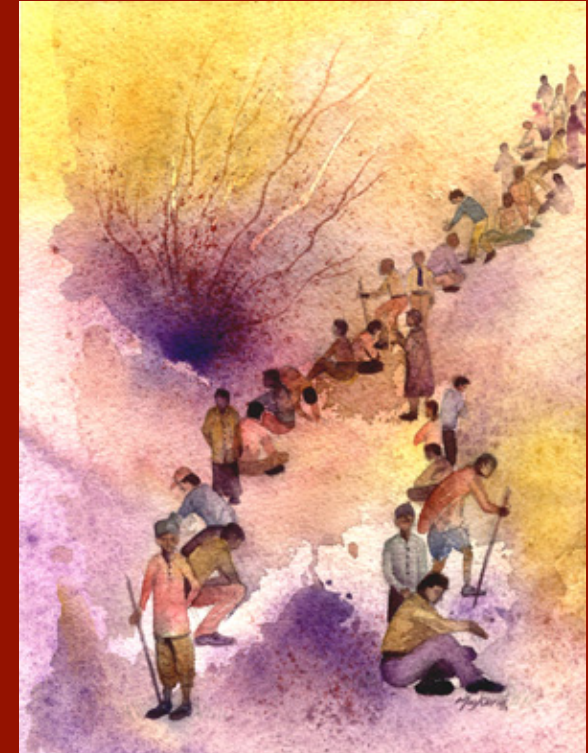


Advocacy, policy and support on male sexualities

MSM and HIV prevention, treatment, care and support

A comprehensive approach



**First National Consultation Meeting on MSM, HIV and Sexual Health
Negombo, Sri Lanka
18th – 21st November, 2009**

Why NFI works with male-to-male sex and HIV prevention, care and support

Because:

- **It is the right thing to do on humanitarian grounds.**
- **It is the right thing to do epidemiologically.**
- **It is the right thing to do from a public health perspective.**

The right to be free from violence and harassment;

The right to be treated with dignity and respect;

The right to be treated as full citizens in their country;

The right to be free from HIV.

Issues of concern

- **Invisibility and denial**
- **Stigma, discrimination and social exclusion**
- **Violence and abuse**
- **Illegality and criminalisation**
- **Denial of human rights**
- **Low self-esteem**
- **impact on education and economic opportunities**

Stigma, discrimination and social exclusion

- **Double stigmatisation – feminisation and receptive partners in anal sex**
- **Self-stigmatisation because of their gendered identities and social exclusion**
- **Triple stigmatisation if living with HIV**

Impact on self-esteem, personal worth, education, employment, income

Risks and vulnerabilities

- **Anal sex as primary sexual activity**
- **Low condom use**
- **No access to water-based lubricant**
- **High rates of STIs**
- **Multiple partners**
- **Sexual activities with both male and female partners**
- **Poor services and coverage**
- **Poor health seeking behaviours**

Unless we address the social, cultural, judicial and legal impediments to effective HIV/AIDS and sexual health interventions among MSM, and deal effectively with stigma, discrimination, masculine violence, and social exclusion, the “fight against AIDS” could be lost.



For many MSM, silence still means death

Sexual Health

Sexual health is a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being related to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity. Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. For sexual health to be attained and maintained, the sexual rights of all persons must be respected, protected and fulfilled.

World Health Organisation -Draft working definition, October 2002

Thus sexual health involves the:

- **Physical**
- **Emotional**
- **Mental**
- **Social**

**as individuals, as sexual networks, and as
communities**

Services needs

Access to

- **Prevention education**
- **Sexual health products – condoms and lubricant**
- **STI treatment services including anal/oral STIs**
- **HIV VCT services**
- **Psychosocial and psychosexual counselling**
- **Personal empowerment**

All within an enabling environment

An enabling environment

Means addressing

- **Stigma, discrimination and social exclusion**
- **Illegality and criminalisation**
- **Low self-esteem and self-worth**
- **Violence and harassment**

From the Regional Consensus Meeting on Developing a Comprehensive Package of Services

Involved UNDP, UNAIDS,
UNESCO, WHO, ASEAN,
USAID, APCOM

Comprehensive Prevention Package of services targeting MSM

- Behavior Change
 - Peer and outreach education
 - Targeted Media
- HIV counseling and testing
- Condom distribution
- STI treatment
- Linkage with care and treatment

Supportive Interventions

- Strategic Information
- Capacity building
- Community Mobilization
- Policy
- Stigma and Discrimination

Community ownership and leadership

NFI MSM CBO model

Field services

Outreach and friendship building
Community development and mobilisation
Education and awareness
BCC resource/condom distribution
Referrals

Center based activities

Socialising and support groups
Vocational training and skills building
Drop-in services
Community building activities

**Advocacy
Technical Assistance**

Clinical services

STI and GUD management
HIV testing and counseling
Referral to HIV clinical services
Psychosexual counseling
General healthcare

HIV care and support

Trained volunteer “buddies” provide support and care
Provision of nutritional support
Provision of small grants
Counselling, advice and referral

Size estimations

Country	Males 15-64	Life-time		Previous year	
		6%	10%	3%	6%
Afghanistan	9,147,846	548,871	914,785	274,435	457,392
Bangladesh	47,862,774	2,871,766	4,786,277	1,435,883	2,393,139
Bhutan	198,357	11,901	19,836	5,951	9,918
India	381,446,079	22,886,765	38,144,608	11,443,382	19,072,304
Maldives	78,598	4,716	7,860	2,358	3,930
Nepal	7,692,134	461,528	769,213	230,764	384,607
Pakistan	48,214,298	2,892,858	4,821,430	1,446,429	2,410,715
Sri Lanka	6,285,118	377,107	628,512	188,554	314,256

Thank you