

HIV/STI service uptake among female sex workers in Mombasa

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Female sex workers

- Old as history of man
- Categorized according to outlet
 - Bar maids
 - Home based
 - Street girls (twilight girls)
 - Club girls (call girls)

Why they sell sex

- For survival
- Limited opportunities
- Improve material well being
- Finance drug or alcohol dependence
- Service debts

Ganjoni clinic

- Established during colonial era
 - To protect soldiers and tourists from STI
 - To control STI among FSW
 - Enforced by public health officers and police
 - The only clinic of its kind in Kenya

Enforcement (Green card system)

- Identified women by ID number and photo
- Stamped on weekly visit
- If gonorrhoea positive, card withheld until treatment completed
- Women were not allowed to work without the card

Clinic charges

- Annual fee Ksh 150
- Weekly exam fee Ksh 20
- Fine for late attendance Ksh 25
- Other costs;
 - Transport
 - Time

Reactions to mandatory services

- Women bribed police not to be arrested
- Women bribed health workers to avoid pelvic exam
- Women bribed to have negative lab results
- Speculum exam was viewed as punishment

Presumed advantages and disadvantages

Advantages

- Early STI detection
- Early Treatment
- Lowered rates of STI among FSW
- Raised revenue

Disadvantages

- Coercive
- Exploitative
- Stigmatized STI services
- Corrupted staff

Interventions

- Initiated in 1993 through PAVE project
- Aimed at;
 - Increase voluntary service uptake
 - HIV/STI education to FSW
 - HIV voluntary counseling and testing
 - Prepare FSW for possible vaccine trial

Key components of intervention

- Lobby for end to coercion and exploitation
- Education to police and stake holders
- Peer education on importance of HIV/STI preventive services
- Participatory planning of HIV/STI prevention activities

Outcomes

Before intervention

- Annual and weekly fee
- Compulsory STI screen
- STI services only
- Forced attendance
- Avoidance behavior

After intervention

- Free services
- Voluntary HIV/STI screen
- Integrated services
- Voluntary attendance
- Service seeking behavior

Conclusion

- ❑ Optimizing delivery of services may benefit FSW and the community
- ❑ Gaining trust and increasing understanding can influence uptake and satisfaction
- ❑ Coercions lead to rejection of programs

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 - Network of organization in solidarity with women in distress