Annexure 3: Case Studies – MSM with Female Partners

Case Study 1

Refer to the Case Study of Urmila and Ashok. In the study, it is mentioned that Ashok cares deeply about his wife.

Questions

- Should Ashok’s caring extend to helping her access proper healthcare facilities?
- If yes, then what are the options available to them? If not, why not?

Case Study 2

One of Ashok’s partners is Ravi, an effeminate male who is also married. His wife hears some gossip about his sexuality in their neighbourhood. She gets very disturbed. One day she confronts Ravi about his sexuality, which he strongly denies. After this incident, Ravi decides to visit the counsellor.

Questions

- List all the possible dilemmas that Ravi could be facing.
- What are the possible solutions that Ravi could come up with while discussing his problems with the counsellor?
- If Ravi is willing to bring his wife to the drop-in-centre (DIC), how should the counsellor handle the wife’s questions (and distress) without endangering Ravi’s right to confidentiality?
Case Study 3

Srikanth recently got married and is very happy in his marriage. He likes his wife a lot. After one month of his marriage he comes to know that one of his ex-boyfriends has tested positive for HIV. Although very worried, he is also very scared to get himself tested. He has stopped having sex with his wife because he does not want to infect her. His wife however, wants a child, and doesn’t understand why Srikanth is avoiding her. This situation leads to tension in their lives. Srikanth approached a CBO for counselling.

Questions

• What arguments could the counsellor use to persuade Srikanth to go for HIV testing?
• If he does agree to get tested, and turns out negative, how should he take care of himself, his wife, and other partners from infection?
• If he does turn out positive, should he disclose his HIV status to his wife?
• How can he do so without talking about his sexuality?
• Should the client lie to his female partner if he thinks that is the only way to expose her to testing and treatment for HIV?
• What options can they explore regarding having children?

Case Study 4

Naushad is a Peer Educator (PE) in a TI Plus organisation. He is very happy to know that his CBO will address the issues of MSM with female partners.

During one of the support group sessions, there were a lot of questions from the community as to why his CBO was trying to reach female partners. Many wanted to know whether the CBO was trying to disclose their sexuality to their female partner.

Many were reluctant to reveal their marital status to the group, and few had revealed their sexual behaviour with men to their female partners.

Questions

• Can you identify some of the reasons as to why some of the community could be nervous about reaching out to female partners?
• What strategies can be developed to address these concerns?
• What services can a CBO provide to the MSM with female partners?
• What services can a CBO provide to the female partners of MSM?