

RWAMREC STUDY ON MASCULINITY AND GBV IN RWANDA



men working with women
to promote gender equality

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Outline

- Research question and objective
- Research methods used
- Findings
 - Participants profile
 - Causes of negative masculine behaviors
 - Reported violence against women
 - Gender and sexual relations
 - Cultural norms and practices
 - Perceptions about masculine behaviors
 - Response to gender policies, programs & law
- Conclusion & points of reflection

Research questions

What is the relation between masculinity perceptions and gender-based violence committed by men towards women?

Sub questions:

How do men see their male role in relation to partners and women? How do women see the role of males in society?

What aspects in Rwandese society may fuel negative masculine perceptions that justify violence against women?

Aim: Improve understanding on masculinity issues, and design strategies that tackle GBV and promote gender equality in Rwanda with a positive involvement of men.

Research methods & sampling

- Quantitative research: 3612 respondents (1311 women-36%)
- Methods IMAGES adapted version Rwanda)
- Qualitative research: 10 interviews key informants, 5 FDG's
- Sampling: NIS national level
- Limitation: Nationwide & time
- Ethical considerations: informed consent/voluntary

Research team

key researchers:

Mrs. Henny Slegh, medical anthropologist(Msc)

Mr. Augustin Kimonio, gender specialist(MA)

Data collectors: **72** trained collectors

Technical support: NISR & ICRW, Dr. Nughter-Netherlands

Profile of participants

Men (2301) 63.7%

- Mean age: 37
- Legally married 67,3%
- Catholics 51,8%
- Income mean: 24.870 RWF
(Less 4000 p/m: 17,7%)
- Work for money: 95,6%
- Ed. level: prim.sch: 65%
- no school: 17,6%

Women(1311) 36.3%

- mean age: 35
- Legally married:53,2%
- Catholics 44,5%
- Income mean:12.409 RWF
(Less 4000 p/m: 44,5%)
- Work for money: 89,6%
- Ed level: prim: 58,1%
- no school: 24,4%

Women belong to the poorest group and have only half of the mean income that men have. Nearly half of all women have less than 200 RWF per day to spend.

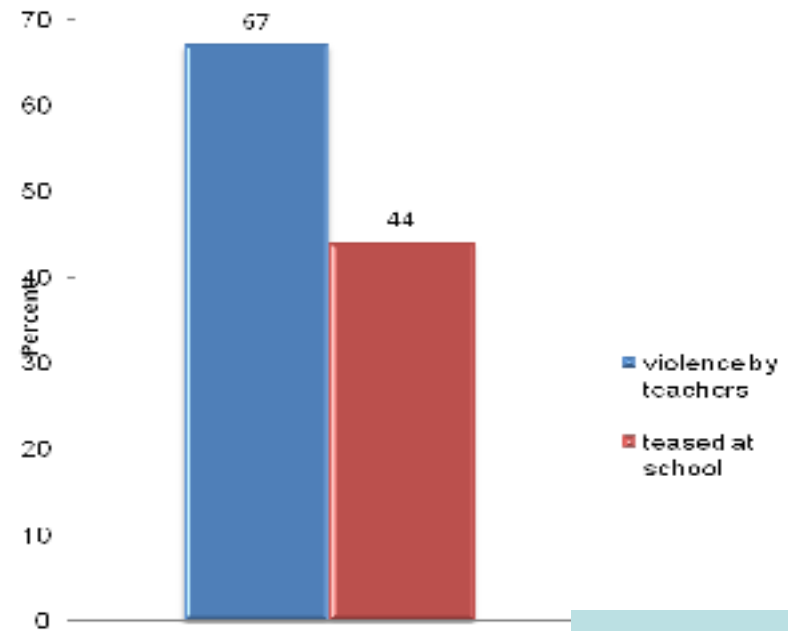
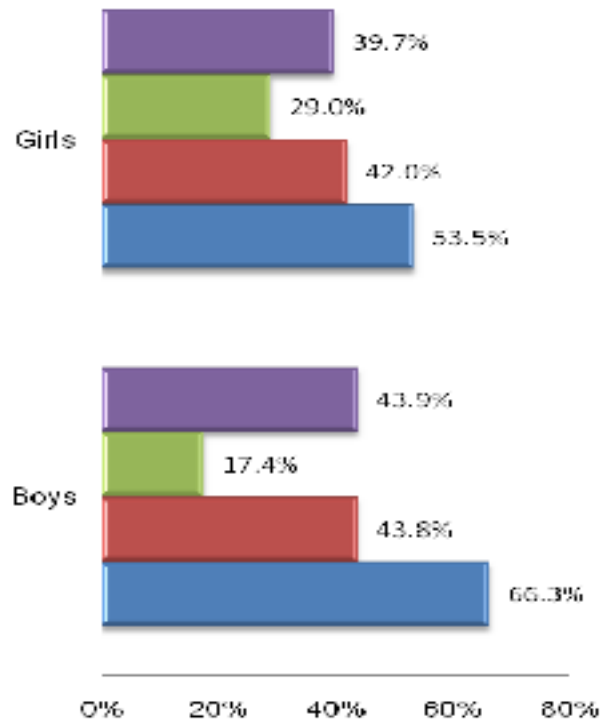
FINDINGS:

