

quarters (76.8%) would like to learn more about HIV/AIDS.

Conclusion: If more knowledge on HIV/AIDS is given to Buddhist monks through a systematical training or awareness program, they would become potential advocates of HIV/AIDS prevention in the community.

SP-061

Knowledge About HIV Infection and Attitude towards People Living with HIV/AIDS among the Nurses Working in Bpkihs

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Knowledge about HIV Infection and Attitude towards People Living with HIV/AIDS among the Nurses Working in BPKIHS Mehta RS*1, Karki P*2, Rijal S*3 B. P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Nepal Abstract: In world More than 40 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, 2.3 million are under 15 yrs , 14000 new infections each day , 1.7 million human infected with HIV/AIDS, 3.1 million deaths from AIDS , Million new HIV cases (13425) per day¹. The main objective of this study was to find out the knowledge about HIV infection and explore the attitude of nurses towards the PLWHA working in BPKIHS. It was descriptive cross sectional study conducted among the nurses working in medical-surgical and pediatric nursing department of BPKIHS. Using stratified random sampling technique units or wards were selected and using population proportionate method 60 nurses were selected out of 240 nurses to collect the data using pre-tested questionnaire in the first week of October 2007 and collected data was analyzed using SPSS-11.5 software package. It was found that 60% nurses were between age group of 20-25 years, Hindu (91.7%), staff nurses (78.3%), and non of them taken HIV/AIDS training previously. Nurses had more knowledge on causes (86.7%), transmission, symptoms, applying universal precaution (98.3%), where as less knowledge on confirmation of diagnosis(45%), ART (36.7%), PEP (45 %), and HIV/AIDS related services available at BPKIHS i.e. VCT (8.3%), PMTCT (13.3%),

SP-063

Perception of HIV/AIDS-Related Stigmatization and Discrimination towards People Living with, or Affected by, HIV/AIDS: Focus Group Perspective from a Multi-Ethnic and Multi-Religion Malaysian Society

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Background: Globally, HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discriminatory attitudes deter the effectiveness of HIV prevention and care program. This study aimed to

understanding the root of HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination among Malaysian public.

Methods: Using a purposive sampling method, a total 14 focus group discussions (n=74) was carried out between March and July 2008.

Results: Perceived HIV/AIDS-related self-stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) was profound. In particular, participants' responses indicated that the uneasiness towards PLWHA takes two forms. The first is the extreme fear of the lethal nature and deleterious effects of HIV infection, and second involves fear of contagion. It appears that discrimination attitudes toward PLWHA occur at different levels and to varying degrees across various ethnicities. Key factors affecting discriminatory attitudes include high-risk taking behaviors, individuals related to stigmatized identities, source of HIV infection, stage of the disease, and relationship with the infected person. Participants from rural locality have a relatively narrow view of PLWHA than those from the urban society indicated that stigmatization and discrimination faced by those living with HIV were intensified in a rural setting. Conclusion: Current HIV campaign that emphasizes on educating public the routes of HIV transmission, risky behaviors raise HIV risk, and high risk groups susceptible to acquisition of HIV should integrate prevention of HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discriminatory attitudes towards PLWHA.

SP-064

Potential Risk Factors for Cryptosporidium Infection **Mayuna Srisuphanunt¹, Vilaiporn Suvedyathavorn²,** **Yupin Suputtamongkol³, Siriwat Arnantapunpong⁴,** **Viroj Wiwanitkit⁵**

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Background: Cryptosporidiosis is very common in patients with HIV/AIDS and remains a threat to public health. A crosssectional analytical study to determine the prevalence and identify potential risk factors associated with Cryptosporidium infection among HIV/AIDS patients was conducted.

Methods: In the study of 143 HIV/AIDS adult patients with diarrhea, a total of 23 cases with Cryptosporidium infection and 120 cases with Cryptosporidium negative were reported during the study period.

Results: Results revealed that the prevalence of cryptosporidiosis was 16.1%. In a stratified analysis controlling for gender, factors associated with Cryptosporidium infection were history of diarrhea >21 days, CD4 count ≤50 cells/mm³, and WBC count <4,000 cells/mm³.

Conclusion: These findings confirmed that there was a strong association between cryptosporidiosis and CD4 count. Such information may provide possible