



# INCLUSION OF COMPREHENSIVE SRH IN HEALTH CARE:HEALTH SYSTEMS AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS

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# INTRODUCTION

- **The Centre for the Development of People(CEDEP) is an organisation established to address the needs and challenges of marginalized groups in the context of HIV/AIDS, human rights and social wellbeing such groups include Sex workers, prisoners, gays, bisexuals, and men who have sex with men (MSM) in Malawi.**

# Overview of Marginalized Sexual Health and Reproductive issues

- Sexual reproductive health implies that people should have a complete physical, mental, social wellbeing, absence of diseases, satisfying and safe sex and have the capability to reproduce and freedom to decide.
- Health sector in Africa do not meet specific needs of marginalized groups such as sex workers, prisoners, men who have sex with men, IDUs and transgender due to criminalisation, cultural, religious, lack of supportive policies, political will and funding.

## **Access to health care**

- **Despite revelation of high HIV prevalence among MSM in Africa (21.4% in Malawi, 19.7% in Botswana, 21..8% in Senegal etc there is no national HIV and AIDS programming in most of African countries targeting such communities.**
- **Same applies to sex workers in Malawi HIV prevalence among sex workers is 70%.**
- **The high HIV prevalence applies also to most of African countries.**
- **Unfriendly health systems- stigma and discrimination has also been an issue.**

# Conclusion

- Sexual reproductive ill health and HIV among marginalized groups is rooted in sexual violence, stigma and discrimination.
- Health systems should meet specific needs of marginalized groups.eg management and treatment of sexually transmitted illnesses, VCT and access to condoms etc.
- Activist should take into account the sexual and reproductive health rights needs of MSM, sex workers, IDUs and prisoners.
- Effective HIV/AIDS and SRH programmes should address the status of marginalized groups in terms of cultural, religious, legal, policy, violence and power dynamics.
- Donor support on SHR issues affecting marginalized groups.