

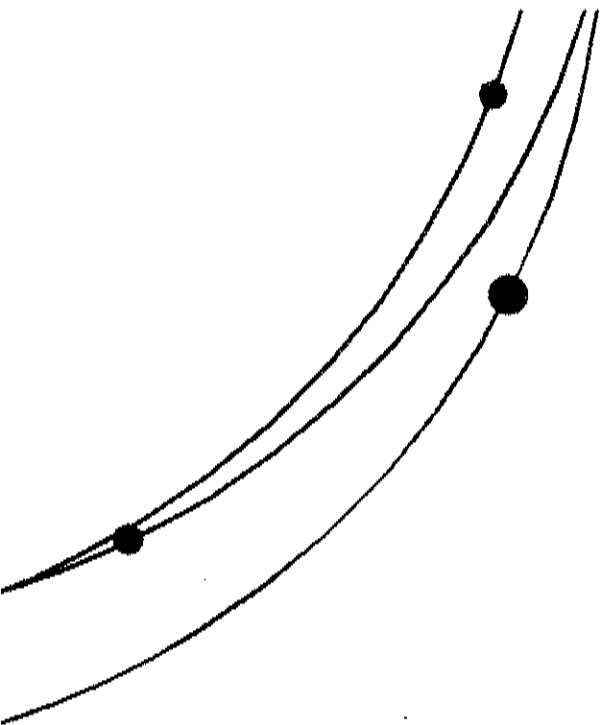
South African Indians and HIV/AIDS:

Towards an
understanding of the
rapid increase in HIV

incidence in the
Chatsworth
Community

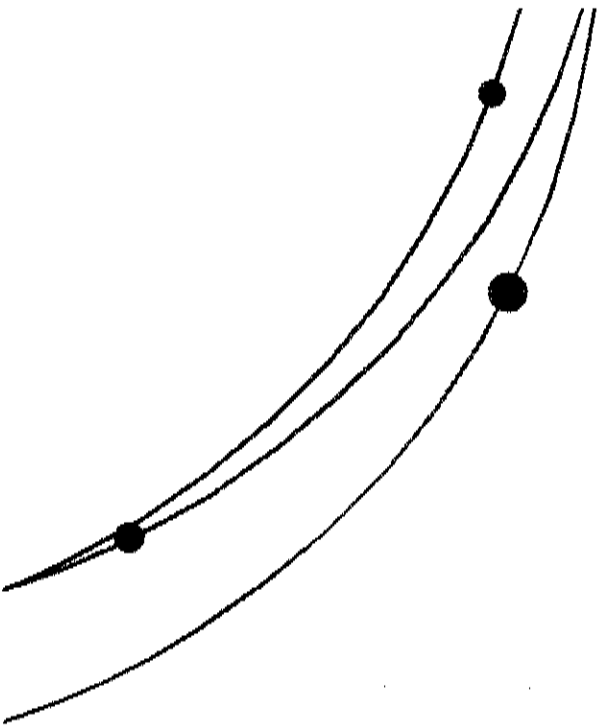
Y. Dabidoo (Durban)

Paper presented at the Gender Mainstreaming Workshop,
3 September 2008



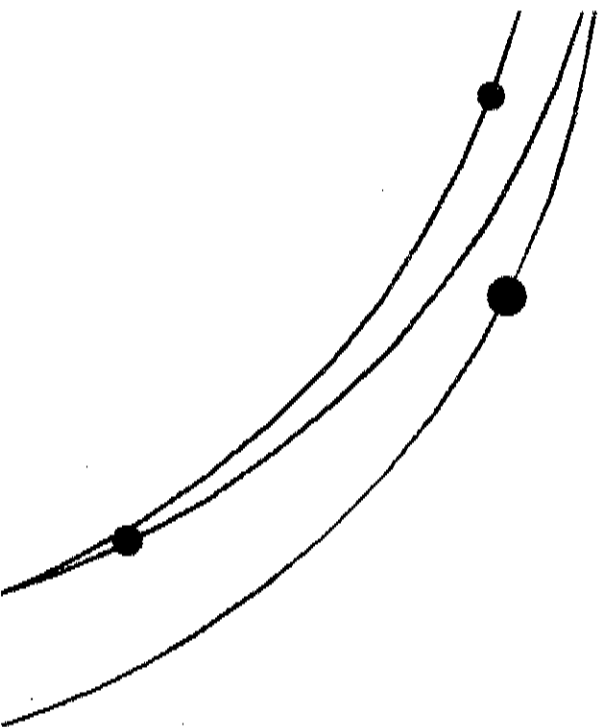
Methods

- **Qualitative**
- **Interview guide- semi structured**
- **Looking at Life Histories**



