

Gender and Sexuality in the context of Aids

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Gender and Sexuality has become a major conceptual tool for understanding the evolving HIV pandemic globally. As such it has provided a powerful way to see the structure of relations between men and women as central to various epidemics and added weight to our understanding of HIV/AIDS/STDS infection as not simply an individual experience of diseases. Yet as a concept, Gender and Sexuality has its blind spots. This paper argues that there are four issues central to our understanding of how the HIV/AIDS/STDS diseases and pandemic moves and develops that are not necessarily best understood through analysis that uses sexuality and gender alone, namely: women's vulnerability, men's culpability, young people's sexual interest and marginalized sexual cultures . The paper proposes using sexuality as a framework for analyzing these issues and seeks to utilize developments in critical sexuality research to add to gender as a way to increase the capacity to respond to the crisis of HIV/Aids/STDs. **Some keywords:** Sexuality Gender roles and issues HIV/AIDS Social theory Young peoples' sexual interests