

HIV-positive mothers in Viet Nam: using their status to build support groups and access essential services

Oosterhoff P., Anh N.T., Yen P.N., Wright P., Hardon A.

Medical Committee Netherlands Viet Nam, Amsterdam School for Social Research, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Hanoi Medical University and PhD candidate, Amsterdam School for Social Research, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Pham Ngoc Yen, Hanoi National University, Hanoi, Viet Nam; Medical Committee Netherlands Viet Nam, Hanoi, Viet Nam; Amsterdam School for Social Research, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Abstract: Various support and self-help groups for people living with HIV and their families have developed in Viet Nam in recent years. This paper reports on a case study of Sunflowers, the first support group for HIV positive mothers in Hanoi, begun in 2004, and a sister group begun in 2005 in Thai Nguyen province. From April 2004 to early 2007, we carried out semi-structured interviews with 275 health care workers and 153 HIV-positive women and members of their families, as well as participant observation of group meetings and activities. Sunflowers have successfully organised themselves to access vital social, medical and economic support and services for themselves, their children and partners. They gained self-confidence, and learned to communicate with their peers and voice their needs to service providers. Based on personal development plans, they have accessed other state services, such as loans, job counselling and legal advice. They have also gained access to school and treatment for their children, who had previously been excluded. Although the women were vulnerable to HIV as wives and mothers, motherhood also provided them with social status and an identity they used to help build organisations and develop strategies to access the essential services that they and their families need. © 2008 Reproductive Health Matters.

Author Keywords: antiretroviral treatment; gender roles; HIV/AIDS; injection drug use; self-help groups; Viet Nam

Index Keywords: antiretrovirus agent; adult; article; case study; counseling; economics; family; female; health care personnel; health service; human; Human immunodeficiency virus infected patient; Human immunodeficiency virus infection; major clinical study; medical service; mother; participant observation; peer group; priority journal; privacy; school; semi structured interview; social status; social work; support group; Viet Nam; work; Adult; Anti-Retroviral Agents; Consumer Advocacy; Female; Health Services Accessibility; HIV Infections; HIV Seropositivity; Humans; Infectious Disease Transmission, Vertical; Leadership; Mothers; Organizational Case Studies; Pregnancy; Pregnancy Complications, Infectious; Self-Help Groups; Social Isolation; Vietnam; Young Adult

Year: 2008

Source title: Reproductive Health Matters

Volume: 16

Issue: 32

Page : 162-170

Cited by: 2

Link: Scopus Link

Chemicals/CAS: Anti-Retroviral Agents

Correspondence Address: Oosterhoff, P.; Medical Committee Netherlands Viet Nam, Amsterdam School for Social Research, Amsterdam, Netherlands; email: pauline_oosterhoff@yahoo.com

ISSN: 9688080

CODEN: RHMAF

DOI: 10.1016/S0968-8080(08)32408-2

PubMed ID: 19027632

Language of Original Document: English

Abbreviated Source Title: Reproductive Health Matters

Document Type: Article

Source: Scopus

Authors with affiliations:

- Oosterhoff, P., Medical Committee Netherlands Viet Nam, Amsterdam School for Social Research, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Anh, N.T., Hanoi Medical University and PhD candidate, Amsterdam School for Social Research, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Yen, P.N., Pham Ngoc Yen, Hanoi National University, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- Wright, P., Medical Committee Netherlands Viet Nam, Hanoi, Viet Nam
- Hardon, A., Amsterdam School for Social Research, Amsterdam, Netherlands

References:

