

Men who have sex with men in south Asia, their partners and microbicides

Issues and concerns



Who I am

- Kim Mulji
- Director, London office
- The Naz Foundation International (NFI)



Outline

- What NFI is and does
- Men-who-have-sex-with-men (MSM) identities, constructions and HIV/STI risks
- Microbicide issues and concerns



Naz Foundation International

- An international NGO
- Focuses on developing community led initiatives for men who have sex with men in relation to sexual health and wellbeing for them and their partners mainly in south Asia
- Undertakes advocacy and policy development



Knowledge and experience

- NFI has worked since 1996 developing MSM led community based organisational (CBO) programmes
- Supported the development of many MSM led CBO programmes in south Asia
- Undertaken a range of needs assessments
- Undertakes programme monitoring and evaluation



MSM sexual identity

- Hijra
- Kothi / zenana
- Panthi / girya / “real” men
- Do-paratha / chavas / double-decker / AC-DC / dublis



Then and now



MSM prevalence

- 20% of men in one rural area have had sex with another man
- 40% of men living in a Karachi squatter settlement had had male-to-male sex
- 72% of truck drivers in Karachi had had sex with other men

AIDS Analysis Asia, July 1996



MSM psychosocial issues

- Marriage compulsion
- “body heat” and “discharge”
- A concept of “maasti”
- oral or anal sex and wifely dishonour
- Gender policing



MSM sexual risk behaviour

- Rushed sex
- Poor access to condoms and water-based lubricants
- Sexual health
- Self worth
- Sex with female partners




Microbicide issues and concerns

- Need for anal microbicides that are suitable and accessible
- Need to ensure MSM protect themselves
- Need to ensure MSM allow their partners to protect themselves



Thank you

 More information on NFI, its work and MSM related issues can be found at its website: www.nfi.net

