least preferred option.