



The challenges and opportunities for developing and implementing gender transformative prevention interventions

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The Challenges and Hopes of Interventions around Gender Equality and Intimate Partner
Violence Prevention
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Objective

- To discuss some of the challenges experienced from developing and implementing gender transformative prevention interventions
- As well as the opportunities

Data sources (PPIs)

- SA is rich in PPIs
- Aim to prevent perpetration of GBV, IPV, SIPV before it happens
- Rigorously tested and showed impact
- Lessons learned from at least 3.5 of these interventions



Development considerations

- The first challenge for gender transformative interventions is to change gender norms and behaviour
- PPIs interventions must be
 - Take a pro-feminist perspective
 - Theory based
 - Address specific risk factors and link these to tangible outcomes
 - Cultural relevance
 - Manualised and implemented in a standard format
- Ensure the intervention development process is ethically approved

Developing interventions

- Target groups, respect and cultural relevance
 - Facilitating across different age groups is a skill and a privilege
 - However, there are tensions
 - E.g.,
 - Working with parents
 - Parents' own childhood experiences
 - Essentially saying our 'ancestors' were wrong
 - Facilitators can seem disrespectful, especially when correcting misconceptions
 - Bringing up past histories can be painful
 - Compromise their power position... parents need to maintain with children

Facilitators and training

- Training of facilitators:
 - How to prepare them for potentially desperate situations in the field
 - Anticipate Vicarious Trauma – attempt to support facilitators
 - Can be tricky to rely on not very flexible organisations systems
- Aspirations of facilitators, SES disparities
 - First, our facilitator recruitment strategy
 - A high school pass means likely more educated than participants
 - Their aspirations may be different from those of participants
 - “Come to the same level as participants”
 - Maintaining an ‘appropriate’ relationship can be a challenge
 - Empathy or Guilt?

Support

- Regular feedback/debriefing is an opportunity to learn
 - How facilitation skills grow
 - What challenges/dilemmas they come across, e.g., participants with desperate social or relationship problems
 - How facilitators cope with challenges in workshops
 - How extensive the dual role (facilitators/quasi-counsellor) is... Expectation to respect participants may mean blurred lines
- Referral systems
 - How to know participants are using referral sheets
 - How to decide reliance on the standard/universally available service is adequate and ethical
 - Variability of support for participants in different projects may be a big challenge
 - Our experience – facilitators find that participants don't use the services, instead call them instead

Duty to care?

- Do we have a duty to care?
 - We ask participants to talk about personal/sensitive issues
 - We assume they know about available services, do they?
 - Sometimes we assume they don't use them, how do we really know?
- Burden to care is on facilitators
 - Impossible job to care in an environment dictated by protocol that don't necessarily allow them to care

Discussion

- Should we have social problems and social responsibility training to assist facilitators?
- How do we follow Vicarious Trauma guidelines at an organisational level? Funding?
- Standardise debriefing?
- Debriefing formalised at conceptualisation?
- Standardise referral systems? What is acceptable?
- Follow up use of referral systems in studies?
 - Understand how participants use them and for what?
 - How do we fund this?

THANK YOU...

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