Causes of violent behaviors

Exposure to violence

Childhood

Violence at school



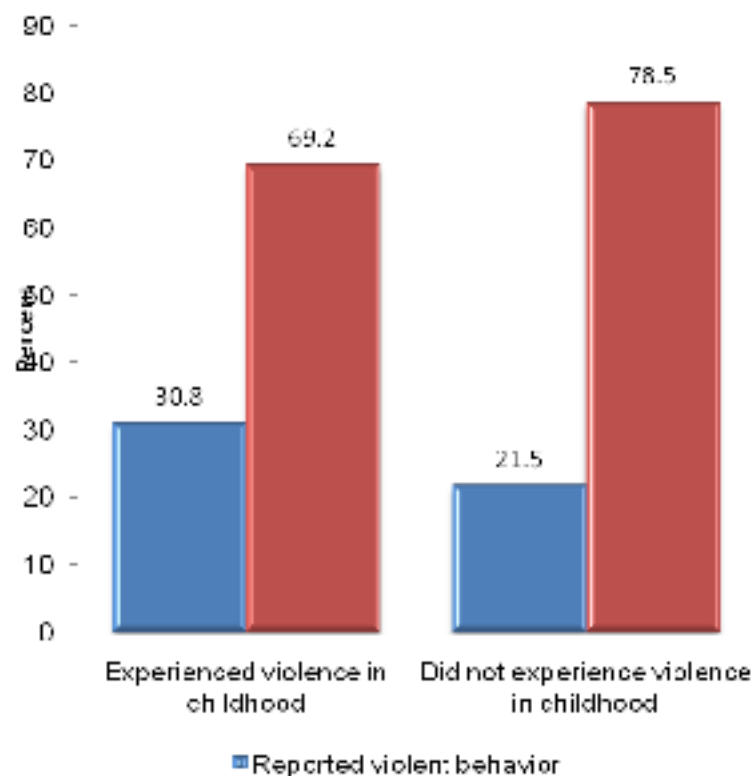
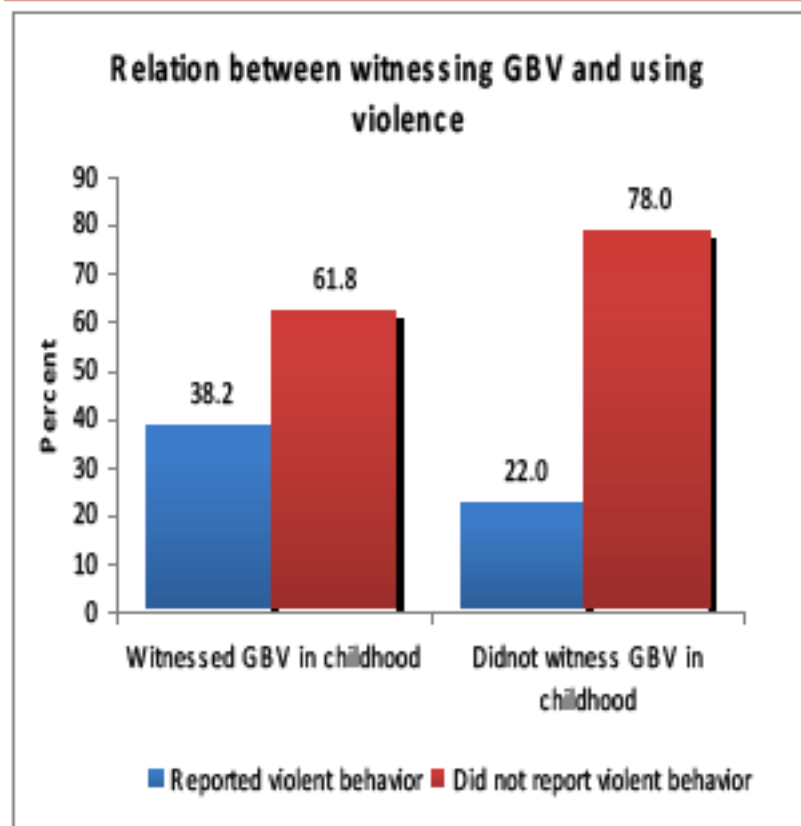
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Influence violence in childhood on use GBV adults

