

# Women, power, and HIV infection

## 1. Vocabulary Building

property	財産、資産	cure	治療法
passive	受動的な	depend on	頼る
disease	病気	exchange	交換
virgin	清純な	abuse	暴力
STDs	性病	outcast	追放された人



## 2. Reading

There is one thing many cultures share: there is always a clear difference between women's and men's roles, who has the power to make decisions, and who controls money or property. In many societies people don't openly talk about sex. Many people think that 'good' women should not know about sex and should be passive in sexual situations. This makes it difficult for women to learn about how to prevent some diseases. It also makes it difficult for them to talk with their partner about using condoms.

In addition, in many societies, many people think that unmarried girls should stay virgins. These girls often do not ask for information about sex because they are afraid people will think they are sexually active. If they don't know about things like sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) they increase their risk of infection. In some cultures, virginity also puts young girls at risk of rape and sexual pressure because some people believe that sex with a virgin can cure a man of infection.

Third, women often depend on men for money. This increases the chances that women will exchange sex for money, gifts, food, or a place to live.

Finally, violence against women is related to women's chances of catching HIV. In some studies, from 10 to over 50 percent of women report being hit by an intimate partner. And one-third to one half of physically abused women also report forced sex.

From other research, we also know there are reasons why women cannot talk with their partner about using a condom or only having one partner in their relationship. Often, women cannot talk about these things because they are afraid of physical violence. They might also be afraid of losing someone they love very much. It is also difficult for them to leave relationships that they think are risky.

In many societies being a social outcast or even being killed are very real possibilities for women who tell others that they have HIV. This is one reason that stops many women from getting tested. Yet, HIV testing is so very important for receiving treatment or for getting drugs to prevent the transmission of HIV from a woman to her child.

Adapted from: Approaches For Empowering Women In The Hiv/Aids Pandemic — A Gender Perspective - Geeta Rao Gupta address  
[http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m2872/is\\_1\\_27/ai\\_71563337](http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2872/is_1_27/ai_71563337)

### Comprehension Questions

Check whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1.  In some cultures, women are not supposed to know or talk about sex.
2.  People in some cultures might think a girl is already having sex if she asks for information about sexually transmitted diseases.
3.  Sometimes, if a girl or a woman does not have enough money, she might sell her body to get food or a place to sleep.
4.  The fear of a relationship ending might be one reason a woman would not ask her partner to use a condom.
5.  Many women do not get tested because they do not want to prevent giving HIV to their baby.

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### 3. Song: Don't Throw Your Life Away

Ms. Dynamite, from the album "46664: Part III" ©Warners, 2004

In life we have the good, the bad, and the plain evil  
He's of the devil  
Won't stop taking all types of people  
He roams from home to home late at night, Mr. Promiscuous  
Sisters and brothers  
Even defenseless \_\_\_\_\_ on his list  
Disguised, he hides his face behind passion

So dangerous it's ridiculous  
Whoever, wherever, whenever  
Don't think it could \_\_\_\_\_  
Cause even unborns are at risk

#### CHORUS

Don't throw your life away (make sure you protect it)  
Don't throw your life away (when you're giving affection)  
Don't throw your life away (now won't you hear my cry)  
Don't throw your life away ('cause I don't want to see you die)

I pray you don't \_\_\_\_\_ what they feed you  
It's not just gays and hos and those who're using needles  
She could be stunning  
That don't mean nothing  
Don't watch the face  
This killer don't discriminate  
He shows no sign when he's \_\_\_\_\_  
Silent assassin  
Waiting to hurt them  
He makes mourners out of \_\_\_\_\_  
Lovers unaware  
Don't know he's there, killing each other

#### Chorus

We've got to stop being careless  
We've got to use our awareness  
It could be \_\_\_\_\_  
You don't even know it  
So stop being selfish  
Don't neglect your sexual health  
And make sure you protect \_\_\_\_\_  
And it could be you  
You don't even know  
You could \_\_\_\_\_ someone else

#### Chorus

[“People, keep loving yourself. Keep protecting yourself. I love you!”]

### Glossary

roams 歩き回る  
promiscuous 乱交

disguised 変装している  
passion 熱情

ridiculous ばかばかしい

protect 守る

affection 愛情

hos (slang word for  
prostitue)

stunning とても魅力的

assassin 暗殺者

mourners 会葬者

unaware 気がつかない

be careless 不注意な

selfish 自分本位

protect 守る

## 4. What's Happening?

For each of the pictures below answer the following questions.



1. What's happening?
2. Who do you think each of these people are?
3. How do each of the people in the picture feel?
4. Why is this happening?
5. What are the power relations between the people?
6. How could this situation have been prevented?

