

FAMILY HEALTH INTERNATIONAL

TRIP REPORT

TO: FRANCESCA STUER
FROM: SHIVANANDA KHAN
REPORT DATE: 6TH MAY 2000
SITE: PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA
TRAVEL DATES: MAY 1ST - 7TH MAY, 2000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Shivananda Khan travelled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 1st - 6th May to assist with the development of a sexual health programme for MSM by providing a review of current documentation which included the planned STD prevalence study amongst MSM, as well as discussing issues with a range of MSM in Phnom Penh and staff of FHI/IMPACT. and comment on possible strategies for such a development.

While he was there he met the members of the MSM STD prevalence study team, conducted three primary site visits to locations where MSM meet each other, held discussions with a number of MSM in the field and in the FHI/IMPACT office as well as a group of *Kteuy*, and held personal discussions with a number of motorcycle taxi-drivers. He also held intensive discussions with the concerned FHI/IMPACT staff, as well as with representatives of UNAIDS, USAID, and PSI, where Naz Foundation International's experience in providing assisting in the development of MSM sexual health projects in South Asia.

PURPOSE

- * to evaluate the spatial analysis of MSM and their activities in the city through a rapid situational analysis
- * to discuss with the team regarding concepts of male to male sexual behaviours that should be evaluated through the qualitative evaluation
- * to review the FHI/IMPACT MSM documents
*A mapping of men who have sex with men in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
STD Prevalence Study among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia*
and discuss these with FHI/IMPACT staff
- * to explore possible strategies to implement a sexual health project for MSM in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- * to develop the TOR for the next TA visit

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the week of May 1st, several meetings were held with the appropriate staff of FHI/IMPACT which included Francesca Stuer, Country Director, Philippe Girault, BCI/Evaluation Office, Jan de Lind van Wijngaarden, Research and Monitoring Associate, as well as members of the MSM STD Prevalence Study Team (which included a full team meeting), where issues affecting MSM and HIV/AIDS were discussed and shared, bringing together experiences from Cambodia and South Asia in a comparative framework, looking for similarities as well as differences. Further to this, these discussions also included possible strategies that FHI/IMPACT may follow in developing an MSM sexual health project in Phnom Penh, and what the content of such a Project would be.

The intention was to explore possible replication of Naz Foundation International's development strategies and processes used in South Asia for MSM sexual health programmes, transfer of skills from Naz Foundation International to appropriate staff of FHI/IMPACT, as well as issues of significant concern regarding the promotion of sexual health amongst MSM in Phnom Penh itself.

As a part of these discussions, Shivananda Khan also reviewed the FHI/IMPACT documents and critiqued the documents which were:

- i. A mapping of men who have sex with men in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and
- ii. STD Prevalence Study with Men (MSM) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (which will be implemented shortly)

Suggestions were made in regard to the Prevalence Study which were taken up by Philippe Girault for possible inclusion or amendments in the questionnaire for this study.

The discussions also explored frameworks of MSM behaviours, identities, issues and needs in Phnom Penh. In particular, attention was paid to methodologies of field work, community building and development, access to appropriate condoms, both for anal sex and flavoured, access to water-based lubricant in easily accessible and cheap packaging.

Other issues raised by Shivananda Khan and fully discussed were:

- * female partners of MSM, including wives,
- * appropriate STI treatment services for MSM as well as female partners
- * anal STIs and Phnom Penh skills base in dealing with these
- * anal damage caused through "rough sex"
- * male to male sexual behaviours amongst street children
- * possible strategies for an MSM intervention
- * training and skills building
- * "community" ownership of issues and services
- * dynamics of differing frameworks of male to male sexual behaviours in Phnom Penh

A range of Naz Foundation International documents were shared with Philippe which included models of IEC resources used by different NFI partner MSM projects in South Asia, which could possibly be used as frameworks for development of similar resources for a future intervention project.

Simultaneously, a range of site visits were made to Location 1, 2 and 3 (as numbered by the FHI/IMPACT mapping of men who have sex with men) where Shivananda Khan was able to observe first hand on how these spaces were utilised by different MSM as well as different categories of MSM, which included male sex workers, clients, other MSM, as well as *Kteuy*.

A number of group meetings were also held with Shivananda Khan where participants were able to discuss with him their sensibilities, frameworks, and socialisation as MSM as well as their self-identities, sexual histories, desires and future options. For example, in a group discussion amongst the Study Team, all participants stated that they would marry, primarily because of social expectations and social security.

The groups with whom meetings were held were:

Kteuy

An indigenous term of self-identity where biological males perceive themselves as women and dress and act accordingly. Many will also use oral contraceptives to develop breast, and it appears that they wish to have sex-reassignment operations. This meeting was facilitated through the assistance of M. Meas Chanthan of Urban Sector Group which has initiated a project for sexual health among the *Kteuy* who are commercial sex workers.

False Kteuy

A name given to MSM by *Kteuy*. The group consisted of male sex workers, non-commercial MSM, and some feminised MSM in the behaviour.

Shivananda Khan also met with Dr. Jeffrey Ashley of USAID where he was briefed on the specific aspects of the visit and the work it would entail, with an outline of potential outcomes. This was followed with a briefing meeting with Geoff Manthey, Country Director of UNAIDS.

