

ASSESSMENT OF SEXUAL BEHAVIORS IN TWO MYANMAR
MIGRANT POPULATIONS IN RANONG: FISHERMEN AND
COMMERCIAL SEX WORKERS



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เลขหมู่ RB212 036 2000 001 01
Bib Key 204713
117 S.A. 2543

Master of science Thesis
in Epidemiology
Prince of Songkla University

2000

Title: Assessment of Sexual Behaviors in Two Myanmar Migrant Populations in Ranong: Fishermen and Commercial Sex Workers
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Programme: Epidemiology
Academic Year: 2000

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to describe sexual behavior of two Myanmar migrant populations, fishermen and commercial sex workers in Ranong, Thailand.

METHODS: Quantitative and qualitative methods were used.

Fishermen study: A cross-sectional house-based survey on 639 fishermen, during July to October 1999

Commercial Sex Workers study: A cross-sectional interview survey on 93 CSWs in brothels and 78 working at alcohol vending shops

One FGD among more frequent condom users and one FGD among less frequent condom users were performed. Reasons for not using condoms, negotiation methods for condom use before and during sex act were discussed in detail. Informal conversations with CSWs were also conducted.

RESULTS: Fishermen: Forty percent reported as always condom users with CSWs. Twenty-five percent of those who ever had sex reported practice of penile oil injection and/or penile nodules. In multivariate analysis, Dawe ethnic group used condoms with CSWs significantly higher

than Mon (OR-4.4, 95%CI-1.3-14.6). Bama (OR-0.4, 95%CI-0.2-0.9) and Dawe (OR-0.2, 95%CI-0.06-0.4) were less likely to have oil injection than Mon.

Commercial Sex Workers: Only 12.4% reported as always condom users. Some of their clients (mostly fishermen) had their sex organs injected with oil or implanted with marble. They found it very difficult to wear a condom on an extraordinarily big oil-injected penis. Condom breakage due to marble-implants, was common. Some used substance to tolerate pain and discomfort due to abnormal size and shape of penis.

CONCLUSION: The exorbitant sex practice among fishermen is very common and is an untapped stumbling block to safe sex. It is necessary to identify a method to alleviate the blockage of condom use in this Sub-population in addition to a highly intensive sustainable IEC program on condom promotion.

I wish to offer my thanks to all community representatives for helping me in conducting this study. More importantly, I offer my sincere thanks to the people who participated in my study and divulged their sexual behavior, practice and problems in Renong.

I am indebted with my parents who helped me throughout the data collection period. Finally, I would like to thank to all staffs and friends of Epidemiology Unit who helped me during my study period in Renong.

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