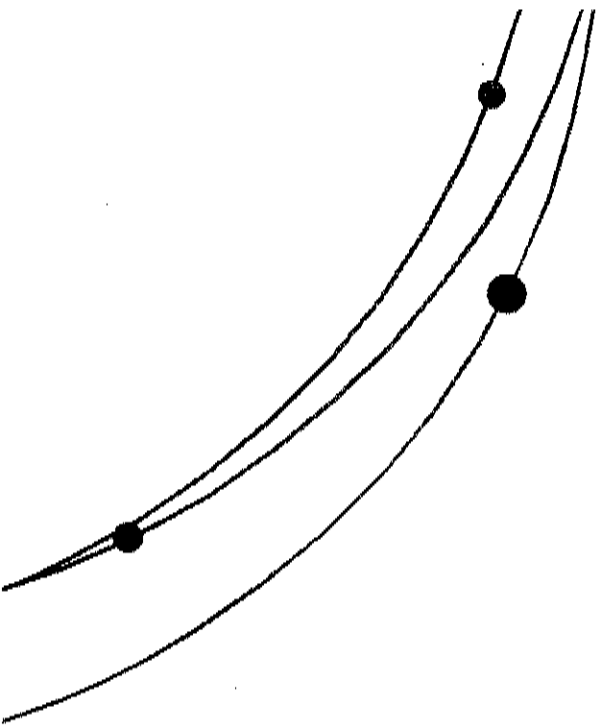
Context

- In understanding why HIV is on the increase
- Look at the background in terms of history, location and culture



Gender, Power and Inequalities

Contributing factor to the spread of HIV
among the South African Indian
Community of Chatsworth



Culture, Gender and the spread of HIV/AIDS

- Shantha ,

"I am HIV positive, I was a faithful wife. I knew my husband had other women, but what could I do. As an Indian woman you are brought up to not question a man and always obey your husband and be faithful. Look at me now I am HIV positive because I was too scared to confront my husband about his other women and to insist on safe sex. But what can I do now, it was the way I was brought up that a wife needs to know her place."

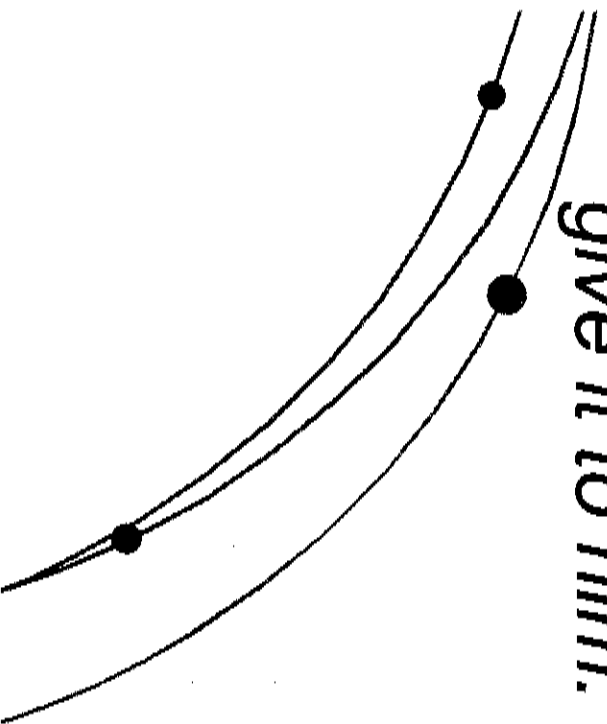
- Kavish,

“We grew up learning that women should always respect men especially their husbands. Even my mother told me that a wife should always obey and respect her husband no matter what. A wife is there to care for the family and a man provides for his family and as a provider he must be respected. As a man I do believe I am superior and my wife should obey me.”

Violent and Abusive Relationships

- **Monica,**

“If I did not want to have sex with my husband he would hit me and tell me that I am his wife and if he wanted sex I had to give it to him.”



- Ashnie,

“For me this is normal, it is a way of life for most of the women here in Chatsworth. My boyfriend hits me and sometimes forces himself on me. I grew up with my father hitting my mother all the time, so this is normal to me in my relationship. I just have to deal with it.”

Economic Dependence

- Vanitha,

"I wanted to leave my husband many times, but how would I support my children? I am not working. I have never worked before, my husband didn't allow me to work; he wanted me at home to take care of the family. He provided me with what I needed. If I had left him and gone to my parents, how would I have supported my children, as my parents are pensioners? I was forced to stay with him for that reason."