(n=2301)

Witnessing GBV leads to using GBV ($p < 0.05$)

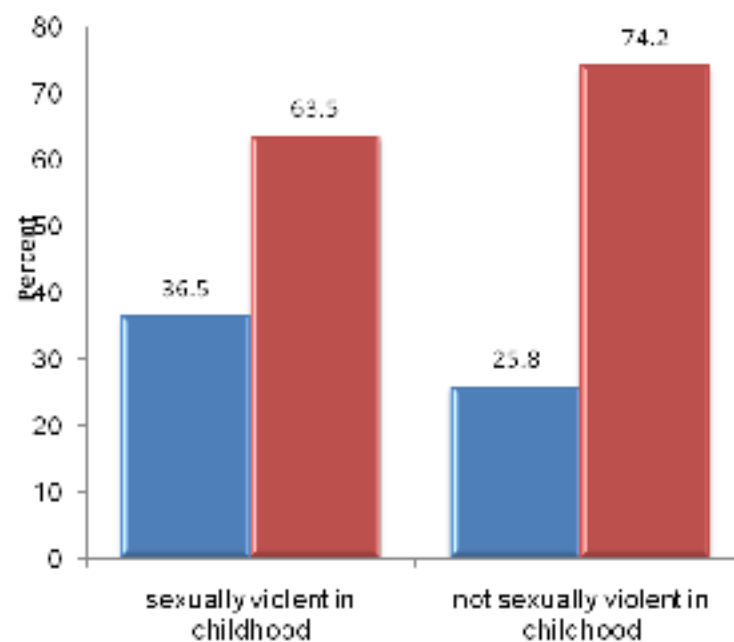
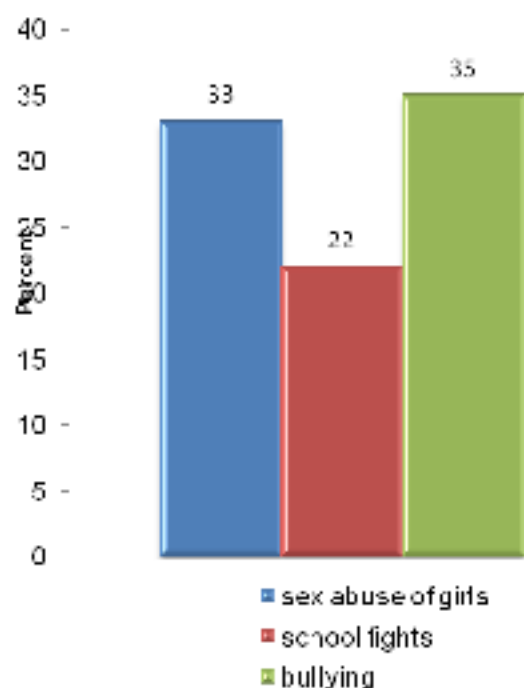
Experiencing physical/sexual violence leads to using GBV ($p < 0.05$)



