



imkaan

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Key Challenges

- Lack of systematic approaches to prevention
- Lack of funding for prevention work
- Lack of investment in research, monitoring and evaluation
- Shifting landscapes

Why Prevention?

- VAWG is costly in terms of human suffering and resources
- VAWG is not inevitable
- Prevention has been either neglected or de-prioritised in approaches to VAWG
- International frameworks include prevention e.g. CEDAW, UN Resolution on prevention
- WHO has highlighted the need for prevention

LEVEL Overall structures in the social order (Macro)

FACTORS

- Devaluing women**
 - Gender inequality, unequal power relations between women and men and the subordination of women
- Media violence**
 - Glorification of violence and sexualisation of women and girls
- Masculinity**
 - Normative heterosexual masculinity
- Impunity**
 - Weak or limited laws against violence
- Children's status**
 - Lack of respect for children's and especially girl's rights

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Interventions needed at a structural level to:**
- Achieve formal and substantive gender equality
 - Promote alternative models of masculinity
 - Regulate violence in the media
 - Regulate the sexualisation of women and girls in the media
 - Strengthen laws against violence
 - Promote children's/girl's rights

LEVEL Social norms and practices that regulate daily life (Meso)

FACTORS

- Entitlement**
 - Male entitlement to sex and services from women
- 'Honour' codes**
 - Enforcement of 'honour' and shame around violence against women
- Failed sanctions**
 - Failure of criminal justice system to respond, poor implementation of law resulting in no sanctions for perpetrators
- Poverty pockets**
 - High concentrations of poverty, discrimination and social exclusion resulting in very low access to material resources, education and regular employment
- Discrimination**
 - Discrimination against women and girls in society e.g. workplace and education

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Interventions at a societal level needed to:**
- Challenge the idea of male entitlement
 - Improve implementation of laws and increase conviction rates of /sanctions on perpetrators
 - Eliminate discrimination against women and girls
 - Challenge codes of 'honour' and shame
 - Improve access to resources for socially excluded and disadvantaged communities

LEVEL Day to day interactions in the immediate environment (Micro)

FACTORS

- Peer approval**
 - Peer-groups support, valorise and reinforce VAWG
- Opportunity**
 - Conditions that facilitate perpetration of VAWG
- Stereotypes**
 - Rigid constructions of what is 'normal' for a man/boy/woman/girl
- Family stress**
 - When pressures such as unemployment, social isolation and other stressors come together
- Myths**
 - Persistent stereotypes and misunderstandings about VAWG
- Obedience code**
 - Different expectations of daughters
- Rewards**
 - Real or perceived rewards for violence

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Interventions needed in the immediate environment needed to:**
- Challenge peer support for violence
 - Establish active peer disapproval of VAWG
 - Transform gender stereotypes through education and public awareness
 - Challenge myths about VAWG
 - Ensure all schools and workplaces have effective policies, sanctions and redress for all forms of violence against women and girls
 - Improve access to resources, education and support for families living in poverty, especially women and children
 - Re-value daughters

LEVEL Individual life history (Ontogenetic)

FACTORS

- Masculine Self**
 - Hostile towards women and approving of violence against women, need to prove self as 'real man'
- Depersonalised sex**
 - Sexual socialisation oriented to power and control
- Emotional and cognitive deficits**
 - Lack of empathy and respect for women and girls
- Stimulus abuse**
 - Abuse of pornography, alcohol and drugs
- Early trauma**
 - Early exposure to violence in the home or abuse of trust
- Growing up in families unable to provide basic care**

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Interventions needed at a personal and family level to:**
- Promote alternative secure masculine identities that do not devalue women
 - Expand perceptions of women and children, especially where they are seen/treated as property
 - Increase family support and parenting programmes which address gender
 - Promote sexual ethics and ethics of care through education
 - Enable young men to critically assess pornography
 - Ensure drug and alcohol abuse services are informed by understandings of VAWG
 - Ensure that mental health care informed by understandings of VAWG
 - Ensure support for children who have been abused

Promising Practices

- Community-based approaches such as *Raising Voices*, *Bell Bajao* and *Promundo*
- School-based approaches such as work by *Ashiana Network*, *NIA* and *STAR Project*
- Key themes around partnership, leadership and valuing expertise

Find out more!

www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk

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