ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional descriptive study aimed to assess the socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge, perception, source of information, and safe sex intention among Prah Sisovat High School students. This study was conducted at Prah Sisovat High School in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in March 1999. Two hundred grade 12 students were purposely selected.

The result revealed that most of the students, eighty nine percent, were living with their parents. In average, the students had allowance of about 122,000.0 riel per month, and most of the students' parents, ninety one percent, were married and lived together. Ninety one percent of the students fell in to the high level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS, seventy five percent were in the moderate level of perception towards HIV/AIDS, and eighty four percent of the respondents had high intention to use condoms to prevent HIV infection. Ninety seven percent knew that condoms can prevent people getting HIV infection. Out of the available sources of information about HIV/AIDS, television represented the most available source of information to which ninety one percent of the students were exposed. However, teacher was the source of information that affected safe sex intention of the students the most. Overall, this finding revealed that the only main factor that attributed to safe sex intention among students of Prah Sisovat High School was that the condom use can protect people from getting HIV infection. It is necessary to develop extra curriculum to educate the students about HIV / AIDS and this program should focus more on the misunderstanding about the severity and mode of HIV/AIDS transmission.