Correlation between violent behaviour as a child and use GBV as an adult

Violent behaviour of boys

Abuse girls associated with GBV as adults (N=2301, P,0.05)

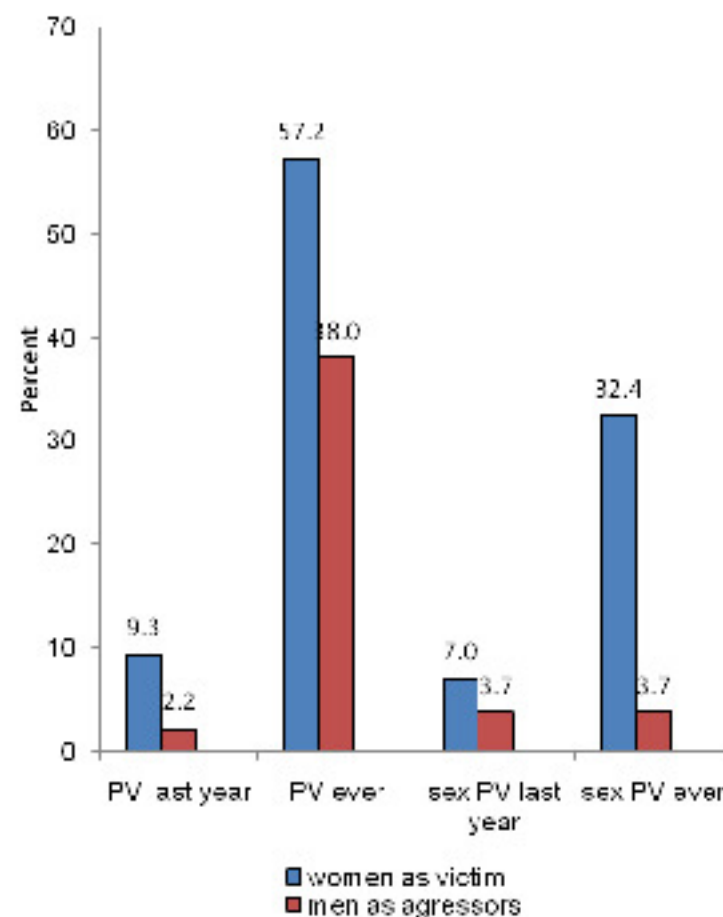


■ violent as adult ■ not violent as adult

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Distribution of reported GBV by men and women

Partner violence	As reported by women as victim (n=1311)	As reported by men as perpetrator (n=2301)
last year	9.3%	2.2%
ever	57.2%	38.0%
Forced partner sex		
last year	7.0%	3.7%
Ever	32.4%	3.7%



Distribution GBV provinces (men)

	Highest >40%	Lowest <20%	GBV too easy for women
KP: Kicukiro Nyrungenge	47.6%	20.5%	92.7% 79.5%
SP: Nyraruguru Ruhango	36.5%	15.3%	79.5% 67.6%
NP: Gakenka Muzanza Rulindo	40.0% 40.0%	(27.4%)	81.7% 76.3% 79.3%
WP: Karongi Nyamasheke	(34.4%)	(22.4%)	92.7% 86.0%
EP: Bugesera Gatsibo	40.3%	15.3%	87.5% 83.1%

