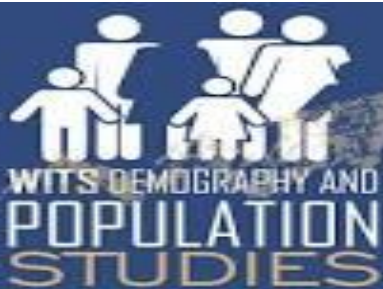


Theoretical approaches to social science study of the influence of COVID-19 on SRH

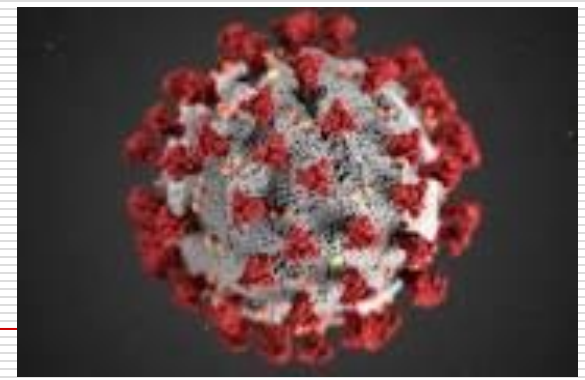
Sunday Adedini

September 3, 2020

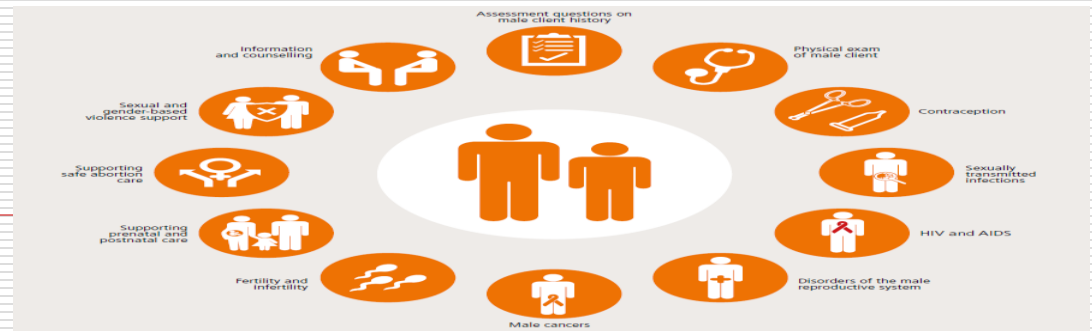
**IUSSP Webinar Series on COVID-19
Pandemic and SRH in Africa**



Presentation Outline



- SRH concerns in COVID-19 pandemic
- What do we know about COVID-19 and SRH issues?
- Theoretical perspectives to understanding the influence of COVID-19 on SRH issues



COVID-19 pandemic and SRH concerns

- The crisis unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic is putting the fight against SRH concerns at risk.
 - Adolescent SRH&R
 - Child and forced marriage
 - Female genital mutilation
 - STIs (including HIV/AIDS)
 - Abortion and post-abortion care
-

COVID-19 pandemic and SRH concerns

- Maternal health
 - antenatal, childbirth and postnatal care services side-lined in many countries.
 - The provision of SRH services is facing serious challenges due to COVID-19
 - Gender-based violence (GBV)
 - >40% increase in cases of GBV across countries in Africa (UN Women, 2020).
-

