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A STUDY ON AWARENESS ON AIDS DISEASE AMONG BACHELOR DEGREE STUDENTS OF UITM SABAH

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to see the level of awareness on AIDS disease among BASc and BBA students at UiTM. 92 respondents participated in the survey. The research objectives are to know the level of awareness on AIDS among bachelor degree students of UiTM, to see the differences on perception, participation, exposure and knowledge on AIDS awareness between male and female bachelor degree students of UiTM and to see the correlation between perception, participation, exposure and knowledge on AIDS among bachelor degree students of UiTM. Respondent's perception, participation level, exposure level and knowledge on AIDS were tested to determine their level of awareness on AIDS disease. This study showed that the knowledge on AIDS disease among the bachelor degree students was not correlated with their perception. However, we found out that the student's knowledge has significant correlation with the student's participation level in AIDS awareness program and Exposure level. We recommended more AIDS awareness activities organized by UiTM to increase their participation and level of awareness on AIDS.

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

Since the first case of HIV/AIDS was identified in 1986 in Malaysia, the number of infected individuals has increased steadily each year, so that by the end of 2002 the cumulative number of people living with HIV/AIDS was 57,835 (51,256 with HIV and 6,579 with AIDS), with 5,676 AIDS deaths case was reported (Mary Huang, Hisham Hussein, 2004).

According UNAIDS Global report, by the end of 2004; roughly 64,000 Malaysians were reported as infected with HIV, of whom some 9,400 had developed AIDS. The majority of reported AIDS cases and HIV infections contracted were through injecting drug use. In 2003 some three-quarters of the total reported cases of HIV/AIDS comprised Injecting Drug Users. Another 12 per cent were categorized under heterosexual activity and just 1 per cent under homosexual or bisexual behavior. With a 5.3 per cent increase in the proportion of antenatal women screened in 2002 compared to 2001, the number of HIV-infected women detected almost doubled from 79 to 141 cases among those screened under the Mother-to-Child Transmission (MTCT). The almost 80 per cent increase in 2002 from the previous year is cause for concern (www.youandaids.org accessed on April 21, 2006)

To control this problem, government and nongovernmental organization (NGO) make a cooperation to ensure people get the more exposure about AIDS preventive program. Organization like Malaysian