Responses to GBV Law

men

women

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---|--------------|
| □ Knowledge GBV law | 83.1% | □ | 84.7% |
| □ Law is too harsh | 96.4% | □ | 94.6% |
| □ Law <u>not</u> protects victims | 65,2% | □ | 74,4% |

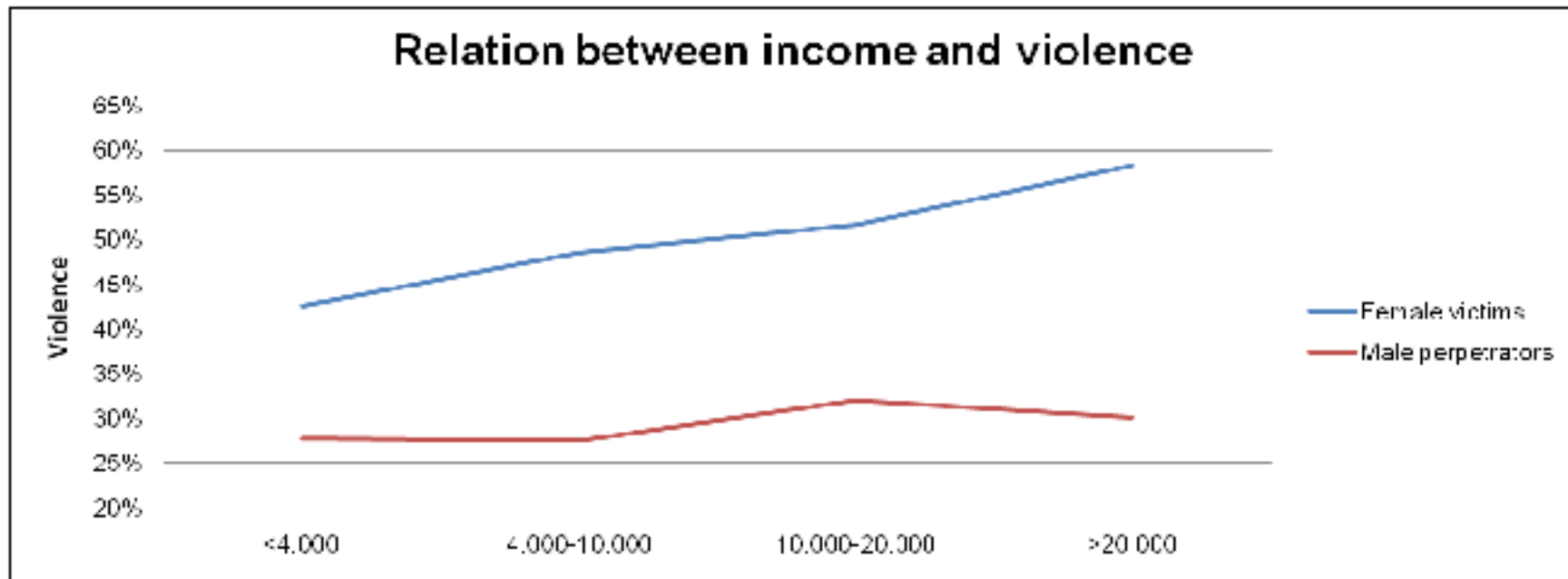
- The law against GBV is perceived as too harsh for men. *“the law gives power to women that is ‘taken away’ from men and creates conflicts”.*

Gender relations: socio-economic differences(A).

