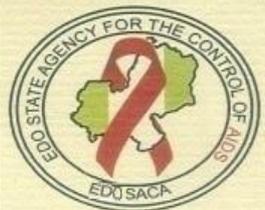
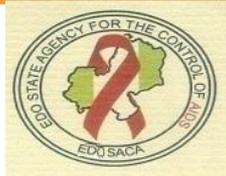


GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV):- A SIGNIFICANT DRIVER OF HIV&AIDS IN DEVELOPMENT COUNTRIES



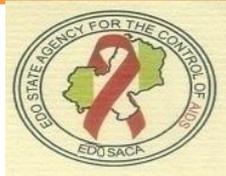
Outline

- Overview of Gender & Sex
- Overview of Gender Based Violence
- Relationship between GBV and HIV
- Consequences and Outcomes of GBV
- Care and Support of GBV cases
- Take Home



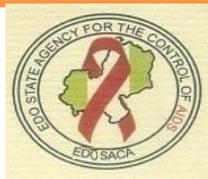
Gender

- Refers to the characteristics that over time are culturally, politically, economically and socially assigned and associated with either of the two sexes - male and female.
- It is what a society believes to be appropriate roles, duties, rights, responsibilities, accepted behaviours, opportunities and status for women and men in relation to one another.
- It is a social construct. It is learned, can and does change in relation to time, culture and environment.



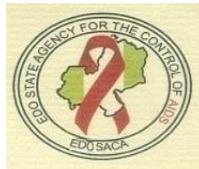
Sex

- Is a definition of the biological distinction between women and men; boys and girls.
- Refers to the different physiological characteristics of males and females.
- Unlike with gender, attributes derived from sex or sex roles are fixed and cannot change. It is not the same as sex (biological).



Violence

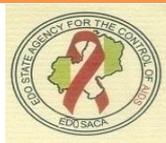
The WHO (2002) broad definition of violence is “the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation...”



Types of violence

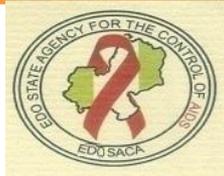
Violence may be

- Physical (Beating, kicking, punching, maiming, killing)
- Verbal (ridiculing, use of swear words, talking bad about the victim or their family)
- Sexual (rape, forced unsafe sex, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, forced pregnancy, forced abortion)
- Psychological (isolation, confinement)
- Socio-economic (not allowing separate income, making victim physically unable to work, denial of access to education, lower salary, exclusion from work)



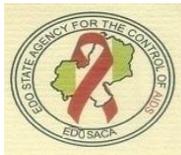
Overview of Gender Based Violence

- According to UNAIDS, GBV is a global epidemic and one in three women worldwide has experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner, or non-partner sexual violence, in her life. Studies have shown that, in some regions, women who experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence were 1.5 times more likely to acquire HIV. Among women living with HIV, intimate partner violence can lead to lower antiretroviral therapy use and adherence to HIV treatment, and higher viral loads.
- Also, World Health Organization (WHO), stated that 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence.



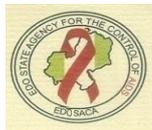
Gender Based Violence (GBV)

- Gender based violence (GBV) is any act or threat of harm inflicted on a person because of their gender.
- Gender-based violence is an umbrella term for any harm that is perpetrated against a person's will; that has a negative impact on the physical or psychological health, development, and identity of the person;



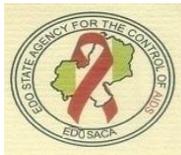
Gender Based Violence (GBV)

- It is the result of gendered power inequities that exploit distinctions between males and females, among males, and among females.
- Although not exclusive to women and girls, GBV principally affects them across all cultures.
- Categories of perpetrators may include family members, community members, and those acting on behalf of or in proportion to the disregard of cultural, religious, state, or intra-state institutions.



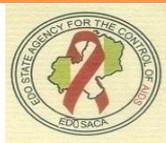
Gender Based Violence (GBV)

- While both females and males experience violence, evidence suggest that the risk factors, patterns and consequences of violence against females are different than that against males.
- It is argued that many cultures, beliefs, norms and social institutions legitimize and therefore perpetuate violence against females.



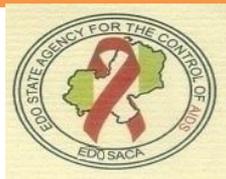
Gender Based Violence (GBV)

- There are grave and potentially life-threatening health outcomes with GBV.
- The exact consequences vary, depending on the type of violence.
- GBV can result in many negative consequences for health and well being of females. It can also affect their children and undermine the economic well-being of the society.



Nigeria Context-North East

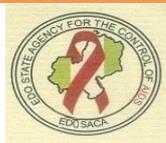
The incidence of Gender Based Violence (GBV) is growing astronomical with the activities of the insurgency in the North East. From forced and early marriages to the physical, mental or sexual assault on a woman, nearly 3 in 10 Nigerian women have experienced physical violence by age 15 (NDHS 2013)



Relationship between HIV/AIDS and GBV

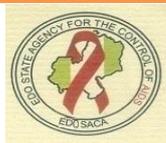
GBV and HIV are inextricably linked .

- The experience of violence affects the risk of HIV and other STI directly when it interferes with women's ability to negotiate condom use.
- Fear of violence not only hinders women's ability to propose condom use but may also keep them from voluntary HIV & AIDS counseling and testing.
- Young girls are also exposed to high risks infection via sex, forced early marriages and genital mutilation (or circumcision of both male/female).



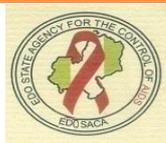
Relationship between HIV/AIDS and GBV (2)

- Women may be at risk of violence after disclosing their HIV status to their partners.
- Cultural norms encourage male violence against females and also entrap females in violent relationships.
- The common norm that family affairs should be kept private and outsiders should not intervene, isolates women from potential sources of support.



