BUILDING RESILIENCE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS - WHAT WORKS IN PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT?

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Fitting violence against women within the frame of resilience

- **Crisis, what crisis?**
- In many communities in countries of the global south the use of violence against women is socially normative, with most women experiencing some form of violence each year and nearly half experiencing physical or sexual violence.
- The threat of violence within a relationship is ever present.

- There are many different ways of reflecting on resilience in violence against women, but we have a major focus on women’s and men’s ability to draw on resources in order to navigate crisis and avoid violence.

- This raises two questions: what are women’s resources for preventing violence?
- What do we know about how to strengthen women’s resources?
- What about men and their resilience in the face of violent social norms?
Physical or sexual violence against a partner in the past year men
Physical or sexual violence against a partner in the past year women

• Past year prevalence of physical or sexual intimate partner violence
Theoretical model: based on ecological model
Gender: the connection between masculinity, femininity and violence

• Society defined the values, roles, behaviours, and attributes thought to be appropriate and expected for men and women
• Determined by societies and their subgroups
• They are propagated through the actions of people and institutions within a society
• Gender is about power, privilege and entitlement with men hierarchically positioned over women
Structural Equation Model of drivers of women’s experience of IPV: UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific (n=3106 women, 4 countries)
Table: Logistic regression model of factors associated with women experiencing physical or sexual violence from a husband/male partner in the past 12 months*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Odds ratio</th>
<th>95% confidence</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engagement in religion: no religion / does not attend</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attends services only</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participates actively or leads</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household income contribution: unemployed / no income</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than half of income</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>1.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about half</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>4.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more than half of income</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>6.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all/nearly all</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>refuges sex when she doesn't want it</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* adjusted for community, age group, partners alcohol drinking, childhood IPV exposure

- Religious institution engagement, rural North eastern DRC compliments protective power of income and gender empowerment
Understanding masculinities

• Within a society one version of manhood (men’s roles, behaviours and attributes) is generally considered most legitimate
• Raewyn Connell called this ‘hegemonic masculinity’
• It’s not always the physically most powerful (violent) masculinity, but the most physically dominant masculinities are an accentuation of it (rather than aberrant extreme)

• It dominates other (especially more peaceful) versions of masculinity
• The dominant position of hegemonic masculinity in the ideas of society is not imposed, but accepted by women and men as a social ideal showing how men (and gender relations) should be
• It is even accepted by men who cannot live up to it and women who are oppressed by it
MASCUFINITY AND VIOLENCE:

• Dominance and control over women are frequently part of the set of male attributes and behaviours that constitute hegemonic masculinity

• Physical strength and toughness are very frequently associated manly attributes, and violent competition between men is often used in demonstrations of this, such as fights for honour and territory

• The use of violence over women is a source of power accorded to men in many settings
Hegemonic masculinity and its links to violence are often resisted by men

• Actively working against men’s use of violence and hegemonic masculinity

• Adopting alternative non-violent, sometimes GBTI masculinities

• But the links may be complex
Men’s resilience against hegemonic masculinity

- Using latent class analysis, we categorise 1737 men using 7 violence & sexually risky variables that have been associated with hegemonic masculinity into 3 categories: 24.7% were high violence, 29.6% medium violence and 45.7% were low violence.
Intersections of hegemonic masculinity and poverty

- Masculinities that most strongly emphasise power and force are particularly common among men living in poverty and who have been victims of violence
- Origins are in part neuropsychological:
  - Impact of exposure to trauma and adversity in childhood on brain development
  - Leading to heightened propensity for aggression, impulsivity, and an absence of empathy and remorse
- Part due to socialisation and subversive resilience pathways:
  - extreme poverty and unattainability of hegemonic masculinity through conventional routes (jobs, education) promote sub-cultural norms
  - e.g. of gang involvement, drug use/dealing, criminality, emphasised dominance over women and violent competition between men
Drivers of violence: relative importance of key factors in male IPV perpetration (data from UN MSC in Asia and Pacific, 6 countries)
• PREVENTING MEN’S USE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
Empowering women to build their resilience

- Economic empowerment interventions include: direct cash-transfers, livelihoods training, microfinance interventions, small business, & work
- More impactful if combined with gender transformative interventions
- E.g. IMAGE evaluation, which provided microfinance and gender training to women in rural South Africa. After two-years, women reported a 55% reduction in their experiences of IPV
- Where economic interventions are delivered on their own the evidence on effectiveness is weak with studies showing increasing IPV, no impact, and sometimes a decrease in IPV
Resilience to sexual violence through combining gender empowerment and self-defence: Outcome of the Canadian trial of the Enhanced Access, Acknowledge, Act Sexual Assault Resistance Programme (Senn et al NEMJ 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Control Group (N = 442)</th>
<th>Resistance Group (N = 451)</th>
<th>Absolute Risk Reduction (95% CI)</th>
<th>Relative Risk Reduction (95% CI)</th>
<th>P Value</th>
<th>Number Needed to Educate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed rape</td>
<td>42 (9.8)</td>
<td>23 (5.2)</td>
<td>4.6 (0.6 to 8.4)</td>
<td>46.3 (6.8 to 69.1)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted rape</td>
<td>40 (9.3)</td>
<td>15 (3.4)</td>
<td>5.9 (2.5 to 9.2)</td>
<td>63.2 (33.2 to 79.7)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any rape</td>
<td>67 (15.5)</td>
<td>34 (7.7)</td>
<td>7.8 (3.2 to 12.4)</td>
<td>50.4 (24.1 to 67.6)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coercion</td>
<td>62 (13.9)</td>
<td>48 (10.5)</td>
<td>3.4 (-1.1 to 7.8)</td>
<td>24.1 (-10.6 to 48.0)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted coercion</td>
<td>103 (22.6)</td>
<td>67 (14.5)</td>
<td>8.1 (2.6 to 13.5)</td>
<td>35.8 (15.6 to 51.1)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonconsensual sexual contact</td>
<td>184 (39.1)</td>
<td>121 (25.8)</td>
<td>13.3 (5.2 to 21.4)</td>
<td>34.1 (15.2 to 48.8)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interventions parenting teens

Evaluation among 3780 school students in 24 schools, 8 of which were offered parenting intervention

↑ 39% condom use

↑ 48% in contraceptive use

↓ 24% in non-partner rape of girls

↓ depression among girls

↓ 100% reduction in transactional sex

↓ 58% reduction in pregnancy
Impact of Skhokho for families on parents
Building resilience in men

• Interventions using participatory methods that are based on critical reflection:
  • Stepping Stones:
    ↓ 38% in men’s use of physical/sexual violence sustained to 2 years
    ↓ 33% reduction in HSV2 (herpes) new infections

• Delivery in schools: 4th R intervention, Canada (D Wolfe, 2008)
Social norms change programmes: work with men and women in communities

• SASA intervention in Uganda

↓ social acceptance of violence by women and men

↓ 52% reduction in women’s past year experience of IPV
Violence against women: growing the evidence base

• Considerable growth in the last decade in the knowledge base around what drives violence and works in prevention

• Pipeline work includes the What Works to Prevent Violence Global Programme
### Region | Countries (n=13)
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Africa | DR Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia,
MENA | Occupied Palestinian Territories,
South Asia | Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Nepal