

From Research to Practice

# **Training Course in in Reproductive Health Research**

**Modules 4, 5 and 6**

Vientiane, 23– 27 November 2009

Organized by

**Geneva Foundation for Medical Education &  
Research** (WHO Collaborating Centre in Education &  
Research in Human Reproduction)

**WHO and UNFPA** Laos

**University of Health Sciences and Ministry of Health**  
Lao, PDR



# Reproductive Health System, Family Planning, STI & HIV/AIDS



# **Social science research on vulnerable populations**

**10:15 – 10.00 on Tuesday, 24 November 2009**

**Robert Thomson**

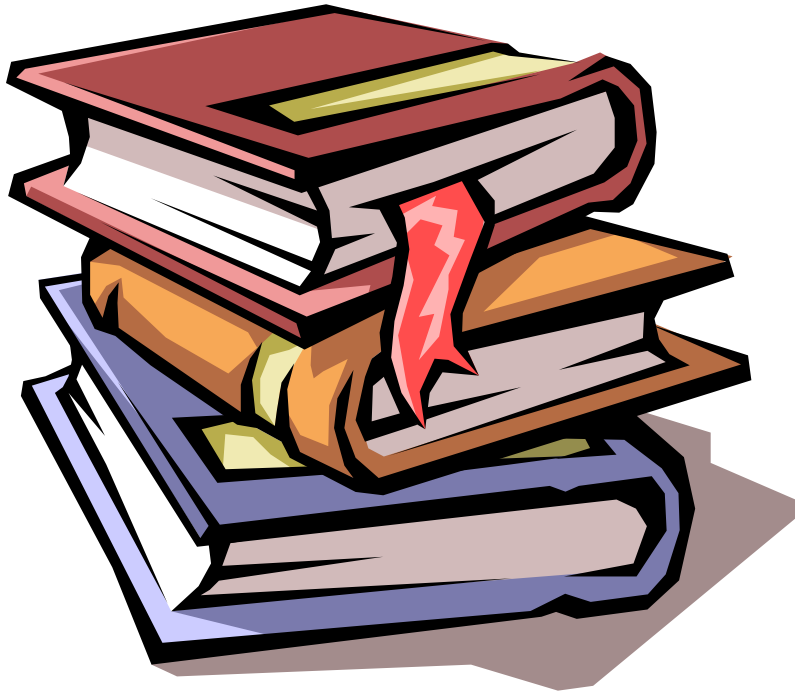
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[http://www.gfmer.ch/Medical\\_education\\_En/Robert\\_Thomson.htm](http://www.gfmer.ch/Medical_education_En/Robert_Thomson.htm)

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# What are the keywords?



- Minority
- Majority
- Behavioural risk
- Bridge populations
- Social vulnerability

# Research practice

- Global search for information (from health, education, social and legal sectors) covering:
  - official programmes
  - active organizations in the vulnerable community
  - professional associations
  - donor intentions
  - views of key informants
  - opinion formers
  - media output

# **Involve vulnerable group members in participatory research**

- **Essential in management of sexual health**
- **Helps identify real behaviours, issues sub-populations groups**
- **Deal with social confrontation**
- **Phenomenon of “stigma”**
- **How passage into society is marked**

# **The challenge for researchers**

translate ideas into **programming**

That is the rationale behind action  
research

Food for thought  
**Call For Research  
Proposals**

**Majority social vulnerable population:  
13 – 17 year old female adolescents, all  
over the country, receive little sex  
education, but having several older  
male sexual partners. Very unlikely to  
use dual protection**



# Food for thought

## **Call For Research Proposals**

**Minority social vulnerable populations:**

**Migrants along and across the Mekong**

**Trafficked men, women, boys and girls**

**Ethnic minorities in the north**

**Female, male and transgender (Kathoiy) sex workers**

**Men who have sex with men**

**Drug users**

**Pregnant women victims of violence**

**Truck drivers (to China) and their wives**