SCALEABLE EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS TO PREVENT VAWG

Rachel Jewkes,
Executive Scientist in the Office of the South African Medical Research Council’s President
Secretary: Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) (www.svri.org)
Consortium Director, What Works To Prevent Violence? Global Programme To Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (www.whatworks.co.za)
SDG 5.2: Goal to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls

A key challenge is to prevent:

- Physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner
- Non-partner sexual violence
Drivers of women’s experience of IPV & relative importance of factors

POVERTY

FREQUENT QUARRELING

PARTNER INFIDELITY

PARTNER UNEMPLOYED

PARTNER DRUGS

HIGHLY CONTROLLING

WITNESSING MOTHER ABUSE

CHILDHOOD EMOTIONAL ABUSE

CHILDHOOD PHYSICAL ABUSE

CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE
Drivers of male IPV perpetration & relative importance of factors

- Frequent quarrelling with partner
- Childhood physical abuse
- Childhood sexual abuse
- Depression
- Alcohol abuse
- Current food insecurity
- No high school education
- Gang involvement
- Fights
- Intimate partner violence
- Transactional sex
- Controlling behaviour
- Low gender-equitable attitudes
- 2+ lifetime sexual partners
- Childhood emotional abuse or neglect
- Witness abuse of mother
Drivers of non-partner sexual violence:

• **Causes of perpetration:**
  • Most substantially reflect key drivers as IPV perpetration but except relationship factors do not apply
  • Male sexual entitlement is critical
  • Engagement in sub-cultures reifying violent and anti-social masculinities is a particularly important

Analysis of masculinity classes and their relationship with NP rape shows men who exhibit hyper-masculinities are 8x more likely to rape than more equitable men
So what are the tasks?

- Change social norms on gender relations, masculinity & use of violence
- Reduce structural inequalities – poverty
- Strengthen relationship dynamics - communication
- Strengthen mental health and reduce alcohol abuse
- Change parenting to strengthen child protection
- Protecting women
Economic empowerment + gender empowerment

- Economic:
  - Microfinance
  - Cash transfers
  - Livelihood strengthening (Creating Futures)
  - Work?
  - Other income generating activities

- Gender empowerment:
  - Women
  - Men
  - Families
  - Communities

Stepping Stones: 38% reduction in perpetration of severe partner violence
Social norm change in communities

• SASA intervention
• Safe Homes and Respect for Everyone (SHARE) intervention (elements of SASA + Stepping Stones + safe HIV disclosure)

SHARE reduced women’s past year experience of physical IPV by 21%
Prevention in institutions - college campuses:

- Enhanced Access, Acknowledge, Act Sexual Assault Resistance Programme

- **For women:**

  - Gender empowerment + physical protection skills
Prevention in institutions - schools:

Physical dating violence was about 2.5 times greater among control versus intervention school students.
Central issues in scalability:

- Evidence-based interventions
  - Multi-component
  - Based on theory of gender & power
  - Effective change methodology

- Platforms
  - Women’s organisations?
  - Other development platforms?
  - Institutions?
  - Workplaces?

- Political climate for VAWG prevention

- Budget

- Adaptation for local settings is essential
  - Women?
  - Women and men?
  - Families – may be particularly important in Asia

Some risk factors we know we need to address but we are not so confident about HOW to address them

- Change social norms on gender relations, masculinity & use of violence
- Reduce structural inequalities – poverty
- Strengthen relationship dynamics - communication
- Strengthen mental health and reduce alcohol abuse
- Change parenting to strengthen child protection
- Protecting women

So what are the tasks?