Further to this Shivananda Khan held a series of private conversations with motorcycle taxi drivers who ply their trade outside his hotel. Apparently these taxi drivers will act as go-betweens for foreigners and local MSM, and on occasions will also sell sex to the foreigner if the price is right. Further to this, he was also informed that some of the drivers will also access MSM male youth for sex, as well as female sex workers.

In exploring access to appropriate condoms and sachets of water-based lubricant a long ranging discussion was held with John Deidrick, Director of PSI Cambodia as well as Philippe Girault. A possible proposal for the importation of such sachets from Thailand was explored as a joint initiative between PSI and FHI. A possible donor for such a project could be DFID. Shivananda agreed to provide contacts with DFID in regard to such a proposal. Since a similar proposal had been accepted by DFID in the UK from Naz Foundation International for a pilot study of the use of sachets of water-based lubricant, he agreed to share then proposal with FHI/IMPACT.

A de-briefing was held with Francesca Stuer and Philippe Girault which also involved possible options and recommendation for action, as well as a draft outline for a TOR for the next visit later this year, if appropriate. This second visit will develop a skills

transference programme as well as a project framework for a sexual health intervention amongst MSM in Phnom Penh following the STD Prevalence Study.

CONCLUSION

From the range of field visits and discussions with a range of MSM, including male sex workers, and with a number of *Kteuy*, a number of similarities between Cambodian constructions of MSM behaviours and South Asian MSM behaviours exist. The similarities include:

- * significant proportion of MSM have a gendered framework of male to male sexual encounters
- * issues of poverty and unemployment have a significant role in male sex work and risk behaviours
- * significant levels of male sex work
- * low levels of condom use
- * low levels of access to STI treatment
- * marriage
- * polymorphous sexual behaviours

At the same time, other dynamics also exist where male to male sexual behaviours exist outside the "cruising" frameworks that structure so much of MSM activities, where opportunity, money, discharge, friendship and "heat" also operate, for example the motor-cycle taxi driver framework. Similar frameworks could also exist in terms of hotel staff, truck drivers, construction workers and so on. As of yet no research has been done with this in mind. But such research is essential if effective strategies are to be developed and should be done as a matter of urgency as a part of any qualitative research.

Beyond this is what is believed to be an relatively "easy" access to female sex workers where the price is relatively low, i.e. starting at \$2 as one person told the author. This could have an impact on the level of male to male sexual behaviours.

The author was not able to identify any "gay" framework of male to male sex outside that of the ex-patriates that live in Phnom Penh.

In terms of language there is only the gendered framework of man, woman and *Kteuy*, but from observations and discussions most MSM do not consider themselves as *Kteuy*. Terms apparently do not exist which creates difficulties in discussing issues of sensibilities, feelings, desires, identities and behaviours. More ethnographic research is required as soon as possible to explore these issues.

It is believed that significant congruences exist for possible replication of the NFI South Asian model of MSM sexual health projects in Phnom Penh with appropriate modifications to suit local conditions.

Some of the issues that should be addressed as urgent necessities are:

- * accessibility of appropriate condoms
- * accessibility of cheap, user friendly water-based lubricant
- * easily accessibility of appropriate education and information resources
- * access of appropriate STI treatment for MSM

- * more ethnographic and anthropological information on MSM social constructions and dynamics
- * safe spaces to meet
- * community building strategies
- * adequate sex education
- * literacy
- * vocational training and skills building
- * capacity enhancement
- * ownership of the issues

RECOMMENDATIONS

- * Discuss with PSI Cambodia possible collaboration in accessing sachets of water-based lubricant sachets
- * Locate and develop an appropriate safe space for MSM to meet and socialise
- * Develop a series of appropriate BCC materials specifically for MSM but also ensure that all HIV education materials include anal sex as a risk behaviour whether between males or between males and females
- * Advocacy with police and government
- * Develop a specific male sexual health with expertise in anal issues
- * Explore ways of providing appropriate and accessible STI services for female partners of MSM
- * Appropriate counselling services not only for MSM who are HIV positive or which to be tested, but also for psycho-sexual issues
- * Develop an appropriate sex-education package for MSM
- * Develop a range of vocational and literacy classes for MSM
- * Provide a range of appropriate training for selected MSM to develop and manage a sexual health intervention
- * Create strategies for community-building and ownership of issues. A simple example would be enabling MSM to choose their own name for a sexual health project.
- * Develop management skills amongst appropriate MSM

DELIVERABLES/PRODUCTS

Naz Foundation International Briefing Papers

Actions for Life

Community Mobilising

The Process - developing community-based sexual health services for males who have sex with males in South Asia

Naz Foundation International model IEC materials in English

Its that condom moment

HIV - The Facts

STDs for males who have sex with males

HIV/AIDS - cartoon booklet

PERSONS CONTACTED

Francesca Stuer, Country Director, FHI/IMPACT Cambodia

Philippe Girault, BCI/Evaluation Officer, FHI/IMPACT Cambodia

Jan W. de Lind van Wijngaarden, Research and Monitoring Associate, FHI/IMPACT, Cambodia

Dr. Jeffrey Ashley, Health and Population Office, USAID, Cambodia

Geoff Manthey, Country Programme Advisor, UNAIDS, Cambodia

John M. Deidrick, Director, PSI Cambodia

M. Meas Chanthan, Project Assistant HIV/AIDS Education, Urban Sector Group

MSM field workers (2), FHI/IMPACT, Cambodia

a number of *Kteuy* and MSM in the field