men

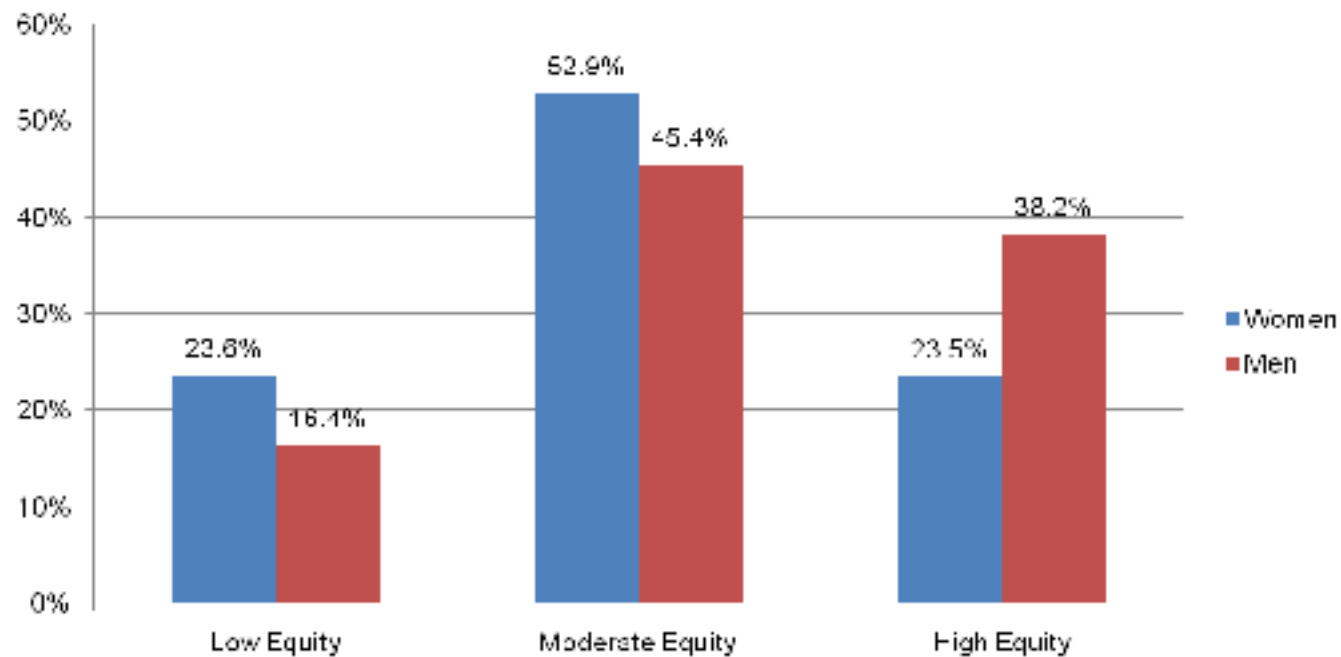
women

Income monthly:	24.870	12.409 RWF
Less than 4000 RWF:	17%	44.5%



Gender relations: gender equality attitudes(B)

Gender Attitude of Men and Women: Gender Equitable Men Scale (GEMS)



- Men responded as more gender sensitive than women. This indicates again the gap between wished perceptions(or expectations) and daily reality.

Gender relations: power differences(C)

<i>Power relations and sexual relations</i>	<i>Women's answers</i> <i>n=1311</i>	<i>Men's answers</i> <i>n=2301</i>
<i>Men always are ready to have sex and don't talk about it but just do it</i>	95.6%	82.5%
<i>Wife has to be submissive (accept everything)</i>	53.5%	45.5%
<i>Violence against women is needed to control a wife and women sometimes deserve to be beaten.</i>	70.6%	59.4%
<i>Women should prepare her body (gukuna) to respect the husband and give him pleasure</i>	53.1%	45.8%
<i>Men have to earn more than women and women that earn more will provoke violence.</i>	50.8%	57.4%

Sexual relations

men

- sexual relation bad: 13,7%
- frequencies bad: 14,4%
- male dominance: 57,4%
- women less to say: 61,8%

women

- sex relation bad: 40,1%
- frequencies bad: 38,1%
- male dominance: 75,5%
- women less to say 75,5%

1. Men perceive their sexual relation with partner as more positive than their female partners do.

2. More than half of both genders agree that power relation is dominated by men

Norms and values (2): Male risk behaviour

- Transactional sex 18,2%
- Sex with sex workers 15%
- Alcohol consumption in age 50-77%
- Alcohol abuse(> 3 times) 16,7%

Crosstabs; ($p < 0.05$)

Alcohol consumption vs VAW 29%

➤ Alcohol consumption may play a role in Violence abuse but cannot be considered as the main cause of GBV. Expression of power differences.

