



SETTING A SEXUALITY AGENDA IN PUBLIC HEALTH

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GLOBAL MAPPING OF DESIRE II

- **0 to 12:** Desired ... number of children
- **15 – 45 (49) then:** Menopause
- **16%:** Orgasmic ability
- **61%:** Sexual pain
- **Infinity:** Norms, ideas, values on love or sexuality

GLOBAL MAPPING OF DESIRE III

- Sex surveys based on random samples
- Surveys of specific groups (disabled, adolescent, older, chronically sick, commercial sex workers, female cancer patients, incarcerated)
- **Hypoactive sexual desire disorder ...**
- Norms, ideas, values on love or sexuality

developmental tasks

- Identify the biomedical & psychological developmental tasks to be achieved in childhood, adolescence & adulthood on the way to human sexual and erotic maturity.

Love is not great delight but desire to please God in everything.

Raptures overcame her overwhelmed senses with glorious foolishness, prayer of union where she felt the sun melt her away.

If she felt her body was going to levitate she stretched out on the floor and called the nuns to sit on her and hold her down. Far from being excited about these events, she "begged very much not to give me any more favors in public."

definitions and frameworks

- International Conference on Population and Development 1994, World Conference on Women 1995, World Health Organization, WHA 64.28 2011
- International Classification of Diseases 10
- World Association of Sexology, Kinsey Institute, others
- American Psychiatric Association, Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 4 (soon 5)

Hebrew Song of Solomon:

Lover-like whisperings, murmurs of the breeze

*My love is hush-of-night,
Is dawn's first breathings in the heav'n above*

*Still music veiled from sight,
Calm that can echoes move,*

The feast that brings new strength--the feast of love ...

attempted definition

Sexuality is a central aspect of being human throughout life and encompasses sex, gender identities and roles, sexual orientation, eroticism, pleasure, intimacy and reproduction. Sexuality is experienced and expressed in thoughts, fantasies, desires, beliefs, attitudes, values, behaviours, practices, roles and relationships. While sexuality can include all of these dimensions, not all of them are always experienced or expressed. Sexuality is influenced by the interaction of biological, psychological, social, economic, political, cultural, ethical, legal, historical, religious and spiritual factors. (WHO 2002)

historical-cultural representation

- Perceptions and constructions of sex, gender, love, body image, affection, friendship, erotic love, divine love
- Greco-Roman, Judeo-Christian, Buddhist-Hindu, Arab-Islamic, African, Animist

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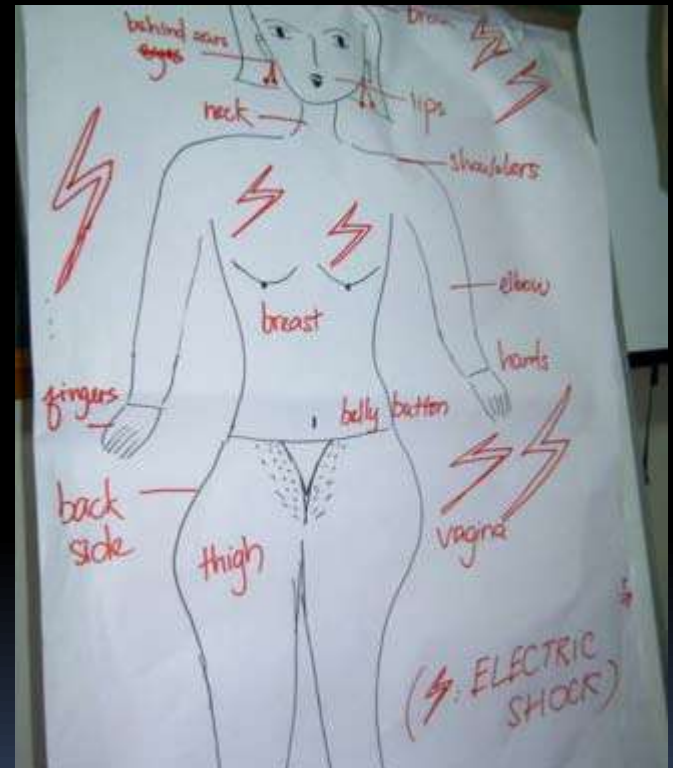
religion

Records of human sexual and erotic experience in faith-based values:

- Allegory for divine-human interaction,
- Good gift
- Curse
- Duty
- Cult of (female) virginity
- Ideals of chastity


menopause

- Regularly preoccupation in religious texts (even though the texts are usually written by men)
- Important transition for women in terms of their experience of sex
- Reduced estrogen / lowered sexual desire?
- Loss of sexual response or desire is not experienced by majority of menopausal women.
- Factors include individual attitudes towards sexuality, overall health and marital status
- Estrogen **not** related to postmenopausal changes in sexual response
- 17.2 % increase in breast cancer risk in use of both estrogen and testosterone during menopause for each year of use.
- **Men Have Viagra... What About Us?**





sexual constructs

- Culture-specific sexual constructs in hand with historical and current colonial attitudes to indigenous practices and rites
 - Power and sexuality models (Victorian/Freudian) sense and sensibility models (exoticism, esotericism)
- 

