ABSTRACT

A cross sectional study was conducted on March 2000 by interviewing 201 students of Mahidol Witthayanusorn High School, Thailand. The study aimed to identify the safe sex intention and its determinants and to assess the characteristics of socio-demographic variables, knowledge, perception, source of information and safe sex intention to prevent STD/HIV/AIDS among High School students of Nakhonpathom Province, Thailand. The instrument used for data collection was self-administered questionnaires.

The finding revealed that the majority of the students were female, living in the parents’ house with 1500-3000 Baht allowance per month. Regarding the occupation of their parents most of their fathers were businessmen and secondly they were government officials, most of the student’s father had the education level of college or higher and same pattern with that of the mother in occupation and educational level. The majority of the students’ hobby was reading and cinema. In the same way most frequent source of information about STD/HIV/AIDS was television and radio, second frequent source of information was Magazines/Newspaper.

The result showed that the majority of respondents (86.0%) had higher level of knowledge on STD/HIV/AIDS, however only 55.0% of the students had the knowledge about “Donating blood in the hospital” does not transmit HIV, and 76.6% of the students had moderate level of perception on STD/HIV/AIDS, while only 11.9% of the students had high level of perception.

The result also revealed that more than 96.0% of the students had a high level of positive intention to practice safe sex and only less than 4% of the students had low safe sex intention during the time of interview.

This study did not find out any significant percentage of safe sex intention by socio-demographic factors, knowledge, perception, and source of information.

It is necessary to develop extra curriculum for the students to educate them about STD/HIV/AIDS and this program should focus more on misconception about the severity and mode of HIV transmission.

Involvement of parents and peers should be stressed to discuss STD/AIDS. They can play a very important role for the students once they have appropriate knowledge and learn how to discuss STD/HIV/AIDS and safe sex.