



Keeping it safe! ChemSex in a time of COVID-19

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apcom



ABOUT APCOM

We improve the health and rights of gay men, other men who have sex with men, and SOGIESC people in Asia and the Pacific.

Our Vision

APCOM wants a world where Gay men, MSM and SOGIESC people can fully participate in and achieve sustainable development in all aspects of their health, rights and wellbeing.

Our Work

- Education & Innovation
- Research & Advocacy
- Community Engagement





PAKISTAN

Yasir Ali Khan

Monitoring & Evaluation Officer

Greenstar Social Marketing

NFR –HIV/AIDs Project of GFATM

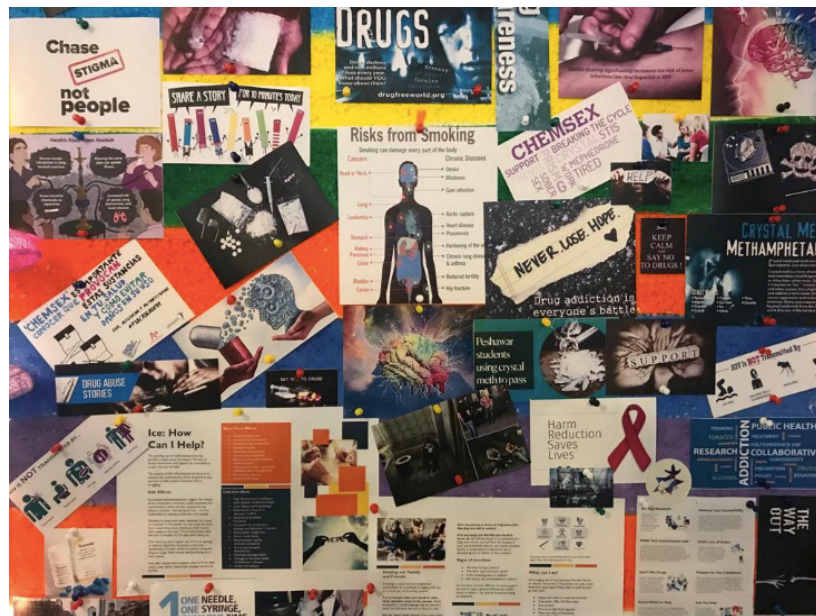
Volunteer working with HOPE

Running support groups for substance use/Abuse, chemsex issues with the community

- Due to loneliness, drug use and chemsex has increased (special crystal meth)
- Chemsex is a way to overcome anxiety, depression and mental health issues during COVID-19
- PrEP is not available in Pakistan
- Limited transportation to access to health services during COVID-19, including condoms - thus chemsex parties have no protection

Pakistan in a context of:

- Criminalisation of male to male sex
- Very high stigma and discrimination towards gender and sexual diverse community
- Forgotten populations in terms of data, and support to the community - and further marginalised by COVID-19





THAILAND

Bright (Thisanut Kaewnukul)

*Campaigns Officer
APCOM*

Experiences from 3 Thai people aged 25 - 40:

- Chemsex is class-based, looks, physical fitness - and a very closed group that they trust. No concerns about COVID-19 or HIV
- Chemsex parties still goes on at the weekend in the residence - as there's no jobs and drugs are cheaper with not much demand during lockdowns
- Drugs used are Tina (crystal menth) and G (GHB)
- Most guys are on PrEP, no condom use - they would self administer any symptoms of STDs without going to the clinics for fear of losing their reputations
- Main difference during lockdown is that, there's no tourists in the chemsex parties now





Vietnam

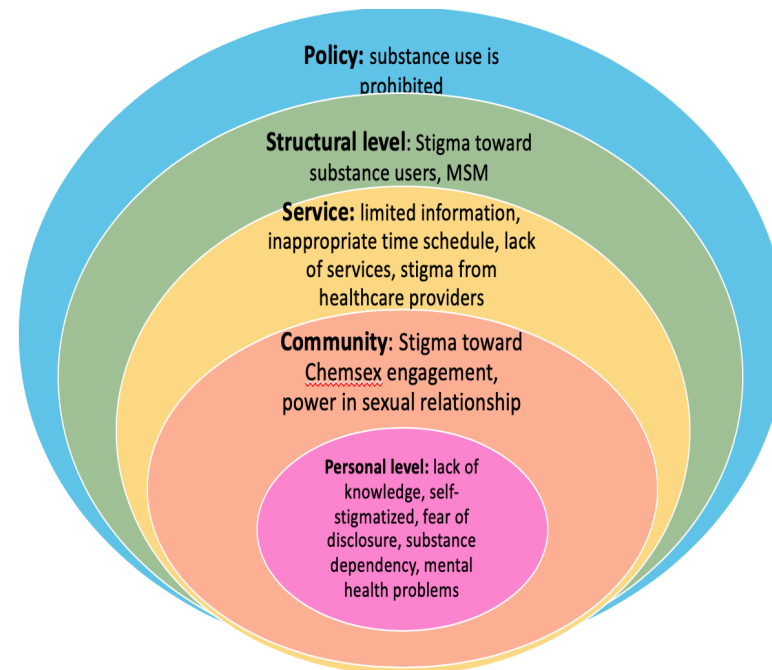
Doan Thanh Tung

Executive Director

Lighthouse Social Enterprise

- Poorer access to sexual health and harm reduction among the Chemsex community during COVID due to travel restriction, quarantine and lockdown.
- Increased mental health issues among the community
- Economical issues faced by chemsex community, especially among those are sexual workers, young chemsex-ers
- Interruptions in using PrEP, counseling and testing services

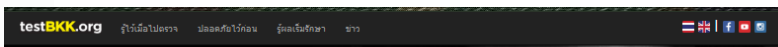
Multiple level of barriers faced by chemsex community:





APCOM's Work on Chemsex

www.testBKK.org



เครื่องมือแอลกอฮอล์และยาเสพติด

คำคุณศัพท์เครื่องมือแอลกอฮอล์และยาเสพติดเพื่อการศึกษาเท่านั้น สิ่งสำคัญคือคุณต้องรู้ว่าคุณสามารถเข้าถึงเครื่องมือแอลกอฮอล์และยาเสพติดได้อย่างไร (โดยเฉพาะอย่างยิ่งจากทางออนไลน์) ก่อนของการใช้ยาเสพติดอาจช่วยชีวิตคุณได้ และขอขอบคุณคุณที่อ่าน และอย่าลืมใช้สติด้วย



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HARM REDUCTION RESOURCES FOR THAI MSM



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THANK YOU

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