

An Integrated Theoretical Model Illustrating HIV/AIDS in India: Material, Behavioral and Social Support Frameworks in Perspective¹

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I integrate economic, behavioral, and social support perspectives to provide a theoretical account of the HIV/AIDS experience in India. Given the complex nuances of the current appearance of the infection in the nation, no one particular theoretical interpretation might suffice to provide a holistic comprehension of the AIDS situation in the nation. The conflict perspective highlights class effects and poverty in explaining the spread of the infection. The behavioral framework, although allied to the Marxian postulate, moves beyond economic determinism and explains the spread of the infection among other marginal social groups (India's hijra population or men who have sex with men). The social support model outlines social attitudes towards the marginalized which impedes with health intervention, risk assessment or disclosure of health status. Each theoretical tradition provides a cognitive link and is intertwined. In speculating how agency can emerge in the middle of social obstacles, I will discuss how Marxian notions of class consciousness, Goffman's idea of the stigmatized educating the non-stigmatized and Bourdieu's concept of social capital correspond with the preliminary, coalescence and institutional stages of a collective movement raising consciousness about HIV and AIDS in a developing context. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2017 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

KEYWORDS: HIV, AIDS, Stigma, Social Support, Material Conditions, Health Behavior.

¹ **Acknowledgements:** This paper is a theoretical derivate of my dissertation "An Integrated Approach to the Determinants of HIV Contagion in India". My sincere gratitude to Dr. Philip Yang at Texas Woman's University for navigating me through the process. A version of the current work was presented at the Eastern Sociological Annual Meetings in 2015. This paper is a cumulative product of my graduate scholarship on the broader topic of HIV and AIDS in India.

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