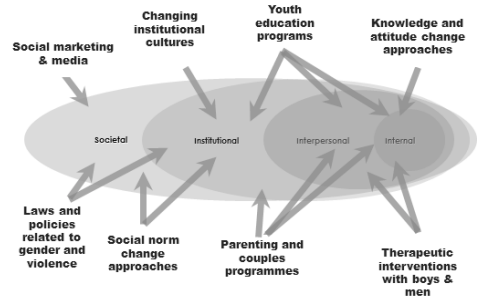


Work with men to end violence against women: Beyond the mantras and towards more effective practice

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The field: Transforming masculinities through combined changes across the social ecology



A critical assessment of the field's

1. Relations with feminism (practical and conceptual)
2. Understandings of men, gender, violence, and social change
3. Approach to engaging men

1. Relations with feminism

- Taking funding away: Rarely
 - Is there competition for resources?
- Taking over campaigns: No. But dominating and taking up space
 - Male advocates may ride the 'glass escalator'.
- Much of the work is done by feminist and women's organisations.

1. Relations with feminism

- Most organisations collaborate with women's organisations.
- Weakening the legitimacy of women-focused strategies and programs?
- Most efforts share feminist theoretical frameworks.

2. Understandings of men, gender, violence, and social change

- A focus on individual attitudes – Neglect of collective, institutional, and structural factors.
- Boys and men as an homogenous group:
 - Neglect of the intersections of multiple forms of social difference and inequality.
 - Challenges in mobilising disadvantaged men.
 - Neglect of men's sexual and gender diversity.
- Violence as homogenous
 - Versus the recognition of distinct patterns of violence in relationships.

2. Understandings of men, gender, violence, and social change

- Problematic framings:
 - That the problem is 'masculinity'
 - That there are two types of men

3. Complicating what we know about work with men

- A. Does it work?
- B. Will men benefit from progress towards non-violence and gender equality?
- C. Should work with men always be among men and by men? Should 'real men' lead the way?
- D. Is our goal to construct alternative masculinities?
- E. Is the best way to change men engaging directly with them?

A. That it works

- Most interventions have not been evaluated.
- Many evaluations are methodologically or conceptually weak.
- 3 reviews of published studies among men and boys (WHO 2007; Ricardo *et al.* 2011; Dworkin *et al.* 2013). Plus other reviews...
 - Show that interventions, if well designed, can produce change in attitudes and behaviours.

B. That it is in men's interests to support progress towards gender equality

- Men who use violence benefit from this.
- Men in general must also lose or give up privileges and unjust advantages. Sometimes it is 'win / lose'.
- But yes, we should appeal in part to how men will gain.

C. That the best people to work with men are other men

- All-male versus mixed-sex groups?
 - The most effective group composition depends on various factors.
- Male educators and facilitators?
 - Yes, there is evidence that men listen more readily to other men than to women.
 - But men often come to this issue in listening to women.
- That we should rely on 'real men' as the 'bell cows' of the movement.

D. That our goal is to encourage new, positive masculinities among men.



REAL MEN
DON'T USE VIOLENCE

- Appeals to 'real men' are complicit in dominant masculinity.
- 'Real men' may be precisely the men who *do* use violence.
- There are times when we should be encouraging men to disinvest in masculinity. And to be 'sissies' and 'mama's boys'.

E. That engaging directly with men is the best way to change men.

- It may be more effective to empower women in order to change men.
- We must change the structural and institutional conditions within which men make choices about how to live.

Conclusion

- 'Engaging men' now is a significant component of efforts to reduce and prevent men's violence against women.
- A critical assessment of the field's working assumptions is vital.

Resources

- Online resources on men's roles in ending violence against women:
 - <http://www.xyonline.net/category/article-content/violence>
- Dr Michael Flood's publications:
 - <http://www.xyonline.net/category/authors/michael-flood>
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