

Executive summary

Monitoring and Evaluation Research on Model Development and Redefine Mechanisms for AIDS Prevention and Alleviation in Youth and other Most At Risk Population (Religion: Buddhism_MCU)

Rational

Aids is an significant public health problem in Thailand, because there are high prevalence even though the new cases are reduced. The surveillance report of Department of Tuberculosis Sexual Transmitted disease and AIDS Department, Ministry of Public Health, in July 2009, showed that there were 352,424 AIDS patients and 94,931 cases died from AIDS. Most patient were in working age group of 20-44 years (1) . There were many stakeholders in the society involved in prevention and solving the consequence of AIDS problems in the societies. For prevention of AIDS in all target groups, monk handled with the activities for AIDS prevention in the college by providing knowledge and creating good attitude on HIV/AIDS among the students and encouraging the students to teach people in the villages HIV prevention.

The religion groups, both Buddhism and Muslim, tried to initiate curriculums for giving knowledge for both student in the collage and villages. In Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, also had activities for sharing experiences among the students of the university, especially creating good attitude among the students. The students affair of the university in each campus encouraged committees of student union to set activities for changing students attitude on HIV. Further more, Student union also set activities for campaigning good behavior and prevention of risk behaviors. The activities were handled in the campus and also initiated in villages for reducing stigmatization on the HIV infected people. The activities in the university were begun in May 1,2009, and were finished within 2010.

The program activities were carried out during the program schedule, finally program evaluation would be conducted to investigate the output of the implemented activities. The stakeholders of the program were recruited as participants in the process evaluation and the outcomes of the program were assessed cording to the target. The results of this study will be used for strategic and models for efficient intervention.

Objectives of Study

The process evaluation, according to Stuffle Beams' CIPP model, will be used as the basis of this study. The model included context and the limitation of the university, the input of the program, process of the program and outcome of the program. The key indicators of this evaluation were the objectives and the target of the program.

Material and method

Research design: This study was a cross sectional design with the objectives of program evaluation. The target groups were the stakeholders in the program.

Population

This study covered program administrators who involved in policy planning and strategic planning, there were administrators of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya university, responsible person who involved in the program and who launch the program among the target group. The target group also included personnel in NGOs and GOs who participating the program as program network. Sample were drawn from the staffs or personnel who participated the program as resource persons. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected by questionnaire and indepth interview.

Instrument

Instrument for data collection were

- 1) Structured questionnaire for outcome evaluation
- 2) Indepth questions for focus group discussion
- 3) Indepth interview for administrator
- 4) Check list records for secondary data collection

Data analysis

Data were analyzed by SPSS program, for quantitative data were analyzed by percentage, mean and standard deviation and content analysis were used for qualitative data.

Result

Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya university implement activities according to proposal and outcome Indicators. On May 19 2008, the process of the program started from preparation stage, including staff meeting for activities plan and preparing for implementation. There were 5 staffs initiated and developed training curriculum for trainers. On June 21, a training for 25 trainers from each region was conducted at Wat Suan Dok, Chiang MAi . For Northeast region, training for trainer was conducted, at Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Khon Kaen campus, in order to create training network in the region. The curriculum included knowledge about HIV/AIDS, counseling skill and facilitator skill; finally, Pra Bhalad Maetawinnirattarayo from Loi campus was elected as a leader of this region and he was assigned as a coordinator of regional network. This training was held during August 2-4, 2008 and there were 45 participants from Northeast region. During August 6-8, the training for 50 trainers for North region was held at Wat Pra Dhat Doi Suthep, Chiang Mai, and Pra Kru Ubhathumphathumrat from Lumpoon campus was elected as regional coordinator. During August 13-15, a training for 37 trainers from Central and Southern region was held at Wat Srisudaram Bangkok, and Pra Mahasumran from Cha Choensao campus was elected for regional coordinator. The program modified mass media for campaigning and motivated both students in the campus and community to raise their positive attitude towards HIV/AIDS. The mass medias included:

1. The program had website to provide information and result of the program for those who were interested in the activities and members of the program could communicate among the network . the web site was www.mcuphahapy.com
2. Portable medias for exhibition display were produced in order to create positive attitude on HIV/AIDS.

3. Activities in each campus were recorded as movie in multimedia. Detailed information from indepth interview from administrator group were also recorded.

Context of the program

Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya university has same administrative structure as other universities; especially, Student Affair Division is the leading organization for empowering monk student to carry on social activities and extra curriculum activities. The administrators who are responsible for student affair are monks; therefore, the problem is responsible persons have to both religious activities and the university tasks. This causes the coordination between the campus and NGOs was not well organized; on the other hand, the coordination were \better in campus which the administrator of the Student Affair Division were not monks. As the campus are located in many provinces and key persons of the campus were selected with different criteria, so there were many characteristics of the key persons which effected implemented activities. The characteristics of key persons were classified as

1. The key persons were senior monk students.
2. The key persons were junior monk students.

Each group had different methods to implement activities in the religious groups. Senior monk students had many experiences in working in communities, while junior monk students worked well among teenagers because they could share the same experience. The significant problems for implementing the program in Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University were experience gap and social visions among senior monk students and junior monk students. The other problem was poor co-operation among senior and junior monk students in some campus.

