PROJECT SUMMARY

**Sex Cells: a pilot study investigating cell phone-based sexual networks among men-who-have-sex with-men and transgender males in South India**

Increasingly, researchers have recognized the significance of new technology, particularly the internet, in the creation of the sexual networks of MSM. While the internet is available in major urban centers in India, many individuals who are economically less advantaged have neither the financial resources nor the computer literacy to access the internet. However, many economically disadvantaged MSM in India do in fact possess access to cell phone technology, and the new social networking services offered to customers open up numerous opportunities to broker sexual transactions. In an effort to gain a better understanding of the individual and population-level dynamics of HIV transmission among MSM in southern India, this study is exploring the cell phone-based social networks of MSM to collect individual-level socio-cultural and contextual information about the sexual partnerships of MSM and to generate sexual networks of the population.

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