

**PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS HIV/AIDS
AND THE PERSONAL VALUES OF
AFS STUDENTS IN THAILAND**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to measure the perception and attitudes towards HIV/AIDS and the personal values of AFS students in Thailand. After measuring, analysis was done to determine the relationship between perception, attitude and personal values. The study consisted of 207 Thai and foreign hosted AFS students. All students were aged between 15-19 years.

The two sets of instruments used included: a researcher-constructed questionnaire for the demographic data, and another questionnaire with two parts – the first part on Perception of HIV/AIDS and Attitude towards HIV/ AIDS, and the second part on the Survey of Personal Values (SPV). Data was analysed by using mean, standard deviation, one-way analysis of variation, t-test and Pearson Product-moment Correlation.

The study found that students had varying levels of perception and attitudes about HIV/AIDS and Personal Values.

1. Perception of HIV/AIDS: Overall AFS students had a High level of perception. There were no statistically significant differences between Perception based on Type of Student, Gender, Age or Region.
2. Attitude towards HIV/AIDS: The mean level of Attitude towards HIV/AIDS was at High level. Affective aspect of attitude showed a Very High level, while all other aspects were at the High level. Type of Student showed significant differences in Affective and Behavioural, and Region showed a significant difference In Cognitive and Behavioural aspects.
3. Personal Values of the respondents was at Average level. There were significant differences in the aspects of Achievement, Decisiveness and Goal Orientation based on Type of Student; Decisiveness based on Gender, and Goal orientation based on Region.

4. There was no significant correlation between Perception and Personal Values.
There was a significant correlation between Attitude and the aspects of Variety and Orderliness.

The research will contribute to the psychological understanding of personal values, as measured by the Survey of personal Values, of AFS students, and the extent to which these influence perception and attitude towards HIV/AIDS. The implications for pre-departure orientation are discussed as well as the need to provide continual information during a student's program.

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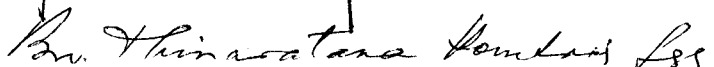
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