ABSTRACT

This cross-sectional study aimed to assess the socio-demography characteristics of respondents and of the respondents' parents knowledge, sources of knowledge, attitude towards condom use and predisposing factors among the Royal Thai Army conscripts in Bangkok, Thailand. Two hundred conscripts were selected by simple random sampling method. The study was conducted during March 2001. For data analysis, descriptive analysis were use to describe the frequency and percentage of variables. The researcher used Chi square test, Mann-Whitney U test and T test regarding association and comparison. The significant level was set at 0.05.

The result of the study showed that the majority (89.5%) of the respondents were at the age of 21-22 years old and 80 % were single. The educational level of most of the respondents (58%) was primary and secondary school. Among them 91.5% had sexual experience. A little less than two thirds (65%) had first sex with their girl friends. More than 70% of the conscripts had multiple sex partners. It was found that nearly one tenth (9.5%) had STDs. Required analysis revealed that those previously working in private service and high-income conscripts were found in the high-risk group (p-value=0.045). The army conscripts got information mostly from the television (p-value=0.008). Alcoholic drinks were found as an aggravating factor, leading into the high risk group with p-value = 0.039.

The summarized result clearly showed that those who never used condoms were almost half (48%) of those sampled and sometimes use was 15 %, so the total 63% of respondents practiced sexual risk behavior while performing extra marital sexual relations during the last 3 months. These findings indicate a need for safe sex education for conscripts in the Royal Thai Army.