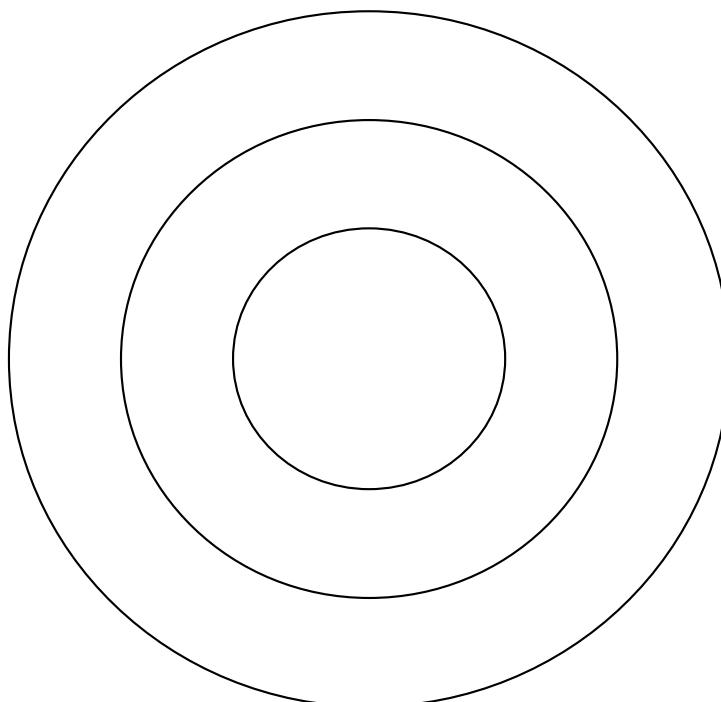


7. What things are common in each of these situations?
8. What are the attitudes/feelings in all these situations toward people with HIV/AIDS?
9. What are the effects on people who experience these situations?

## 5. Telling Others about Ourselves

For most people, it is easy to tell others about our everyday lives, our happy times, and even our dreams for the future. It is often difficult to tell others about our problems.

On the diagram below, show the important people in your life—mark them on inner circles. People who you know less well are placed on the outer circles. Become aware of the people who you think are most likely to support you when you have a problem. *You do not have to show this to anyone else.*



The first person she told was her cousin—her father's sister's daughter. She is a very close and understanding relative and her response was very encouraging. Her cousin thought her so courageous to have tested and remarked how most people do not know their status. At this stage, E is not sure if her cousin ever told others. It really helped E to tell her cousin—it was “one load lifted.”

*Extract from E's story, Zambia*

Activities on this page adapted from “HIV Stigma Toolkit” available from [http://www.changeproject.org/technical/hiv\\_aids/stigma.html](http://www.changeproject.org/technical/hiv_aids/stigma.html)

## 6. Putting it Together: Questions for discussion



1. Women around the world have a greater chance of catching HIV than men. Give some reasons why this is true.
2. Do you think it is difficult for women in your country to ask their partners to use condoms? Why/why not?
3. In a couple who are intimate, who do you think is responsible for discussing sexual issues?
4. If one partner refuses (says “no”) to use a condom, what options does the other partner have?
5. What are some reasons why women have lower literacy rates than men in the countries mentioned below?



### **AIDS RISK INCREASING IN ASIA, SAYS NEW UNAIDS REPORT**

Women in Asia are increasingly vulnerable to HIV. Gender inequality mixed with HIV is placing Asian women and girls in double jeopardy. In Asia, 30% of girls are married before the age of 15, and 62% before 18, often with much older husbands.

[http://data.unaids.org/Media/Press-Releases03/PR\\_ICAAP\\_01July05\\_en.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/Media/Press-Releases03/PR_ICAAP_01July05_en.pdf)



### **World Literacy** (2005 est.)

*definition:* age 15 and over can read and write

*total population:* 82%

*male:* 87%

*female:* 77%

*note:* over two-thirds of the world's 785 million illiterate adults are found in only eight countries (India, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Egypt); of all the illiterate adults in the world, two-thirds are women; extremely low literacy rates are concentrated in three regions, South and West Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Arab states, where around one-third of the men and half of all women are illiterate



Source: <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/fields/2103.html>

### **QUICK QUIZ**

1. “Gender inequality” means \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many girls in Asia get married before they reach the age of 18? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Worldwide, how many people were not able to read or write in 2005 (estimated)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many of people who could not read or write were women? \_\_\_\_\_
5. In South and West Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Arab states, how many women cannot read? \_\_\_\_\_