- Tran Thu, M., Nguyen Tran, H., Yatsuya, H., HIV prevalence and factors associated with HIV infection among male injection drug users under 30: a cross-sectional study in Long An, Vietnam (2006) BMC Public Health, 6 (248), pp. 1471-2458
- Werner, J., Belanger, D., (2002) Gender, Household, State: Doi Moi in Viet Nam, , Cornell University Southeast Asia Program Publications, New York
- (2006) Decision149/BC-BYT. Five-year review workshop on HIV/AIDS prevention and control in 2001-2005 and action plan for 2006-2010, , Ministry of Health, Hanoi Medical Publishing House, Hanoi
- Epidemiological fact sheets on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections. 2004, , http://data.unaids.org/Publications/Fact-Sheets01/vietnam_EN.pdf, UNAIDS/World Health Organization. At:
- (2006) HIV/AIDS in Vietnam, , CSIS, CSIS, Hanoi
- (2005) Report on HIV sentinel surveillance survey in 2005, , VAAC, Vietnam Ministry of Health, Hanoi
- Nguyen Tran Hien. Situation of HIV/AIDS/STI Surveillance in Vietnam. National conference on HIV/AIDS Monitoring & Evaluation, Da Nang, 2007
- Nguyen Thu, A., Oosterhoff, P., Hardon, A., A hidden epidemic among women in Vietnam (2008) BMC Public Health, 8, p. 37
- (2006) Report on the global AIDS epidemic 2006, , UNAIDS, UNAIDS, Geneva
- Vietnam population and AIDS indicator survey in 2005. 2006 [cited July 27th 2007], , <http://synergyaids.com/documents/VietNamPop&AIDSIndicatorSurvey.pdf>, GSO, NIHE, ORC Macro. Available from:
- (2006) Progress on Global Access to HIV Antiretroviral Therapy, a report on 3 X 5 and beyond, 2006, , World Health Organization, WHO, Geneva
- (2 0 0 4) H I V / A I D S E s t i m a t e s a n d p r o j e c t i o n s 2 0 0 5 - 2 0 1 0 , , [http://unaids.org.vn/resource/topic/epidemiology/e%20%20english_final .pdf](http://unaids.org.vn/resource/topic/epidemiology/e%20%20english_final.pdf), Ministry of Health >
- Gidron, B., Chesler, M.A., Universal and Particular Attributes of Self Help: A Framework for International & Intranational Analysis (1994) Prevention in Human Services, 11 (1), pp. 1-44

- Klass, D., *The dynamics of self-help in healing parental grief: the role of the compassionate friends* (1992) *Self-Help, Concepts and Applications*, pp. 231-249. , Katz, Hedrick, Isenberg, et al. (Eds), Charles Press, Philadelphia
- Powell, T., (1987) *Self-help Organizations and Professional Practice*, , NASW, Silver Spring
- Communist Party of Vietnam. *Kinh ethnic*. 8 December 2007. At: Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Decree No.108/2007/ND-CP detailing the implementation of a number of articles of the law on HIV/AIDS prevention and control, 2007Health Policy Initiative. Mapping of PLHIV groups Viet Nam, August 2006-2007. Hanoi, 2007. (Unpublished)(2007) HIV/AIDS, Country Profiles, , Ministry of Health, Vietnam Administraton of HIV/AIDS Control, Hanoi
- Oosterhoff, P., Nguyen Thu, A., Pham Ngoc, Y., *Dealing with a positive result: risks and responses in routine HIV testing among pregnant women in Vietnam* (2008) *AIDS Care*, 20 (6), pp. 654-659
- Oosterhoff, P., Nguyen Thu, A., Pham Ngoc, Y., *Can micro-credit empower HIV+ women? An exploratory case study in Northern Vietnam* (2008) *Women's Health and Urban Life*, 7 (1)
- Laverack, G., *An identification and interpretation of the organizational aspects of community empowerment* (2001) *Community Development Journal*, 36 (2), pp. 134-145
- Wegelin-Schuringa, M., (1992) *Participatory approaches to urban water supply and sanitation*, , IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, The Hague
- Eisen, A., *Survey of neighbourhood-based comprehensive community empowerment initiatives* (1994) *Health Education Quarterly*, 21 (2), pp. 235-252
- Evans, S., (1980) *Personal Politics: The Roots of Women's Liberation in the Civil Rights Movement and the New Left*, , Alfred Knopf, New York
- Sen, A., *Gender and cooperative conflict* (1990) *Persistent Inequalities*, , Tinker I. (Ed), Oxford University Press, Oxford
- Freire, P., (2000) *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, , Seabury Press, New York
- Wietringa, S., *Women's interests and empowerment: gender planning reconsidered* (1994) *Development and Change*, 25 (4), pp. 829-848
- Corcoran-Nantes, Y., *'Female conciousness' or 'feminist conciousness'? women's conciousness raising in community based struggles in Brazil* (2000) *Global Feminisms since 1945*, pp. 81-99. , Smith B.G. (Ed), Routledge, London
- Boesten J. *Negotiating womanhood, reproducing inequality, women and social policy in Peru*. PhD thesis. University of Amsterdam, 2004Pedersen, S., *Catholicism, feminism, and the politics of the family during the Late Third Republic* (1993) *Mothers of a New World: Maternalist Politics and the Origins of Welfare States*, pp. 246-276. , Koven S., and Michel S. (Eds), Routledge, New York
- Nash, M., (1995) *Defying Male Civilization: Women in the Spanish Civil War*, , Arden Press, Denver
- Utomo, I.D., Arsyad, S.A., Hasmi, E.N., *Village family planning volunteers in Indonesia: their role in the family planning programme* (2005) *Reproductive Health Matters*, 13 (27), pp. 73-82

Download: 0445.pdf