Key person and facilitators of the program

The program started with training of key persons and facilitators who came from every campus of the university, there were 2 key persons from each campus were recruited with the voluntary basis. The first training of trainers, there were 100 participants from 25 campuses of the university; after training, participants were assigned to be facilitators of their campuses and conducted activities in the campuses. Among the trained monk students, they used their knowledge to teach people in the villages about AIDS and its transmission. The contents of the knowledge were linked with the taught of Lord Buddha about 5 precepts , the target group was teenagers in community and the activities aimed at changing improper behaviors among teenagers. The activities conducted in community were held by people living with AIDS network, hospital network and NGOs in the area. The training emphasized on religion perspective on AIDs prevention.

Meditation and Buddhism way of life were integrated into prevention and self care strategies for the infected people who lived in hospital or at home. The key persons thought that visiting infected person at home or hospital could encourage them for better self care and meditation could make them better clam hearted.

One of the barrier of the program was the student affair of the university could not communicate well within and with other organization, the reasons were:

1. Most of organizers of student affair were monks and monks had to go outside when they were invited to pray at the Buddhist's home; therefore, in some occasions the network from outside could not contact the student affair.
2. The senior and junior key persons did not work together because of the difference in experiences.
3. The key persons had to study and also had to practice according to the monk role, so they had limited time for AIDS activities.
4. The trained key person could not continue the activities of the program in the following year because they were graduated and the training for the next generation was not held up.
5. The negative attitude about AIDS prevention activities among the monk students was the major barrier, majority of monk thought that AIDS prevention activities was not monk responsibility. In some area monk had to motivate community to change their attitude towards
6. The student affair did not inform the AIDS program to other students in the campus, so majority of students did not accept activities of the program and had negative attitude towards AIDS prevention activities.
7. The activities for AIDS prevention and mental support for people living with AIDS based on the taught of Lord Buddha.

The target group who got benefit of the program

1. The key persons who were trained as trainers in the first round transferred knowledge to other monk students in the campus.
2. The key persons motivated the students to attend the training on the second round; by this way, there were more facilitators in the campus to implement activities in campus and community. There were also social network between the campuses of the university.
3. The key persons of the program became trainers of the People with AIDS networks; the networks motivated people with AIDS and teenagers concerning about self care and prevention of HIV infection. The contents consisted of religious preaching which including 5 precepts
4. The program key persons also target on people in community and preachings them when there were any religion activities. The preaching included way of life that avoided multiple sex partners.
5. There were religious class in school and monks were invited to teach in the class. The key persons taught students about good practices according to Buddhist way of life.
6. The key persons initiated social activities in communities which emphasis on good practicing in their daily life. The target were teenagers in the communities and the key persons also integrated HIV prevention into the curriculum of Sunday Buddhist schools.

The significance outcome of the program were all trained key persons applied knowledge about HIV/AIDS transmission and sexual risk behaviors during preaching to people. The 5 precepts were emphasized to persuaded people not to have multiple sex partners. Visiting HIV/AIDS patients was another activity carried out by the key persons, HIV/AIDS network and health personnel, but the coordination between

networks and the key persons in the university was a problem in this operation. In the future, counseling and home visit technique should be provided for monk students in order to advise the patients correctly.

After starting the program, the students in the university had positive attitude towards people with HIV/AIDS, they got more knowledge of HIV/AIDS, transmission and how people could prevent themselves from infection. The key persons of the program were able to gain knowledge from many sources and the network. The target students had better understanding on people with HIV/AIDS and tried to encourage the patients. The students answered that they could find information and knowledge from internet and library, they thought that they should search for new knowledge and information to teach the teenagers. The knowledge which were significant for key persons and resource persons were risk behaviors, mode of transmission and how people could prevent from the infection. Both students and lecturers in the university agreed that monks were able to teach people by preaching and working with health personnel because monks could answer about morality.

Innovation from the program

In the first training for trainers, curriculum for the training was developed and then the trained key persons used the curriculum for training the target group in the campus. However, the curriculum was developed according to the context of each campus and community in the area. There was not obvious innovation from the program, but there was an idea from administrators from many campus that an integrated curriculum for all students in the university should be developed in order to teach the students to preach about AIDS prevention after graduated.

Sustainability of the program

The sustainability of this program depended on the Student Affair Division of the university and the key persons. The major problems in this phrase were, first the key persons were graduated and many campus did not train new staffs, second the responsible person of Student Affair were monks and they could not available all the time because they had religious task; therefore, sometimes the coordination with networks from outside were not in time. The program should provide activities for changing the negative attitude towards people with AIDS and social activities for this group. During orientation new students, the campus and program should provide concept of how monks could do for the teenagers for AIDS prevention and create voluntary mind. HIV/AIDS network needed key persons form the program to teach about religion aspect and morality.

For sustainability of the program, university should support training for students who were interested in program activities. Preaching was an activity which trained students could initiate in community and they were respected. The acceptance of people in community could encourage key persons to continue activities in community.

