

Stigma among STI Infected Group in Iligan City: Implications to Reproductive Health

Clowe Jondonero¹, Elizalde Bercero²,
Kristal Emy Milan³ and Ben Jer Romano⁴
MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology, Philippines
¹clowedj@gmail.com

Abstract - The increasing Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) remains to be a major public health concern not just locally but even globally. The increased prevalence of STIs may due to the unavailability of information and limited dissemination strategies that would consequently influence the sexual practices of the population of Iligan City as a whole. The main objective of this study is to determine shame and social stigma, level of self-esteem among clients after being diagnosed for sexually transmitted infections, level of awareness with regards to the nature of such infections. The clients who were recorded as Sexually Transmitted Infections-positive from April to December 2012 in Iligan City Health Office were the respondents of this study. The demographic profile of respondents include age, educational background, and occupation and number consultation to Iligan City Health Office. The Stigma and Shame Measures by the American Journal of Health, Rosenberg's Self-Esteem Scale and Kore's STI Awareness were adapted in this study. Descriptive Statistics were used in the analysis of the results. Results showed that most of the respondents were female within 18-21 and have finished secondary education. Majority of the respondents experienced social discrimination that lead to eventual loss of self-esteem after they have been diagnosed to have incurred sexually transmitted infections. Contracting sexually transmitted infections are the main reasons why the respondents developed shame and social stigma and further consultations in the Health Center is even harder for them to do. With this, there is a greater danger in their reproductive health and even affecting the quality of life among these respondents. Since these sexually transmitted infections are highly curable, the City Health Office and the MSU College of Nursing need to look into this situation where programs on massive health teaching and information dissemination be designed for the public to increase STI awareness and consequently improve their sexual practices/behaviors leading to a better quality of life.

Keywords - Implication, Reproductive Health, Sexually Transmitted Infection, Stigma, Iligan City

Remark: The full paper may be found in www.inrit2013.com