COVID-19 pandemic and SRH concerns

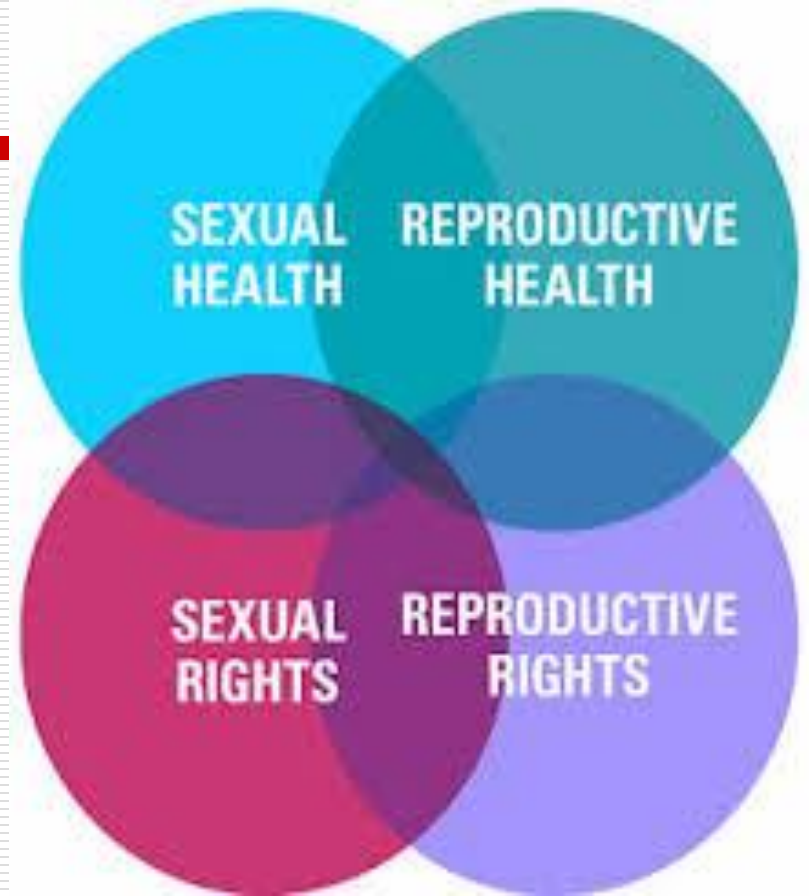
- With COVID-19 disrupting the health systems, FP commodity supply chains, and ways of life generally are being disrupted, leading to increased rates of:
 - unintended pregnancy;
 - unsafe abortion;
 - unmet needs for family planning
 - Difficult access to FP services; 26 million women are projected to lose access to FP in 36 countries supported by Global Financing Facility.
-

COVID-19 pandemic and SRH concerns

- These SRH concerns have far-reaching implications:
 - Unintended pregnancies could put mothers and children at risk of:
 - Malnutrition
 - Disease
 - Economic hardship – which will push the vulnerable population deeper into poverty.
-

COVID-19 pandemic and SRH concerns

- There is need to study the influence of COVID-19 on the SRH concerns in order to provide responses and supports that are evidence-based



