Challenges and Lessons Learned in Interviewing Men about Sexual Violence: Lessons from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES)

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Questions to Orient the Workshop

• Are men “truthfully” reporting SV?
• What methods seem to work best to encourage truthful disclosure of SV?
• What lessons do the IMAGES results provide in terms of future SV research with men?
• Ethical considerations
### IMAGES: Sample Design and Methodology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Collection Details</th>
<th>Brazil</th>
<th>Chile</th>
<th>Croatia</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Mexico</th>
<th>Rwanda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sample size, men</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>1192</td>
<td>1501</td>
<td>1534</td>
<td>1001</td>
<td>2301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample size, women</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>1311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age group</td>
<td>18-59</td>
<td>18-59</td>
<td>18-59</td>
<td>18-59</td>
<td>18-59</td>
<td>18-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Site(s)                  | One major metropolitan area: Rio de Janeiro, with two neighborhoods: Maré (low income) (n=686 men, 408 women) and Vila Valquiere (middle income) (n= 64 men, 40 women) | Three metropolitan areas: Valparaíso (n=198 men), Concepción (n=197 men), Santiago (n=797 men, 426 women) | One metropolitan area and two rural areas: Zagreb (n=809 men, 264 women), and towns and villages in two counties in Eastern Croatia (n=692 men, 242 women) | Two metropolitan areas: Delhi (n=1037 men, 313 women) and Vijayawada (state of Tamil Nadu) (n=497 men, 208 women) | Three metropolitan areas: Monterrey (n=515 men, 172 women); Queretaro (n=222 men,127 women); Jalapa (n=264 men, 84 women) | Nationally representative sample covering all provinces: Eastern province (25%), Kigali (11%), Northern province (19%), Southern province (25%), Western province (20%) |
Men’s reports of use of IPV and women’s reports of victimization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% who report perpetrating (men) or experiencing (women) violence
Strongest single factor associated with IPV use: childhood witnessing

Figure 2 Links between witnessing and ever perpetrating IPV
Multivariate analysis of men’s reports of IPV

- For IPV in last year, work-related stress and education were most significant factors in multi-variate analysis.
- Most consistent variable related to IPV ever use was having witnessed violence in the home of origin (significant even accounting for other IVs in 4 of 5 countries).
- Binge drinking and GEM Scale score were significant in 3/5 countries (with ever use).
Men’s use of Sexual Violence

Figure 30: Men’s Reports of Using Sexual Violence
How do these compare to other SV studies? (SV ever use/experience)

- Croatia - IMAGES (men) 9% - WHO VAW (women – Belgrade) 6%
- Brazil – IMAGES (men) 2% - WHO VAW (women – Sao Paulo) 10%
- India – IMAGES (men) 24% - DHS (women – nat’l) 10%
- Chile – IMAGES (men) 9% - Nat’l survey (women) 15.6%
- Rwanda – IMAGES (men) 9% – DHS (women) 12.9%
Sexual violence linked to childhood sexual victimization

Links between experiencing sexual violence as child and perpetrating it later

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Did not experience sexual violence as a child</th>
<th>Experienced sexual violence as a child</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Paying for sex: More common among men with inequitable attitudes, report work stress, are unsatisfied in current relationship

Figure 31: Transactional Sex Experiences: Men’s Reports that a Sex Worker with Whom they Had Sex was Under 18 or Forced/Sold into Prostitution
About the Methodology

- India: PDA
- Chile, Brazil, Mexico: Interviewer administered paper questionnaire with option of self-administration on questions about sexual violence
- Rwanda: Interviewed administered
- Croatia and BH: Self-administered
Rwanda

- High awareness of new SV law leads to resistance by men to talk about (plus context of SV during the conflict/genocide)
- Common approach in qualitative and quantitative is to affirm that it happens everywhere then move to questions about individual use
- Gradual opening up of men in qualitative discussions; talking about SV that other men carry out
- Lesson: move from the general (wider community) to personal experiences
- Responses suggest some underreporting of SV by men (when compared to other studies in Rwanda)
Croatia

- About 10% refusal rate on SV questions (by men and women)
- High level of literacy permitted self-administered questionnaire
- Perception by researchers that SA was better approach than interviewer administered
- In pre-testing, compared IA to SA; both men and women preferred SA
India

• Highest rates of SV of all countries in study (included use of PDA)
• PDA contributed to lower refusal rates but rates of men’s reports of SV about the same as previous studies ICRW-India had carried out with men/women
• Reflections: men forcing wives to have sex; considered “men’s right” – may explain higher rates (no resistance to reporting something that is not considered wrong)
• High confidence in the data: SV and IPV rates consistent with other studies in India (even higher)
Brazil

- Low income respondents responded to SV questions like any others (immediately); middle class paused but answered
- Although SA offered for SV questions, only 5-6 men opted for it
- Low reports of SV are consistent with other research (except a study Promundo carried out with men arrested for IPV in which 24% women reported experiencing and only 5% partners of same women reporting using)
- Household survey in same community as IMAGES among young women ages 15-24, 2% reported experiencing SV
Mexico

• Issue complicated by having women interviewers (of men)
• High refusal rate (context of urban violence associated with fear of opening doors to strangers)
• “Survey fatigue” – respondents asking why the researchers wanted so much information, questions of whether asking such a long questionnaire is coercive
• Even with women interviews, 4% of men reported SV (higher than rate reported in Brazil)
Chile

- Relatively low refusal rate
- Although questionnaire offered self-administered, not requested in practice
- Believes PDA probably better for lowering refusal rates but IA probably did not lead to lower reporting of SV
- Found high fear of anonymity among respondents
Bosnia and Herzegovina (just completed)

- Extremely high refusal rates on SV questions (about 50% - had to carry out nearly 5000 interviews to get 2500)
- Men reported feeling pre-judged in questions about sexual violence (in the context of a country with more than 20,000 cases of SV during the war)
- Gendered responses to asking about SV: women reticent, men became angry
- Results still forthcoming but able to ask women and men
Overall Reflections

- Need for adequate time for pre-testing (and qualitative research to accompany)
- Context of post-conflict, urban violence must be taken into account
- Frequent complaints about length of questionnaire but in the end able to get responses
- Research/poll fatigue in some settings (“you always gather data, what do you do with it?”)
- At the same time, long questionnaire leads to “ease of responding” to sensitive topics
- High confidence in IPV data (w exception of Mexico), medium-high in the SV reports by men
- Providing list of services for women was well-received; limited spaces/options for men (what might we provide in future studies?)