

# HIV/STI service uptake among female sex workers in Mombasa

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# Female sex workers

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- 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

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

# Ganjoni clinic

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- 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)

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- ❑ 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

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- 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

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## Advantages

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

## Disadvantages

- Coercive
- Exploitative
- Stigmatized STI services
- Corrupted staff

# Interventions

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- 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

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- 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

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## 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

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- ❑ 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

# Thanks to;

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- All Ganjoni clinic staff
- Mombasa city health department
- University of Nairobi/University of Washington
- All our collaborators including;
  - Women who participate in peer education
  - Solwodi
  - Network of organization in solidarity with women in distress