The impact of HIV/AIDS: A participatory action research study to explore what can be done to assist Thai families when children are orphaned

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Presentation Overview

1. Research question and aim
2. Background and context
3. Literature review
4. Methodology
5. Preliminary finding
6. Discussion

Research question and aim

Question
What can be done to assist Thai families whose lives have been affected by HIV and/or AIDS?

Aims
To identify how families understand and accommodate this situation
Background and Context

In 2008
33.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS globally
(Adults 31.3 million, Women 15.7 million, Children under 15 years 2.1 million) (UNAIDS, 2009)

In 2007
Approximately 610,000 Thais living with HIV
(approximately 600,000 adults and 14,000 children) (UNAIDS, 2008)
Literature Review

The impact of HIV/AIDS infection

• People living with HIV/AIDS
• Families of people living with HIV/AIDS
• Orphans who lose their parents

Gaps in knowledge

• Focus on negative aspects of HIV/AIDS among families
• Few findings on positive effects
• Little or no focus on the stories of family members caring for orphaned children

Methodology

• Participatory action research (PAR)

• PAR enables people to contribute to overcoming their own oppression so that they can build on empowerment process (Koch & Kralik, 2006)
Why use PAR:

• People living with HIV/AIDS and their families are a vulnerable population.

• Provides a way of exploring participant experiences and working with them to address the issues that they prioritize.

• Enables a planning process to address issues related to the topic in a sustainable way.

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Data Generation

‘look, think and act’

(Stringer, 2007)

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Ethical considerations

• This research has been approved by:
  – The University of Newcastle Human Research Ethics Committee and
  – The Human Research Ethics Committee of Khon Kaen University

• HIV status disclosure is a sensitive issue in the community - confidentiality is vital.
There were four phases in this study:

- One-to-one interviews
- PAR group discussion
- Action process
- Summative and formative evaluation of the PAR process

Preliminary finding on phase one

- Ten participants from five families participated in one to one interview
- Verbatim transcribed in Thai language
- Each interview translated from Thai into English
- An analysis using Look, Think, Act of each interview
- Themes, issues and concerns are identified

- Almost all participants were grandparents who were caring for their grandchild and they were motivated to do this by sympathize
- The most general concerns included who would look after their orphans
- The orphans experienced community stigmatized
- These results were introduced in the group discussion among the participants in the second phases. Then plan for action had been released
References