Masculinity perceptions

men

- Men are tough (63,5%)
- Men need more sex(82,5%)
- Head of families: dominate women(57,4%)
Women submissive(61,8%)
Earn more(57%)

women

- Men are tough (61,8%)
- Men need more sex(95,6%)
- Head of families: dominate women(50,8%)
Women submissive(75,5%)
Earn more(51%)

- The dominance of men and submissiveness of women is considered as a natural fact:” the way God has shaped men and women”
- Negative masculinity behaviour(violence and maltreatment) is considered as a natural consequence of women’s misbehaviour:” women provoke males’ violence”

Responses to GBV Law

men

women

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---|--------------|
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| □ Law <u>not</u> protects victims | 65,2% | □ | 74,4% |

- The law against GBV is perceived as too harsh for men. *“the law gives power to women that is ‘taken away’ from men and creates conflicts”.*

Support for GBV survivors: where do you go for health problems caused by GBV?

men

- Hospital **34,6%**
- Police 11.5%
- Family 5.8%
- Nowhere 23,1%

women

- 17%
- 8.6%
- **22,1%**
- 14,9%

1. Most women ask help in family, even for health problems.
2. Men go to hospital or go nowhere: indicates the taboo on GBV.
3. Relatively small number goes to police

CONCLUSION:

The relation between negative masculinity and GBV?

Roots of GBV: exposure to violence and power abuse.

- ✓ High prevalence of violence in childhood
- ✓ One of three boys had forced sex with a girl at school
- ✓ Violence by teachers in schools
- ✓ Almost all participants experienced war/genocide
- ✓ More than half of the women have experienced GBV committed by partner
- ✓ Acceptance of VAW to keep families together
- ✓ Forced sex and slapping most committed forms VAW

Difference in Perceptions

Perceptions differences between men and women:

- ✓ Men perceive their roles as more equal than women do
- ✓ The police is not the preferred solution for domestic violence
- ✓ Women experience more violence than men have committed

- **Work and education:**
 - ✓ Women have to earn less money than men(47.9:17.7<4000)
 - ✓ Men need to have more education than women

- **Gender politics:**
 - ✓ The positive impact of gender politics is visible in more awareness of GBV among women. But unexpected dynamics at grass root levels(GBV law & power relations) have to be taken seriously.

Some aspects of social norms that fuel construction of negative masculinity and GBV?

- **Roots of GBV: social norms and practices**
 - ✓ Socio-cultural practices of dowry, gukuna, forced marriage and kwezwa are perceived as important for more than half of all participants. Most practices are based on unequal gender relations with harmful practices.
 - ✓ Religious values used to justify gender inequality: “god shaped eva from the rib of adam”, man is the head like Christ for the church...
 - ✓ The law against VAW is perceived as injustice towards men that fuels violence (disempowerment)

What are masculinity perceptions in society?

- **Roots of GBV: negative masculinity perceptions**

- ✓ Men have to be tough (defenders)
- ✓ Men need more sex and are always ready for it (procreators)
- ✓ Men are the head of families and have to dominate and control women (protectors)

Roots of positive masculinity

- ✓ Men positive motivated to be involved in solving the problems (responses interviews)
- ✓ Men intervene in GBV committed by others and consider GBV as immoral.

Final

- The promotion of positive masculinity and involvement of men and boys in changing attitudes towards women should connect to positive identity construction and include positive messages.

Many thanks

Points of Reflection

- Transmission of social cultural norms and values by schools, churches and socio-cultural practices in families remains **behind in process of modernization** of society and may fuel conflicts at household level.
- **Dowry** is one of the social-cultural aspect in Rwanda. It does some good in perpetuating cultural practices, but it has started doing harm to individuals and groups of people, especially women and young men.