Potency of the network

Potency of the program came from the ability of key persons who voluntarily participated in the activities. The key persons mentioned that factors which affected the potency of networks were

1. Voluntary minded among monk students were decreased.
2. Negative attitude among monk students affected coordination with the networks, majority thought that AIDS prevention activities were not religious actions.
3. Student Affairs Division of the university in some campus had only monks who took care of external contact, but in cases the network could not contact key persons in the campus because there was no staff available at the division.
4. The criteria for recruiting new key persons of the program was not settled, the methods for recruiting were personal contact, post the announcement in public place and the advisors request students to participate. By these reasons the new staff were not well prepared for working.
5. Because of individual interest, network besides university campuses were not well established. Therefore, the program should add a content of network building strategy in the training curriculum.

Program management

Finance and accounting

The program had an accounting system and financial report, the report included income and expenses of the program. The report included outcome of the program and also benchmarking with the target in each phase. The financial documents were collected and separated by mode of expenses and then audited by the authorized person. The financial problem was the budget was not received according to timeframe, so the activities were postponed.

Quality of activities

Activities of the program involved participation of key persons and volunteers; therefore, sharing of experiences and knowledge on AIDS prevention among participants were strategy for changing attitude towards people with AIDS.

After training, key persons had summary session on AIDS prevention concepts and how to preach according to 5 precepts.

The activities emphasized on religious preaching to reduce stigmatization on People with AIDS.

Monitoring and support

Activities of key persons were supported by peer students and villagers and the trainers who had more experience would support the new volunteers. Sharing of experience and mentoring system were strategies for supporting staffs in the program. The target group were motivated and invited to join AIDS prevention activities.

Participants' satisfaction

It was reported that key persons were satisfied on activities of the program, the reasons were the training could raise their awareness and attitude towards AIDS prevention activities. They had better understanding and wanted to help people with

AIDS. Their perception on AIDS transmission became better; for example, HIV infected people did not have any sign and symptom, they could spend their life as others and infection was not easy except sexual intercourse. The key persons felt that experiences from the training could be applied for preaching in community. They also had ideas to applied religion precepts in preaching because sexual behaviors began from drinking alcohol, using drug and having multiple sex partners.

They were satisfied by AIDS network because they were partners in HIV/AIDS prevention activities. The cooperation among 25 campuses were appreciated among key persons and the key persons mentioned that in the future the network could help each other in the AIDS prevention activities.

Summary

Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya university had undergraduate program as other university, key persons who join the program were under supervision of Student Affair from 25 campus. From in depth interview the strength and weak points were

1. The monk students' perception on AIDS prevention activities was in negative attitude, they thought that AIDS was sexual problems and this was not monk's task. Therefore participation from students in each campus were low.
2. People in community also had attitude that monk should not preach about AIDS, on the other hand monk should practice in religious way.
3. Student Affair Division lacked of personnel who could deal with network from other NGO.
4. Some administrators of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya university mentioned that a curriculum which could help the students to modify the moral precepts for preaching in community should be developed.
5. For curriculum development, contents of sexual transmitted diseases and risk behaviors should be included; then, the students could applied moral precepts for reducing risk behaviors.
6. For monks who taught Buddhism for teenagers in school, they should be trained about AIDS prevention.

The curriculum for training for the trainers should be developed according to context of each campus, because the attitude and problems were difference from place to place. However, the curriculum was developed in this phrase because there was not enough time. New volunteers of the program should be recruited and NGO network should be invited to participate the training. After training new volunteers should be supervised by trainers and experience sharing process should be conducted in order to strengthen capacity of key persons. NGO and people with AIDS network wanted volunteers from the program to give lecture on moral and AIDS prevention behavior. Monks could encourage people with AIDS about meditation and coping with problems.

Administrative recommendation

1. Student Affair Division should recruit personnel who were not monks to coordinate with network form hospital and People with AIDS network.
2. Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya university should develop curriculum which included knowledge about AIDS, AIDS prevention, transmission and risk behaviors.
3. Criteria for key person selection should be set, especially voluntary mind should be one of the criteria.
4. Program should encourage senior and junior students in the campus to work together.

Academic recommendation

- 1 Curriculum for training key persons should be developed according to context of the area, campus network of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya university should be set up for coordination and curriculum development.
- 2 The new curriculum should included monk's role for AIDS prevention which based on Buddhist precepts.
- 3 Curriculum should be developed according to community context by community participation strategy.
- 4 Subjects taught in Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya university should be integrated into many subjects such as health in order to create good attitude among students.
- 5 Formal coordination and network directory should be performed for consistently contact.
- 6 Preaching skill for monks should be trained in order that monks could teach people about AIDS transmission when they are graduated.

General recommendation

1. Net work strengthening plan should be established for better coordination.
2. Local Authorities should be involved in AIDS prevention in community.
3. The students need more experience in HIV/AIDS case finding because students need the understanding for both patients and society. This activity should be monitored closely.
4. HIV patients visiting is a good activity for encouraging them, so students should be supported for this activity.
5. Youth network in community should be performed for AIDS prevention among teenagers.