



Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR)

Social Determinants of Health

Insights from a meta-analysis of recent anthropological studies

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Meta-analysis anthropological research

Various possible approaches and no gold standard

Our approach:

- Basic data extraction (aims, theoretical framework, methods, key findings etc)
- Emergence of key themes (inductive)
- Mapping: cross-comparison of key themes
- Interpretive and aggregative
- Consultation with stakeholders

Scope of the synthesis

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- *Youth sexual and/or reproductive health*
 - *Since 2000*
 - *20+ Doctoral theses*
 - *6 comparative SRH studies*
 - *AISSR and collaborating centres*
 - *Focused literature review*

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- *Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia*
 - *Diverse research topics and questions*
 - *More and less applied studies*
 - *Different theoretical orientations*
 - *A range of methods*

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- *Key insights*
 - *Implications*

Approach

- Focus on *process*
- Emic point of view
- Observation of *practice*
- In *context*





HIV/AIDS prevention

| Citation | Site(s) | Respondents | Methods |
|--|---|--|--|
| Imelda, J. D. (2011). Mobilizing Motherhood: A Case Study of Two Women's Organizations Advocating HIV Prevention Programs in Indonesia. | Jakarta , Indonesia - PMTCT activities of an NGO. | NGOs, health staff, PMTCT programmers, trainers, counselors and community cadres, mothers, community leaders, girls, pregnant women. | Document analysis (PMTCT, community-based survey), DHS, PMTCT, seminar guidelines, FGDs and SSIs, IDIs, case studies, obs. |
| Kinsman, J. (2008). Pragmatic choices. Research, politics and AIDS control in Uganda. | Masaka -Rakia area, Uganda; national and international: HIV/AIDS experts | Policy makers, health workers, researchers | Document analysis, IDIs, PObs |
| Nguyen Thu Anh (2009). Access to Comprehensive Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission Program. Obstacles and Implications. | Vietnam: Hanoi | Women that had delivered in last 12 months, HIV positive women, husband and mother-in-law, health workers | Analysis of policy docs, programme reports, scientific research; household survey, IDIs, SSIs, obs |
| Oosterhoff, P. P. J. (2008). "Pressure to Bear": Gender, Fertility and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV in Vietnam. | Vietnam: Hanoi and Thai Nguyen city | Health workers in PMTCT, people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, policy makers, AIDS widows | Obs, IDIs, analysis of docs, SSIs, case studies |
| Bjarke Oxlund, (2008) Love in Limpopo | Limpopo , South Africa | Students | Participant observation, SSI, FGDs |

Sexual and gender violence

| Citation | Site(s) | Respondents | Methods |
|--|---|--|--|
| Nguyen Thu Huong (2011). Rape Experiences and the Limits of Women's Agency in Contemporary Post-Reform Vietnam. | Hanoi-based counseling office for victims of sexual violence | Women 14-36, family members, social workers, journalists | Life history interviews, respondents diaries. Analyzed media reports, followed court cases |
| Wattie, A. M. (2004). Violence in the day-to-day lives of women plantation workers in Central Java, Indonesia. | Plantation and surrounding village/hamlets, Central Java | Female and Male plantation workers | Survey, IDIs, Obs, informal group interviews |

Reproductive interruptions and (in)fertility

| Citation | Site(s) | Respondents | Methods |
|---|--|---|--|
| Koster, W. (2003). Secret strategies: Women and abortion in Yoruba society, Nigeria. | Lagos (urban) and Epe (rural) Nigeria | Women, TBAs (mainly male), healthcare workers inc doctors and midwives | IDIs, SSIs, Obs, QNN, participatory action research, case studies |
| Nahar, P. (2007). Childless in Bangladesh. Suffering and Resilience Among Rural and Urban Women. | Rural (northern district) and urban (Dakar) Bangladesh | Infertile couples and family members, rural community members, policy makers, activists, healthcare providers | Life histories, participatory methods: free listing and sorting, severity ranking, body mapping, FGDs. IDIs. |
| van der Sijpt, E. (2011). Ambiguous Ambitions: On pathways, projects, and pregnancy interruptions in Cameroon. | Village, east Cameroon (rainforest) Gbigbil people | Key informants (women, men) and TBAs | PObs, IDIs, FGDs, biographical interviews, respondent diary, participatory methods, QNN |



Sex and sexuality

| Citation | Site(s) | Respondents | Methods |
|---|--|--|---|
| Mfecane, S. (2010). Exploring masculinities in the context of ARV use : A study of men living with HIV in a South African village. | Bushbuckridge, Limpopo, South Africa | men aged 28 – 50, HIV +ve, low education, unemployed - recruited at ARV clinic, and families | PO and IDIs |
| Moyer, E. M. (2003). In the Shadow of the Sheraton: Imagining Localities in Global Spaces in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. | Dar es Salaam - street corner near the sheraton hotel plus lodgings | Young people (15-25 yrs) who worked/lived/hung-out at the street corner – esp. young men | PObs, informal interviews, FGDs |
| Reid, G. (2007). How to be a real gay. | Small town, Mpumalanga province, South Africa. | "ladies" and to a lesser extent "gents" - gay men | Pobs, IDIs, informal |
| Spronk, R. (2006). Ambiguous pleasures: Sexuality and new self-definitions in Nairobi. | Nairobi, Kenya | 49 young professionals | IDIs, FGDs, PObs |
| Tadele, G. (2005). Bleak Prospects: Young men, sexuality and HIV/AIDS in an Ethiopian town. | Dessie town, Ethiopia | Young men - school pupils and street youths 15 - 24 yrs | IDIs, PObs, survey |
| van Reeuwijk, M. (2009). Because of temptations. Children, Sex and HIV/AIDS in Tanzania | North-western Tanzania - 3 schools | Children (inc. 20 key informants) | FGDs, IDIs, role-playing, drawing, essay writing. |