Social Consequences of GBV

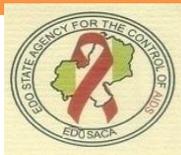
- Most societies tend to blame the survivor for the incident, especially in cases of rape. This social rejection results in further emotional damage, including shame, self-hate and depression.
- Due to their fear of social stigma and rejection, most survivors never report the incident and never receive proper health care and emotional support.



Social Consequences of GBV

Most incidents of GBV are never reported to anyone due to:

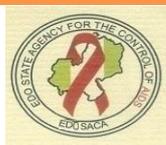
- Blame on the victim
 - Loss of ability to function in community (e.g., earn income, care for children)
 - Social stigma
 - Social rejection and isolation
 - Rejection by family.
- The effects of violence experienced by women, such as intimate partner violence, are felt at the individual, family, and community levels. Consequences of violence include increased risk for suicide, alcohol abuse, as well as negative impacts on human development outcomes.



Psychological Consequences of GBV

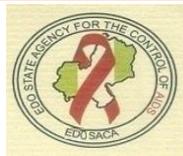
In some cases, the survivors experience psychological conditions which require medical intervention. These include:

- Post traumatic stress
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Phobias/ Panic disorders
- Eating disorders
- Sexual dysfunction
- Low self-esteem
- Substance abuse



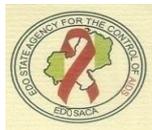
Reproductive Health Consequences of GBV

- Unplanned pregnancies
- Unsafe abortions
- Transmission of HIV and other STIs
- Gynecological disorders including infertility
- Pregnancy complications, miscarriages, low birth weight
- Sexual health disorders



Fatal Outcomes of GBV

- Homicide
- Suicide
- Maternal mortality
- Infant mortality
- AIDS related mortality



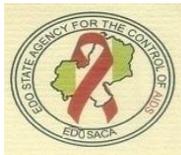
Values Clarification Activity: Where do you stand?

- **It is okay for a woman to be battered**
- **Women are beaten because they do not listen to their partners**
- **Women are just as likely to be abusers as men**
- **Domestic violence is a private issue**
- **Battered women deserved or provoked their abuse**
- **If a victim didn't like the abuse she could easily leave**
- **Domestic violence is a result of alcohol or drug abuse**
- **Domestic violence only occurs in lower socioeconomic homes**
- **Male victims don't exist**
- **Children are not affected by violence in the home.**

- **Victims of sexual assault are:**
- **3 times** more likely to suffer from depression.
- **6 times** more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.
- **13 times** more likely to abuse alcohol.
- **26 times** more likely to abuse drugs.
- **4 times** more likely to contemplate suicide.

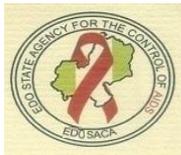
Care & Support in GBV

- Proper care and timely management of clients could make huge differences in the lives of survivors
- GBV interventions are about enhancing knowledge and changing attitudes, behavior and practices.
- The support for victim should be both clinical and psychosocial
- **Special Attention should be given to the care of Children/Minors/adolescents who are victims of GBV**
- **Detailed history and careful general physical as well as Mental State examinations should be conducted, as part of Comprehensive Care for children and adolescents of GBV victims.**



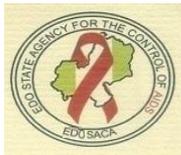
Care & Support in GBV (2)

- Many women who are abused believe that they are responsible for the abuse, as such, they are often ashamed to reveal the nature of the abuse.
- For physical violence, health care providers need to be alerted to the signs that distinguish inflicted/intentional injury from accidental injury.
- Intentional injuries are those that are deliberately inflicted and these includes those inflicted by themselves and by others.
- Intentional injuries usually affect parts of the body that are hidden e.g. breasts, abdomen, back, etc.



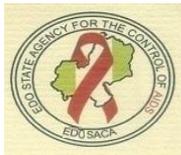
Care & Support in GBV (3)

- The presentation for treatment is delayed. The injuries are usually days old and old scars or bruises may be visible.
- The injuries may occur during pregnancy (violence in pregnancy affects more women than hypertension, gestational diabetes, or any other ante-partum complication).



Care & Support in GBV (4)

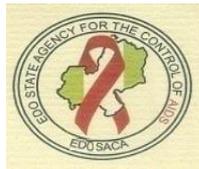
- Ensure confidentiality and privacy
- Respect patient's views and perceptions
- Do not be judgmental
- Treat and manage the patients in an empathetic way
- Start management as soon as possible & treat according to severity of damage
- Assist to make a plan for the protection and safety of the injured party or parties



Care & Support in GBV (5)

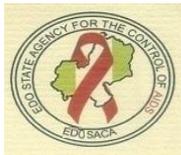
Services include:

- Pregnancy testing, emergency contraception
- STI testing and/or prophylaxis
- Treatment of injuries, pain relief
- Psychosocial counseling.
- The health facility can act as an important **referral point** for other services that the victim may need e.g. social welfare, legal aid, spiritual guidance.



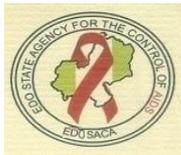
Care & Support in GBV (6)

- Healthcare workers are also well positioned to collect and document the evidence necessary for corroborating the circumstances of the assault, and for identifying the perpetrator and the health consequences of the event. Such evidence is often crucial to the prosecution of cases of sexual violence.



Take Home

- While there is care and support for victims of Gender Based Violence, the ultimate goal is prevention.
- Be your brothers keeper
- Report any unusual or suspicious actions/pointer for investigations, legal action and prosecution as case may be
- Above all show love and care.



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