

SITUATING GENDER IN HIV PREVENTION PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

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OBJECTIVES

- To describe gender, gender-based analysis (GBA) and the centrality of GBA to HIV/AIDS programmes and policies
- To illustrate the need for uptake and application of gender-based frameworks in HIV prevention, programming and policy sectors
- To present a proposed International Institute on Gender and HIV/AIDS

GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS (GBA)

- GENDER is not synonymous with SEX
- Gender = socially constructed norms, i.e. behaviours, expectations, roles, beliefs, characteristics, etc. based on biological sex
- GBA takes into account the various social & economic differences between men & women through evaluating & interpreting the impact of gender in policy and program development

GBA PRINCIPLES

- Recognition of the different impact of norms or measures on women & men according to diverse life situations
- An integral part of the substantive analytical process & must be applied at each stage of the process
- Focuses not only on results but also on concepts, arguments & language used in the work process
- GBA must lead to remedies for inequality

(Health Canada, 2002)

GBA AND HIV/AIDS

- HIV is a women's health issue
 - Globally, women have less access to and control over income, land, credit, and education
 - Economics of HIV/AIDS - Poverty is clearly linked to women's vulnerability to HIV
 - Unequal balance of power in sexual relationships
- Stigma, discrimination, violence and denial increase women's vulnerability to HIV
- Lack of GBA training and uptake in HIV/AIDS policies and programmes

(Rao Gupta, 2000)

A PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE ON GENDER AND HIV/AIDS (IIGH/A)

- Materials on GBA and gender mainstreaming often lack uptake strategies
- Recognition of the need for a knowledge transfer mechanism and training in GBA and gender mainstreaming for HIV/AIDS policy makers and programmers

THE IIGH/A: A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT BETWEEN ACEWH AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

- Early 2000 Commonwealth Secretariat (ComSec) invited ACEWH to co-publish "Gender Mainstreaming in HIV/AIDS: Taking a Multisectoral Approach"
- Jan 2002 Feasibility Workshop for a Proposed IIGH/A with delegates from African countries, the Caribbean and Latin America
- Jul 2002 Satellite Session at World AIDS Conference
- Jan 2003 Curriculum Design Workshop for IIGH/A
- Mar 2003 ComSec invited ACEWH to a Gender Mainstreaming in HIV/AIDS workshop in Arusha, Tanzania
- May/Jun 2004 Pilot IIGH/A

VISION FOR THE IIGH/A

- "Changing attitudes, changing policies: Working together for a world without HIV/AIDS"

THE IIGH/A MAY PROVIDE:

- Gender and HIV/AIDS policy and research capacity building events
- Possible satellite events in other countries
- International faculty and international participants
- Practical training in GBA of HIV/AIDS policies and programmes
- Collaboration on gender-based action research
- An international network of alumni and experts in gender-based research, policy and programming

IIGH/A: WHERE WE ARE CURRENTLY

- Finalize curriculum and identify research priorities (methodologies, tools, etc.)
- Raise funds for pilot IIGH/A scheduled for May/June 2004
- Clarify role of international partners and develop a governance structure
- Develop an IIGH/A website

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