Female Sex Workers and their Clients

Interventions through Sexual & Reproductive Health

FEDERATION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ASSOCIATIONS, MALAYSIA (FRHAM)

(formerly known as Federation of Family Planning Associations, Malaysia – FFPAM)
What we found out from our study??

- Quantitative Study
  - Completed in April 2009
- Total no. of respondents: 416
  - Kedah,
  - Penang,
  - Perak,
  - Selangor,
  - Melaka,
  - Johor,
  - Kelantan,
  - Sabah and
  - Sarawak
What we found out from our studies??

- **Condom use:**
  - With new clients: only 69% of the sex workers used condoms all the time when having vaginal sex.
  - With regular clients: 59.1% of the respondents used condoms all the time.
  - With their husbands or partners, most of the respondents do not use condoms at all when having vaginal sex with them. Even more respondents did not use condoms when having oral sex.
  - Almost half of the respondents were willing to have sex with their clients without using condoms for a price.
What we found out from our studies??

- **STIs:**

  - Majority (82.9%) said they are very afraid of contracting sexually transmitted infections in the course of their work.
  
  - About half of the respondents in this study had ever experienced STI symptoms.
Almost all respondents believed and did the following to prevent STIs, including HIV:

- taking pill pencuci darah (pills for cleansing the blood) which is actually penicillin
- washing/douching with
  - female hygiene wash
  - antiseptic solution like Dettol
  - Soap
  - sireh (betel leaves) water
  - Listerin
  - toothpaste
- getting antibiotic injections regularly
- drinking jamu (herbal drink)