

Workshop on Sexualities, Gender and Masculinities

With thanks to Bandhu Social Welfare Society
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Definitions

- Sexuality
- Gender
- Masculinity

or

- Sexualities
- Genders Masculinities

Sexualities

A term to describe a number of things:

- sex of person (male, female, intersexed)
- sexual orientation (same sex, other sexes)
- sex activities (what we do when we have sex)
- sexual attractions (types of partners)
- sexual interests (e.g. SM, sex outside, monogamy)
- sexual rules and laws (e.g. ages of consent)
- cultural and historical influences (e.g. religion)

how we understand ourselves as 'sexual persons'

Gender 1

A term used to describe:

- what sex we are born as - male, female, intersexed
- how our society treats us from birth

these are not always the same (e.g. fa'afafini - Samoa)

- what rules apply as a result - social, legal, economic, cultural - at society level, in organisations & families
- how we dress, behave, work, play, have sex etc.

Gender 2

Gender includes any systematic differences in the way we are treated by society, based on whether we are men, women or transgender - gender is a system.

Masculinties

A term that is now being used to think about men & men's issues/concerns/needs and:

- do new research on men on, e.g. sex, behaviour, character & personality, bodies, health, young men, growing up as a boy, schooling, work, marriage & parenting, crime, violence, rape, war, power etc.
- support a 'Men's Movement' – political activity, advocacy for men, self-help, pro-feminist (mostly)
- mostly Western, small, mainly among educated, middle-class

Thinking about Sexualities 1

Sexualities act on three levels:

- Individual - what we like and do in sex, what we want sexually, whom we want sexually, what our bodies can do sexually
- Relationships - us and our partners ('parik', wives, clients), how our relationships happen, what we enjoy sexually with others together, what *risks* we face in sex with others
- Society - what is 'okay' or 'not okay' sexually, how that affects us sexually, how *vulnerable* we are in sex as a result of society's rules and ideas

Thinking about Sexualities 2

In HIV/AIDS we need also to understand:

- sexual networks - how we seek or meet sex partners (maybe pass on HIV/STI)
- where we have sex (how to get condoms there)
- differences between genders in sex (men with many partners; women's greater risk of HIV/STI)
- differences between ages/generations
- influence of media, globalisation, economics (sex trade, sex tourism, sex work)

Thinking about Sexualities 3

In HIV/AIDS we need also to understand:

- hidden sexualities, stigmatised sexual groups and how they occur/happen/live *and* are vulnerable to HIV/STI
- how these groups are treated by society and why

Thinking about Sexualities 4

*All this means that we need to understand that **sexualities** are more than just who each person is sexually and what his or her behaviour is, but also how people and societies are sexually connected together.*

Masculinties

In small groups of 4 or 5:

- Who is masculine? Why?
- Who is *not* masculine? Why?
- What does 'masculinity' mean for you?
- How are you masculine? Why?
- How are you *not* masculine? Why?
- How do you know these things?

Masculinities 2

In small groups:

- How do masculinities happen in 4Bs?
 - Birth
 - Body
 - Behaviour
 - Bangladesh
- How many masculinities are there?

Masculinities & Sexualities 1

What happens when we put the two ideas together - masculinities and sexualities?

- What do men like in sex? Are there many different things men like in sex?
- When men have sex with men, both are masculine, but in different ways
- Are there different ways in which Bangladeshi masculinities and sexualities connect together?

Masculinities & Sexualities 2

Maybe there are masculine MSM, or even many different kinds of masculinities among MSM.

- Are there different kinds of Kothi and Kothi-na?
- Are there masculine Kothis? *OR* Are there different masculinities among Kothis?
- Is do-paratha another form of sexuality or another form of masculinity?
- If we think of the different masculinities and different sexualities in Bangladesh, where do all the different kinds of MSM fit in?

Sexualities & Masculinities 3

In Bangladesh:

- What are the various masculine sexualities?
- How do we understand them?
- How do we do HIV/STI work in them?
- How can we use these differences to stop HIV/STI?