

BRIEFS OF THE SCIENTIFIC LECTURE HELD ON THE 6TH APRIL 2004

Topic:	Love, Marriage & HIV: A multi-study of infidelity and HIV risk (The Iganga Case Study)
Chair:	
Discussant:	Shanti A, Parikh Ph.D, Washington University, USA
Rapporteur:	
Audience:	
Summary:	<p>Dr. Parikh presented work she carried out together with Ibembe John Daniel, Isabirye Daniel, Kagoda Janet, Mugulutsi Harriet and Mwesigwa Moses in Iganga district. The whole team was present at the presentation. Their work was part of a multi-centre study in five countries at different stages of HIV epidemic. The countries included Uganda and Nigeria at a disseminated stage; Mexico and Vietnam at a concentrated stage and Papua New Guinea at a nascent stage. This USA National Institutes of Health (NIH) sponsored project is a three-year project, to run in three stages. First stage, which had been completed in 6 months, (Jan to June 2004) was an ethnographic research. Year two will be for analysis and dissemination of data and year 3 will be for dissemination of data.</p> <p>The study aimed at identifying the 1. Changing ideas of Love (globalisation of romance) and 2. Infidelity and HIV risk in marriage.</p>
Main discussion points:	<p>Shanti explained reasons for doing research in HIV risk among married people as being 1. A grossly neglected area of research and intervention efforts 2. This is where there is the fastest growing HIV infection rates e.g. in India 90% of HIV occurs within marriage, in Uganda husbands are two times likely to bring HIV infection in marriage. The married female was thus at higher HIV risk than unmarried females with multiple partners.</p> <p>Research involved interviewing women and men separately on three occasions to find out the gender ideologies and hierarchies; dynamics of marriage; dynamics of extramarital relationships; and sexual practices (including HIV risk management). Emphasis was put on historical and lifecycle changes. It was a participatory, participant observation, archival research and included key informant interviews.</p> <p>Findings: Thirty-three marital unions were studied. It was found that the Basoga had a low bride-price, that 33-35% of marriages are informal (elopement or temporally and that they placed a great value to marriage. Extramarital relationship exists and negates the value of the “ABCs” of safe sex since Abstinence is not an option in marriage, Condomless sex means faithfulness love trust and an investment, while condom sex means unfaithfulness fleeting emotion and lack of investment.</p> <p>The researchers made the following recommendations to reduce marital HIV risk:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Structural level 1. Promote female income-generating activities and 2. Promote female education

	<p>b. Continue gender-specific campaigns for 1. Reduction of outside partners and 2. Condom use with outside partners</p> <p>c. Interventions in places of extramarital sex 1.residential workshops 2. Lodges 3. Drinking places</p> <p>d. Research and campaigns on masculinity 1. Contextual analysis on manhood, masculinity and sex 2. Masculinity campaigns 1. De-link manhood from having multiple partners 2. Emphasise male sexual respectability</p> <p>e. Interventions to promote marital communication</p>
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