

Perceived knowledge, attitude towards HIV/AIDS, and sexual behavior among migrant workers in Malaysia: a structural path analysis

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Abstract

Background: Acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome (AIDS) continues to be a public health challenge. Migrant workers are vulnerable to indulge in high-risk health behaviors. In this context, we analyzed the impact of perceived knowledge and attitude towards human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/AIDS on sexual behavior among migrant workers in Sarawak, Malaysia.

Material and methods: Data of 314 migrant workers were collected via face-to-face interview, using a cross-sectional structured questionnaires. Data analysis were done using Stata version 16.0; however, a structural equation model was developed and evaluated with WarpPLs, version 7.0.

Results: Hypothetical model of sexual behavior, and perceived knowledge and attitude towards HIV/AIDS were investigated in the present study. Analysis revealed that both directly and indirectly mediated through attitudes towards HIV/AIDS influence sexual behavior ($p < 0.05$). Moreover, attitude towards HIV/AIDS directly influenced sexual behavior ($p < 0.05$). However, knowledge of HIV/AIDS transmission did not affect sexual behavior ($p > 0.05$). Multivariate analysis showed that construction workers ($p < 0.05$) and daily wage ($p < 0.001$) had an impact on HIV and AIDS knowledge. Type of job such as farming ($p < 0.05$), daily wage ($p < 0.05$), and HIV and AIDS knowledge had an impact on attitude towards HIV and AIDS. However, type of job and daily wage appeared to be significant predictors of sexual behavior.

Conclusions: Although this study did not describe overall sexual behavior scenario among migrant workers, the findings could support guidelines and policies to developed awareness-creating packages, including HIV/AIDS behavior change communication. That would help to diminish HIV/AIDS vulnerability among migrant workers.

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