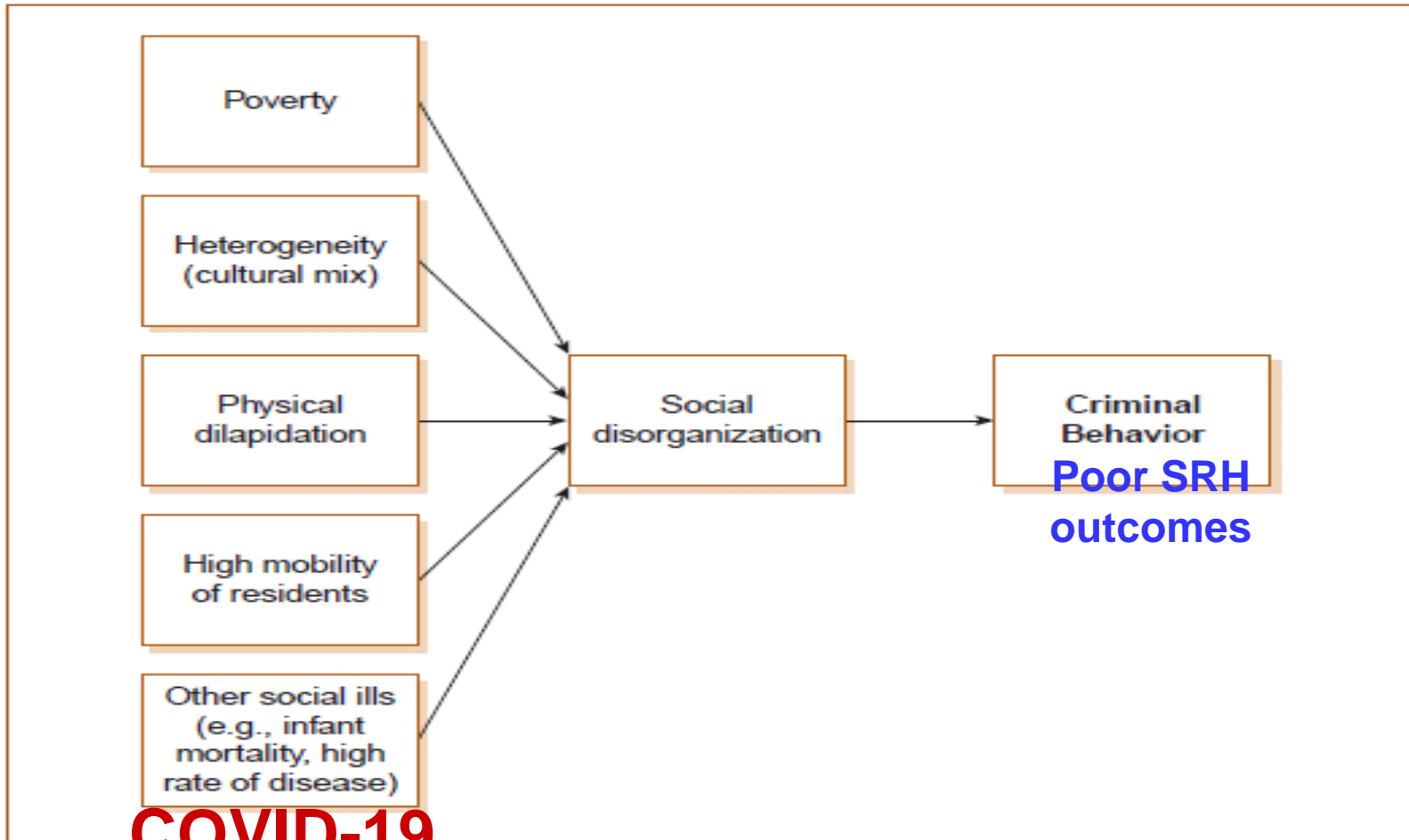
Theoretical perspectives

- Some relevant theories can be employed in the explanation and study of the influences of COVID-19 on SRH issues.
-

Social disorganization theory (SDT)

- Developed by Shaw & McKay, SDT shifted criminological scholarship from a focus on the pathology of people to the pathology of places.
 - It hypothesizes that social problems such as a financial and economic crises can threaten the well-being of individuals in a society.
 - SDT can also be employed in the study of health crisis such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.
-

Social disorganization theory (SDT)



COVID-19

Gender and power theory (TGP)

- Developed by Robert Connell, TGP is a social structural theory on sexual inequality and gender and power imbalance.
 - TGP can be employed to explain the increasing rate of gender-based violence in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.
-

