

**AN INTERVENTION TO REDUCE UNSAFE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR
LEADING TO HIGH PREVALENCE OF HIV/STD INFECTION AMONG
THE COMMERCIAL SEX WORKERS THROUGH PEER EDUCATION
APPROACH, IN TUOL KORK, PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA**



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ABSTRACT

Peer education is a good health promotion strategy to reach people with information. Nowadays, there are many countries that carry out peer education to educate people in health prevention. In this thesis, I apply peer education among the commercial sex workers to reduce unsafe sexual behaviour leading to high prevalence of HIV/STD infection.

I select peer educators among the commercial sex workers who will function as role-model among their peers. The communication between peer educators and their peers is close and friendly because both of them are living the same life style. Peers talking honestly, directly and accurately among each other and therefore it is the most effective mean to reach commercial sex workers with life-saving messages about how to avoid exposure to HIV/STD. The peer educators break intergenerational communication barriers by openly identifying issues of commercial sex workers sexuality. Peer educators provide their peers with a feeling of self worth to resist presure to experiment with the risk-taking behaviour associated with HIV/STD transmission.

I believe that the peer education is useful for commercial sex workers. If the project is success in peer education, then it could be replicated in the country.