ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study aimed to assess the socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge, sexual experience, perception, sources of information and condom use intention regarding in the future among students. This study was conducted at a polytechnic college in Danang, Vietnam in January 2002. Two hundred and sixty students from grade 1st to 5th were purposively selected.

The results revealed that majority of the respondents had good knowledge about HIV/AIDS transmission and how to prevent it. However, around two-third of them still had some incorrect knowledge such as having sexual intercourse with only one partner or healthy person can prevent HIV infection and HIV infection can not be transmitted from mother to their children. They also had correct perceptions of severity, susceptibility of HIV/AIDS, benefits and barriers of condom use. Nevertheless, some respondents perceived some critical issues, namely condom use would reduce sexual gratification and drinking alcohol could enhance them jointly before sexual intercourses. Mass media was the main source of information while peer group was still an important consultant for the respondents with regard to problems related to safe sex practices. Out of the total population, only 10 cases ever had experiences of sexual intercourse. With regard to future sexual intercourse intention, only 39.6 percent replied that they would always use condoms. There was significant relationship between alcohol drinking and condom use intention. The group with condom use intention had significant differences in terms of age and perception score from the other group who had no intention to use condoms.

The implications from these findings are to improve sex education course, counseling and strategy for increasing condom use. Besides, mass media such as television and magazine should be strengthened to give correct and appropriate information regarding STD/HIV/AIDS so that misunderstanding is minimized. In future, other research should focus on safe sex in other areas other than condom use.