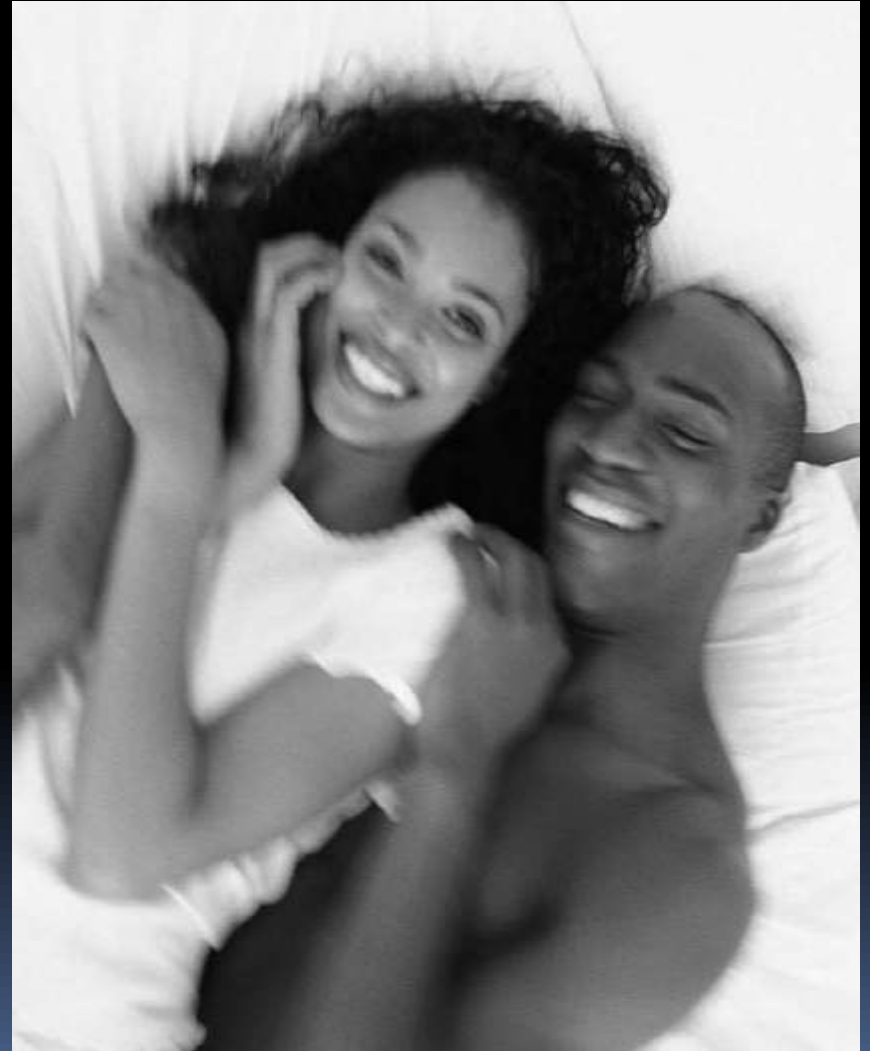
objects of desire

- In-(acceptability)
- Consequent self-harm or social control
- Stigma index



traditional practices

- Use of erotic and aphrodisiac products
- Vaginal modifications
- Female Genital Mutilation



sexual health rights: global challenge

Uses and abuses of sex

- poverty
- partner violence
- conflict
- captivity
- exile
- human trafficking

disabled desire

- In spinal cord injury hypersensitivity reported above injury when stimulated -> sexual arousal and sometimes orgasm.
- Misconceptions: single person will never find a partner, existing life partner will leave due to injury complications.
- Inability to move does not imply inability to please or to be pleased. Absence of sensation does not mean there an absence of feeling.




hypoactive sexual desire disorder

- Prevalence of low sexual desire
- Representative sample of ...
American women






gender and genitals

- Place of gender and age specific genital practices and their effects on social and personal attitudes.
 - Gender identity disorders
- 




sexual life course

- Children's experience of sexualisation
 - Specificity of sexuality in adolescence
 - Disability
 - In illness
 - Older age
- 




commerce of sex

- prostitution
 - commercial sex work
 - sex for favours
 - pornography
 - use of sexual imagery in advertising
- 




health models

- view of health, attitudes to illness, death and dying associated with sex (*thanatos* and *eros*)
 - gender and sex roles
- 




health interventions

- sexually transmitted infections
 - HIV/AIDS and anti-retrovirals
 - sexual therapy
 - marriage guidance -> relationship
 - contraceptive counselling
 - assisted reproductive technology
 - HPV vaccine
 - Gender reassignment
- 



comprehensive sexuality education

- sex education
 - moral or religious obligation.
 - social, community, parental or family duty
 - health sector role in content and delivery
- 



join the debate

Boyce (2007) *et al* "Putting sexuality (back) into HIV/AIDS: Issues, theory and practice" in Global Public Health, Vol. 2, No 1. 1 February 2007

www.gfmer.ch/Forums/sexualhealthresearch

Resources

**The Global Mapping of Pleasure
Popline / Population Reference
Bureau**

Demographic and Health Surveys

**World Association for Sexual
Health (WASH)**

Alan Guttmacher Institute

**GTZ Health, Education and Social
Protection News and Notes**

**Office Fédéral de la Santé
Publique, Division des maladies
transmissibles (OFSP) -
Programme national VIH/IST 2011-
2017.**





Thank you

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