

MSM sexuality, Their Female partners and HIV/ AIDS

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Marriage is a central issue within people's lives, where it is the mainstay of family and/or community life. It can be seen as a socially and religiously compulsory duty towards maintaining family and community bonds. Marital status signifies adulthood, social responsibility and the achievement of personhood



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Outline of Presentation

- Issues
- Challenges
- Recommendation



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Issues:

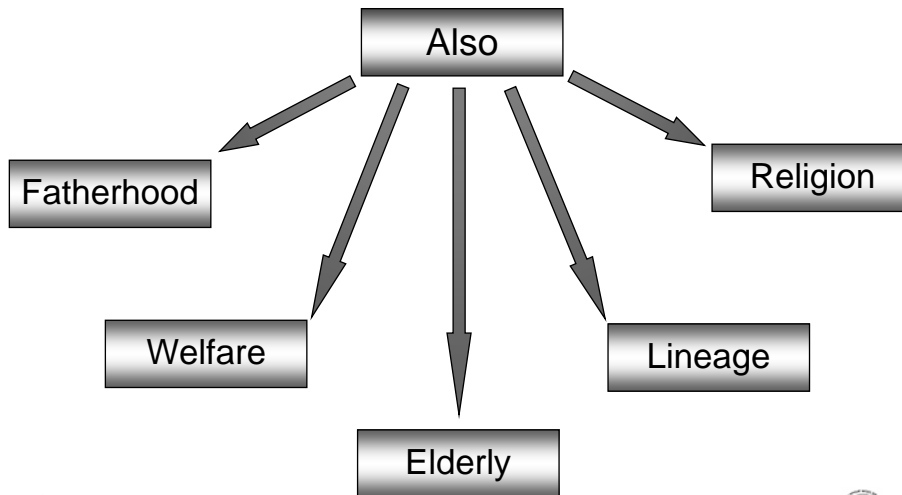
- Social construction of male to male sexualities in South Asia, from Afghanistan to Bangladesh.
- Vast majority of MSM in South Asia are married or will get married, whether they want to or not
- Marriage of MSM is also concern beyond South Asia from Myanmar to China, why:
 - Social and cultural pressure and demand from family and society for compulsory marriage



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Issues cont...



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Some quotes

“ I didn’t want to get married. But what can I do. My parents pushed and pushed. Every day my mother would nag me, my father would nag me. They would invite other families to the house so I could “view” the daughters. I finally just gave in. And when I finally said yes, my parents were so happy. But what about me?”

Latif, 24, shop assistant in Bangladesh



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Some quotes cont...

I'll have to get married soon. Already my parents have selected my wife. She is in my village, and I will have to go there for the marriage. I have made enough excuses.

Do I want to get married? Sometimes yes, because my parents want me to, sometimes no, because I don't know if I can get it up. I am planning to go to a female prostitute to see if I can.

Krishna 24, Lucknow, India



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Some data from Asia and the pacific

- Married MSM in Dhaka 36% and in Sylhet 39% (National behavioral surveillance survey 2006-2007, GOB 2009)
- Female sex partners, last month in Dhaka 24% and in Sylhet 33% (National behavioral surveillance survey 2006-2007, GOB 2009)
- Anal/Vaginal sex with female partner, last year in Dhaka 56% and in Sylhet 60%(National behavioral surveillance survey 2006-2007, GOB 2009)
- In 2008, one DIC in Dhaka, out of 1002, 637 (over 50%) married MSM came with STI (Programme data BSWS)
- 70% of Chinese MSM in partnerships with women (Programme data AIDS Project Los Angeles)



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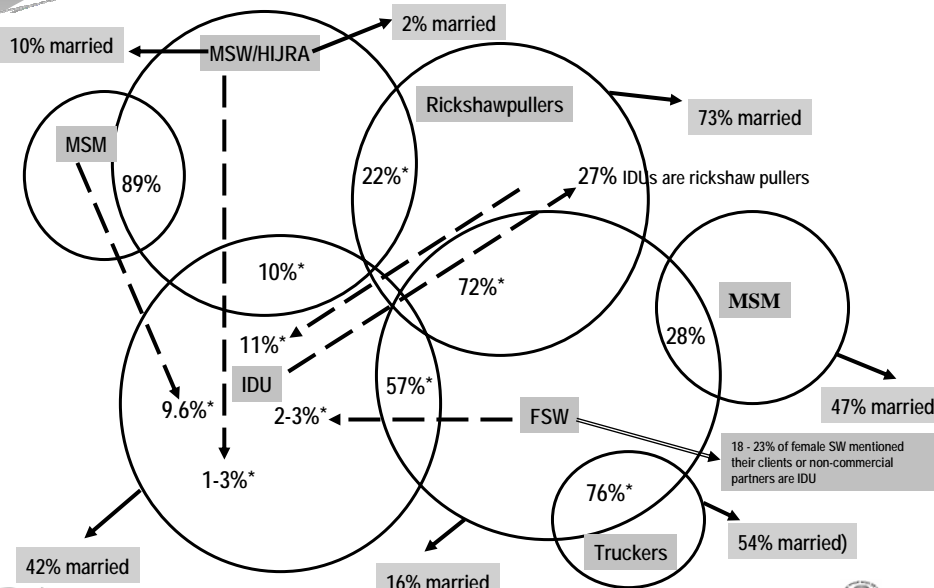


Challenges

- Panthi dynamic, sex with wife and female sex workers
- Cross infection
- Don't inform/share their partners – shame and fear
- How the female partners know about the infection and how they get services
- Cultural barriers
- Intervention model, so far programmes are only on STI/HIV prevention



Potential spread of HIV from MARPS to the general population in Central Bangladesh (Surveillance, 2002)



Recommendations

- Enhance all education work by the organization working on MSM sexual health. For example MSM –sexuality and gender, human rights, life skills
- Risk reduction strategy between partners
- Sexual responsibility
- Strengthen counseling and partners notification
- More operation research



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THANK YOU



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