

## SEX WORKERS' PERCEPTION ON HEALTH BEHAVIOR FOR PREVENTING SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIS) IN GAMBILANGU BROTHEL HOUSE, CENTRAL JAVA

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Reproductive health care is very important particularly for FSWs (Female Sex Workers). FSWs are at high risk to expose reproductive health problems. FSWs are mainly women who sell sexual services regularly as their job. **Purpose:** The aim of this study is determine the perception of FSWs on healthy behaviors to prevent STIs. **Method:** This study use qualitative method, with phenomenological approach. There were five samples in accordance with inclusion criteria. The data collection was using in-depth interviews with semi-structure interview. **Result:** The results show that the perceptions of FSWs about STIs include the definition of STIs, sign and symptom of STIs, FSWs' perception on how to prevent STIs through faithfulness, condoms use and also personal hygiene maintenance. FSWs perceptions of healthy behaviors include activities, habits to prevent STIs transmission, obey the rules that apply at brothel house. FSWs perceptions about the real form of health behaviors to prevent STIs are consuming medicine orderly when ill, using condom orderly, screening routinely, maintaining personal hygiene, including vaginal and vulvae hygiene. FSWs perceptions about the obstacles in the healthy behavior that is divided into two external constraints in the form of trouble on the customer and the boyfriend refused to wear condoms. Internal difficulties were in the form of personal difficulties in the form of economical motivation, divorcement, and afraid of losing customers. **Conclusion:** Perception for solutions to problems in healthy behavior through two types of ways that is positive and negative perception. Positive perceptions include flattering customers, adding services and also provide bonus. Negative perceptions include belief in boyfriends and customer free from STIs.

**Keywords:** Female Sex Workers (FSWs), Perception, Health Behavior