Abstract of Master's Dissertation

No.1

Course	Master of Public Health	Name	Fudo Akane

Thesis Title	Assessment of factors associated with HIV testing uptake among males and females at reproductive age group in Nepal ~ Evidence from Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (2016) ~

Objective：

In this study, we assess the factors associated with uptake of HIV testing in the past 12 months among males and females aged 15-49 years, also factors preventing pregnant women from being screened for HIV at antenatal care (ANC) during the pregnancy in Nepal.

Method：

This is a secondary data analysis study for Nepal demographic and health survey in 2016 (NDHS 2016) for males and females aged 15-49 years old, besides women aged 15-49 years who had given a birth in the last 2 years. Sexually active 3113 men and 7,989 married women and 1,915 pregnant women were enrolled in this study. Outcome was uptake of HIV testing in the past 12 months among males and females, also receiving HIV testing at ANC during pregnancy among pregnant women. Regarding independent variables, demographic, social economic status, media exposure, knowledge about HIV, discriminatory attitude towards HIV, sexual behavior and factors related to Antenatal care (ANC) were considered as independent variables. Following that, all variables were calculated with weight due to complex survey sampling. As for data analysis, descriptive and bivariate analysis

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were performed. After removing the high-correlated variables, multiple logistic regression was used to assess the factors associated with uptake of HIV screening.

Result :

The proportion of HIV testing coverage was 25.1% among males, 10.2% among females and 21,1% among pregnant women. Proportion of males, females and pregnant women with no education or primary school were 34.9%, 61.6%, and 48.7%, respectively. Remarkably, majority (86.0%) of pregnant women visited ANC with skilled birth attendant (SBA) whilst 61.5% of pregnant women thought the distance to health facility would be a big problem when they required health care.

From the multiple logistic regression, females (AOR=4.25; [2.35, 7.70]) and pregnant women (AOR=5.05; [2.23, 11.42]) living in province 7 were more likely to get HIV testing. In addition, richest wealth quantile of pregnant women had 3.4 times higher odds than those in poorest (AOR=3.40; [1.97, 5.89]). Although males (27.6%) were more likelihood to have HIV knowledge than females (18.2%) and pregnant women (15.5%), association was found only in females (AOR=1.43; [1.14, 1.79]) and pregnant women (AOR=1.45; [1.10, 1.92]). Among pregnant women, those who attended ANC with SBA were more likely to take HIV screening than those who did

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not (AOR=2.50; [1.35, 4.64]).

Conclusion：

This study showed that individual characteristic and external factors were differently associated with HIV testing uptake among males, females and pregnant women. Although we find certain progress in current HIV intervention among key population, more attention should be addressed on those who are young population, living in low accessibility area, specifically for females including pregnant women in poor economic status. At the same time, raising awareness and reducing stigma towards HIV with increasing HIV knowledge, expanding current HIV intervention for general population, also ensuring accessibility to ANC with SBA will be required to increase the coverage of HIV testing in Nepal.