D45 - HIV/AIDS and the workplace

CDD1139 - AIDS, alcohol and violence against women: strategies for reducing workplace health risks to Cambodian beer-selling women


1University of Guelph, Psychology Dept., Guelph, Canada, 2National University of Singapore, Faculty of Medicine, Singapore, Singapore, 3University of Sussex, International Development School, Brighton, United Kingdom, 4Provincial AIDS Office, SiRCHESI, Provincial Health Department, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 5KHEMA (NGO), Cambodian Minister of Women’s Affairs (1998-2004), Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 6Provincial AIDS Office, Siem Reap, and SiRCHESI (NGO), Siem Reap, Cambodia, 7SiRCHESI (NGO), Siem Reap, Cambodia, 8University of Staffordshire, Psychology, Stoke on Trent, United Kingdom, 9University of Maastricht, Department of General Practice, Maastricht, Netherlands, 10Retired, Maastricht, Netherlands, 11University of Bath, Psychology, Bath, United Kingdom, 12Economic Institute of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 13Royal Medical School, and SiRCHESI (NGO), Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 14Siem Reap Department of Women’s Affairs, and SiRCHESI (NGO), Siem Reap, Cambodia, 15Orphelinat de Siem Reap, and SiRCHESI (NGO), Siem Reap, Cambodia, 16Siem Reap, Provincial Department of Health, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 17University of Guelph, Psychology Dept., and SiRCHESI (NGO), Guelph, Canada

Issues: In confronting HIV/AIDS among Cambodian beer promotion women, alcohol overuse and violence were factors requiring new prevention strategies.


Recommendations: Educating promoters, distributors, restaurant managers and customers may reduce workplace health/safety risks, perhaps alongside unionization. The lack of safe, regulated beer-selling workplaces in Cambodia contrasts with data from beer-servers of identical brands in Canada, who report themselves safer from the risks of HIV/AIDS, violence, and (over)-drinking on the job. A multi-sectoral solution involves research evidence, industry initiatives, restaurant owners, beer distributors and promoters. Gendered attitudes about HIV/AIDS and health risks, and drinkers’ behaviours require change (see Cambodia’s “Women are Precious Gems” program).