

## **ABSTRACT**

A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted in 2010 to describe the risk behaviors and health knowledge among 10 to 19 years old 131 adolescents boys who arrived to Kabaaye Boy's Training School within one year were chosen purposely to interview face to face with pre-tested semi-structured questionnaires. Most of the study boys are age group between 12 to 13 year old and median age is 13 year. School attendance percent was 74.8%. More than 50% of respondents arrived to this training school as street children and 44.3% experienced in criminal cases. Their risk behaviors were: history of smoking 48.1%, betel chewing 27.5%, alcohol drinking 17.6%, narcotic drugs usage 9.2%, sexual exposure 4.6%, involving in the physical fight 46.6%, and committed the offence 43.5%. Bullying behaviors were: physical, verbal and social bullying (42%, 68.7% and 35.9% respectively) and being physical, verbal and social bullied (50.4%, 86.3% and 46.6% respectively). Most of the risk behaviors factors were significantly associated with friends' risk behaviors status. Regarding health knowledge of risky behaviors, 63.4% knew health problems of smoking, 47.4% knew health problems of betel chewing, 55.7% knew health problems of alcohol drinking, 29.8% knew health problems of usage of narcotic drugs and 73.3% knew health problems of unsafe sex. Fifty six percent of the respondents did not live together with family. Among them, nearly 40% did not stay more than 12 months. More than 40% of respondents were fair interpersonal relationship with parents/guardian but more than 50% did not consult with their parents/guardian at all. More than 70% satisfied with peer relationship and 55.7% of respondents did not quarrel with friends at all. But a few 13% always consult with friends when they faced with problems and only 3% often consulted. In this study, study boys are having risk behaviors than normal boys and have less knowledge on health problems of risk behaviors. So it is necessary to educate them about the health problems of these behaviors and to protect them from doing these behaviors. Peer education program should be considered as a means for prevention of these behaviors to these study boys and other street children.

