

Do Condoms Have Us Covered?

Rethinking HIV/AIDS Programs in India

Sonia J. Cheruvillil & Bhavana Nancherla

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Presentation Outline:

- Identifying Key Players
- Defining the Continuum
 - Services as a Focus for Intervention
 - Rights as a Focus for Intervention
- Analyzing Approaches
- Recommendations
- Discussion

Identifying Key Players:

- Primary Stakeholders: People Living with HIV/AIDS
 - Positive Networks (INP+)
 - Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
 - Most successful with MSM, CSWs
 - Efforts made towards truck drivers, IDUs
- Service Providers (Public & Private)
 - Hospitals
 - Clinics
 - ART Centers
 - Individual Practitioners

Identifying Key Players, cont.

- NGOs
 - Grassroots community initiatives
 - Corporate social responsibility directives
 - International organizations (via regional offices or local partnerships)
- International Human Rights Organizations
- Legal community
- National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)
 - State AIDS Control Societies
- Funders (Domestic & International)

Services as a Focus for Intervention:

- Preventive Services
 - HIV-related information dissemination
 - Counseling & testing
 - Management of STIs
- Treatment & Care Services
 - Access to ART
 - Pre- & Postnatal Care for HIV+ Mothers & Infants
- Other primarily medical support

Rights as a Focus for Intervention:

“...HIV and AIDS was not solely a clinical and medical problem, but required a much broader perspective; one that took into account the relationship between the disease, the provision of health care, and human rights (Barnett and Whiteside 2002: 72-3). In so doing, their rights based approach recognized that coercive and repressive measures for trying to control the spread of HIV were ineffectual and counter-productive (Jackson 2002: 345)”

David Lush, 2003

Analyzing Approaches:



- The ABC Approach
- Condom Marketing
- Integration of HIV/AIDS Services into the Mainstream

As Simple as ABC?



- ABC:
 - Abstinence until Marriage
 - Being Faithful
 - Condom Usage
- Hierarchy
 - Reinforcing Myths
 - Compounding Existing Stigma

Condom Marketing



- Impersonal Perspective
- Beliefs around Condom Usage
 - Risk Assessment
 - Pleasure
- Condom Demonstrations
 - Information
 - Word Choice
- Female Condoms
 - Mechanics
 - Cost

Integration of HIV/AIDS Services into the Mainstream

- Confidentiality
- Broader Understanding of Sexuality
- *“Protecting”* the Mainstream
 - Impact on Marginalized Communities
 - Transmission between Communities
- Stigma & Discrimination

Recommendations:



- Connecting Prevention & Care
- NGO Clinical Service Provision
- Community as Decision-Makers
- Sensitivity to HIV/AIDS & Sexuality
- Sex-positivity

Discussion:

- How has HIV/AIDS altered the Indian NGO landscape?
- How can we talk about HIV/AIDS without losing perspective of the social context of impacted communities?
- How do we promote rights advocacy despite funding constraints?