



## ***AN ANALYSIS OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIV/AIDS BASED ON DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS AMONG THE SELECTED HOTEL EMPLOYEES***

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According to the National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP) Report of Sri Lanka (2006), there are approximately 4000 patients with HIV. Some of the main factors which increased HIV infection in Sri Lanka are tourism, large youth population, migration, growing commercial sex, drug use etc. Hotels take the main role in the tourism industry. The purpose of the study is to examine the knowledge of HIV/AIDS based on demographic factors among the selected hotels employees in Sri Lanka. Primary data of the study were collected through a questionnaire distributed among 90 employees who worked in 5 \* hotels in Sri Lanka. The knowledge of HIV/AIDS was considered as the dependent variable which consisted of general knowledge, knowledge of transmission, knowledge of prevention and knowledge of misconception. Demographics of respondents were considered as the independent variable which consisted of marital status, age, qualification and position. Alpha value of 0.823 shown that the questionnaire used for the study is reliable. According to the finding of the study, the correlation coefficient values of -.348 revealed that there is a negative relationship between the qualifications and knowledge of transmission such as having sexual relationship with a HIV infected person, from infected mother to child during pregnancy, birth, or breast-feeding and sharing injection as needles, syringes. Further, the mean value of 3.9 proved that the employees who worked in the selected hotels had a good knowledge of HIV/AIDS transmission. The correlation coefficient value of .062 shows that there is a positive relationship between age and knowledge of prevention. Apparently, the mean value of 3.41 shows that the employees have good knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention as well. However, the mean value of 3.8 and 4.1 shows that the knowledge of misconception is high among the employees with regard to HIV always leads to AIDS and no life expectancy for HIV positive person. Consequently, the researcher suggests that there should be regular HIV/AIDS awareness programmes at workplaces in order to improve knowledge of HIV/AIDS among the staffs which can help to achieve the aim of “ending AIDS” by 2025 in Sri Lanka.

**Keywords:** *Knowledge of HIV/AIDS, Demographics, Hotel Employees*