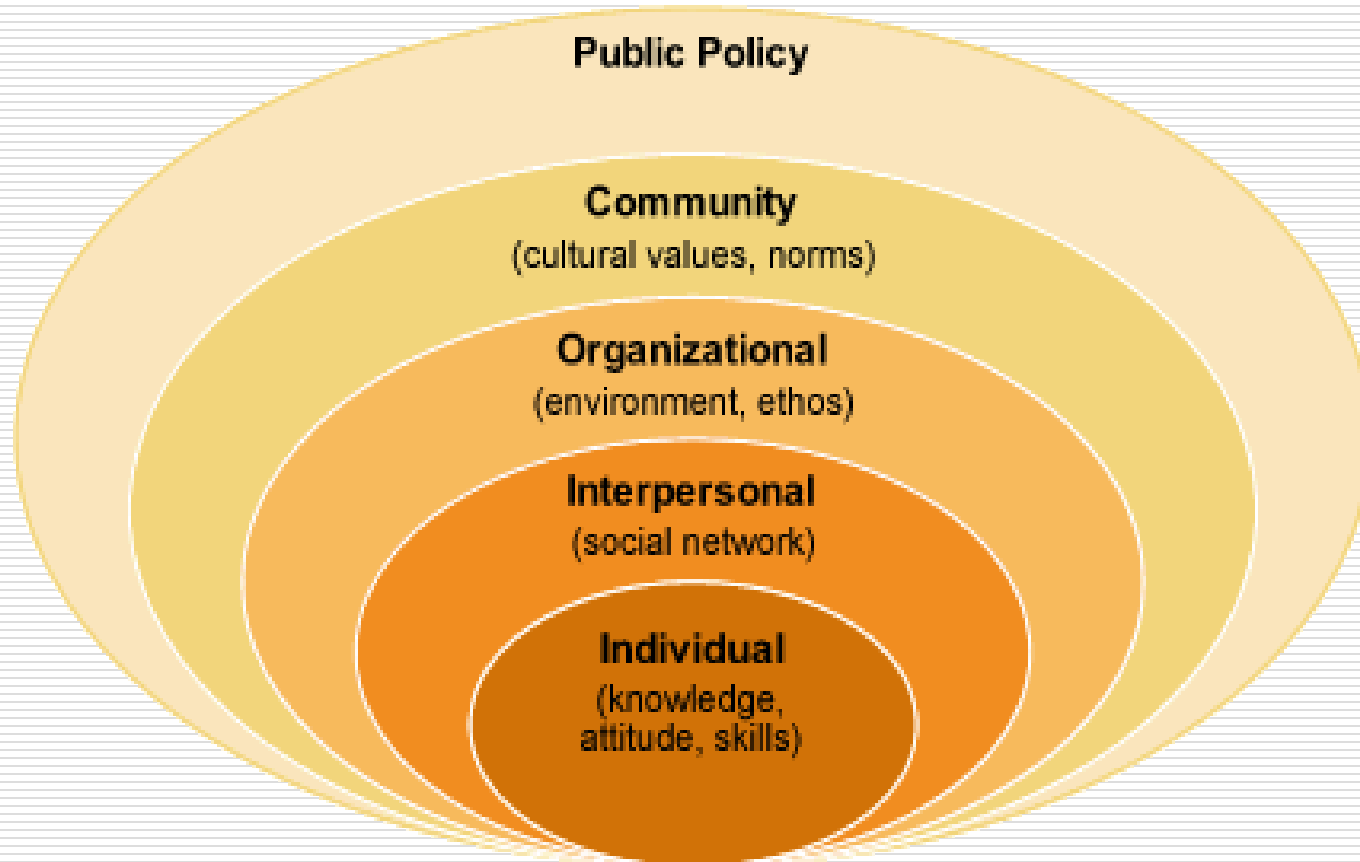
Ecological theory (ET)

- The ecological systems theory holds that we encounter different environments throughout our lifespan that may influence our behavior in varying degrees. These systems include the micro system, the mesosystem, the exosystem, the macro system, and the chronosystem.
 - ET is a relevant theory that can be used to explain the influence of control measures (lockdown, movement restriction) of COVID-19 on the SRH behaviours
-

Social ecological model (SEM)

- SEM has five stages– Individual, Interpersonal, Organizational, Community, and Public Policy.
 - As with a lot of health issues that people face, the Socio-Ecological Model can be used to study and develop a practical solution to reduce the effect of COVID-19 on SRH outcomes
-

Social ecological model (SEM)



Conclusion

- As the whole world faces health crisis of a significant magnitude (COVID-19), social scientists/population and public health researchers can contribute to practical solutions to reduce the effect of COVID-19 on poor SRH outcomes.
- Appropriate theoretical perspectives will be useful to study and develop proper responses and supports towards addressing the negative influences of the pandemic on SRH concerns in Africa and globally.

Thank you

Contact

sunday.adedini@gmail.com

sunday.adedini1@wits.ac.za