Analytical concepts

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Individual | → | Socialities/Networks |
| Attributes | → | Relations |
| Determinants | → | Mechanisms |
| Structural disadvantage | → | Agency/navigation |
| Past Present | → | Social becoming/future |

- **Participant observation**
- **Informal conversations**
- **In-depth interviews**
- **Semi-structured interviews**
- **Life histories**
- **Free listing & pile sorting**
- **Body mapping**
- **Focus group discussions**
- **Embedded open question**
- **Diaries**
- **Audio-visual techniques**
- **Projective techniques**



Change



- Globalization
- Urbanization
- Feminization of workforce
- Commodification
- Civic engagement

Change: new youth socialities



- Change in gender-power relations
- Rise in SRH support groups
- Increasingly technologically mediated

Change: new modes of masculinity



- Dhaka - Bangladesh
- Kazol married an HIV-positive woman and cares for her
- *Expresses valo manush*: Responsibility and care towards his family and society (Saikh 2012)

New kinds of risks

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|---|
|  | yachmaster2011 | 31.170cm.60kg | กรุงเทพมหานคร |  |
| | Chat | | Position Top only | Thailand |
| | Anal Top only | Average | L | Always Safer Sex |
| กย์รุก. โส เจียน อินทมาระ หารับ มั่นสักันตอนนี เซ็กซ์เดือนๆ ฟิวสด ตมปือบ โกลั๊กันนัดเจอกันครับ เจียนๆ เจียนๆ คุยกัน มีป๊อป ดูหนังมันส์ๆ | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---|
|  | superstarHi | 18.180cm.60kg | Bangkok |  |
| | Sex | | Position Top & Bottom | Thailand |
| | Anal Top & Bottom | Average | L | Always Safer Sex |
| ก็ไม่ค่อยากันไอติมเข็น เข็นอะ มีโหมคั๊บ!!~% บอกรุ่นอ้อ ช นะ | | | | |

Mechanisms: non-use of condoms



Limpopo

Self-organized love-life sessions

Condoms do not fit the relational norm of *ubuntu* (sharing) of love and bodily fluids

(Oxlund 2009)



Dual Protection

The back of the sachet reads:

For comfort and to prevent bacteria, wipe genitals with Super Magic Man wet tissue and leave it there for 15 minutes. Super Magic Man effectively refreshes and cleans the skin, increases sexual potency and prevents premature ejaculation.



Mechanisms: non use of contraceptives



Cameroon

- Women looking for big fish
- They use pregnancy strategically
- (Van der Sijpt 2011)

**PAMPA
REGLA**

1-2 Months Delay
W/HERBAL CAPSULE
1/3 SA BASO
3 BESES MAGHAPON
BAGO KUMAIN
BAWAL ANG MALAMIG
AT MAASIM

Herb
Rayu
Pasn
Lan
at

Miracle
Water

Pui
Hang

Puro
Hona

Puro
Coconu

EL SHADAI
SAMPAGUITA

KAPIT-BAHAY
KADIT-BAHAY
KADIT-BAHAY
KADIT-BAHAY
KADIT-BAHAY
KADIT-BAHAY
KADIT-BAHAY
KADIT-BAHAY



Mechanisms: acceptability of HIV testing

- Respondents prefer 'routine' testing
- When tested at home: 7 out of 10 tested with their partners
- most respondents considered their own homes as more private than health facilities.

A. Hardon, et al. [Dynamics of care, situations of choice: HIV tests in times of ART](#). *Medical Anthropology*, 30(2), 183-201.

[Kyaddondo D](#), [Wanyenze RK](#), [Kinsman J](#), [Hardon A](#). [BMC Public Health](#). 2012 Nov 12;12(1):966. Home-based HIV counseling and testing: Client experiences and perceptions in Eastern Uganda.

Mechanisms: grass roots economics

Young boys under pressure to give presents, and exchange comes with expectation of sex

(Tadele 2005; van Reeuwijk 2009 and Oxlund 2009, Bochow 2012)

Life-skills/peer program valued as income , more income → more unsafe sex

(Blommaert 2012; Verheijen 2012)

“I have loved you for a long time. Today is the day I want you to be my lover. What do you say?”



“I also love you. Because you are handsome. Also your father has a car, at my home we only have a bicycle.”

Navigating local moral worlds

- Girls' sexuality is hidden, experimentation not accepted (van Reeuwijk 2009, Koster 2003, Bochow 2012)
- Youth SRH events threaten family honour (van der Sijpt 2011, Oosterhoff 2008, Huong 2011)
- Aunties, older siblings discrete advice and support

Ulfa: public purity – private pleasure



Implications for research on social determinants

1. Go beyond individual attributes
2. Be aware of hidden practices and emic perspectives
3. Take into consideration dynamics of change
4. Use mixed methods