REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH BEHAVIOR AND SERVICE NEED AMONG FEMALE ADOLESCENT FACTORY WORKERS IN BANGKOK AND VICINITY

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ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation  Reproductive Health Behavior and Service Need
among Female Adolescent Factory Workers
in Bangkok and Vicinity

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This is a study of reproductive health behavior of and required services for
female adolescent workers. It’s objectives are a comparative study of reproductive
health behavior, the influential factors for reproductive health and the service
requirements of single female and married adolescent workers. The study covers
400 female adolescent workers, who work in 16 industrial factories in the Bangkok
Metropolis and suburbs.

Most of the single and married female adolescent workers graduated from
secondary school. The reproductive health behaviors in single female adolescent
workers are the risk of premarital sex and the contracting of Sexually Transmitted
Diseases including AIDS and unwanted pregnancy. As for married female
adolescent workers having such behavior as to contract Sexually Transmitted
Diseases, AIDS and unwanted pregnancy. The risk behavior groups are likely to
have lower scores for family relationships than the non-risk groups. The
upbringing regarding reproductive health of single female adolescent workers,
which is obtained from their families, is at a higher level than from teachers and
television. The knowledge and life skills for reproductive health of the risk group
is lower than for the non-risk group. The risky behavior is the result of female
adolescent workers having inadequate or incorrect knowledge, understanding and
using birth control in the wrong way. Variables which influence the risky behavior
of premarital sex by single female adolescent workers are the consumption of sex media, the knowledge of reproductive health, life skills in problem solving and the concept of using the available services if there is any reproductive health problem. The variable which influences the risk behavior of contracting Sexually Transmitted Diseases, AIDS and unwanted pregnancy among single female adolescent worker is the family relationship. This is due to them having obtained knowledge/data of reproductive health from teachers and television and life skills in critical thinking and decision making. The variables which influence the risk behavior of contracting Sexually Transmitted Diseases, AIDS and unwanted pregnancy in married female adolescent workers, are the consumption of sex media, life skills in decision making and the concept of using services when there is a reproductive health problem.

For reproductive health service needs, the reasons for using the service are due to social security insurance. Most important is the quality of the service providers. They must have knowledge, competence, equality and friendliness, particularly in obtaining knowledge from doctors on birth control and conception. TV is an interesting media and the need for consultation on a person to person basis is more valuable than other methods. Education and efficient communication life skills are the determinants to reproductive health service needs in married female adolescent workers.

The result of this study recommends emphasizing the enhancement of aggressive health promotion, in order to spur the creation of positive reproductive health in female adolescent workers. It is badly needed for adolescent workers, families, business owners, public health providers, who participate in protecting health and society from risky sexual behavior. Sex education training and the creation of life skills are vital, in order to create the requisite social status and proper performance related to health. The significant issue is that adolescent female workers are capable of taking care of and developing their health. In this respect strong health and good living conditions will benefit the quality of life in the future.
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Srisuda Vuthipromote
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