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Buddhism and Paradigm shift for Turning the Tide on HIV/AIDS

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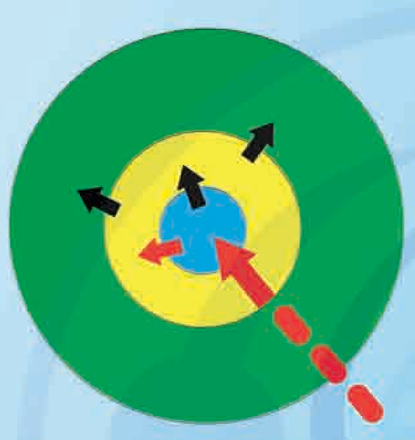
Background:

Lack of knowledge and negative attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS might create discrimination in communities. Religious approach has not been used to solve the problem of HIV. Limitation on religious beliefs and practices are obstacles on sex education and sexual behavior. The purpose of the study was to identify the pattern and impact of Buddhism and paradigm shift on AIDS prevention.

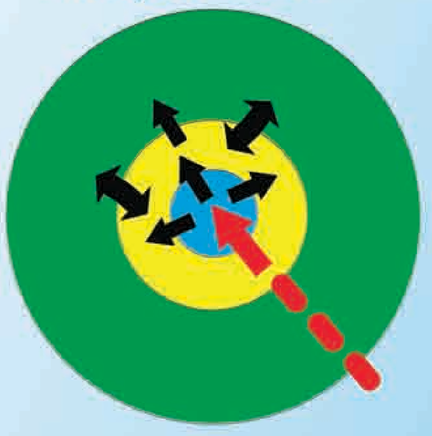
Method:

This study covered program administrators who involved in policy planning and strategic planning, there were administrators of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University. A cross-sectional study was conducted among 608 monks. Quantitative using questionnaire from (595) monks and qualitative data by in-depth interview of (3) priests and focus group discussion of (10) monks were collected.

1.Training of the trainers



2. Key trainers



3. Community movement

HIV/AIDS knowledge → Health knowledge → HIV/AIDS knowledge from trainer - - - →

Community ● Bhuddist/ Monk ● Master ●

Results:

Training of the trainers

The Priests are trained to open mind to accept sex/AIDS education who then lead and train his students open their minds and change their attitudes.

Key trainers

The monk students are preached by the leaders and they transfer their knowledge to the monks of other temples. The monks coordinated and collaborated with private and community for getting knowledge and skills HIV/AIDS prevention.

Community movement

The monks have played an important role in changing attitude and primitive beliefs of the community as they are believed and trusted by the community. The monks who joined the HIV/AIDS prevention campaign preach the community by educating and incorporating of knowledge and principles on HIV/AIDS prevention. They collaborated with the department of health for networking. Religious approach, to change attitude towards PLWHIV, has reduced the social stigma and discrimination.

Conclusions:

The priests/monks by giving sex education have tolerated and opposed the religious customs and gained success for reducing discrimination in the community. Collaborative partnership between the monk leaders and health authorities allowed them to work together for the sustainability of the mission. The government authorities should provide more support to the implementation of AIDS and sex education using religious approach.

Key Words:

Monks, Priests, HIV/AIDS, Attitude, Discrimination.