Competing conceptions of (re)integrative success for survivors of sex trafficking and abuse

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Overview

- Context
- Research question
- Methodology
- Theory
- Ethics, sampling, & safety
- Findings
- Theory
- Implications
Context & literature review

Type your question here.

(This is the question that your experiment answers.)
Research Question

How do Khmer young women in Cambodia who have experienced forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, and who have lived in residential care:

(a) construct ideas related to successful reintegration; and,

(b) who/what are the people, processes, and mechanisms important to achieving this success (and conversely what are the primary constraints); and,

(c) amongst these people, and related groups and institutions identified as important, how are conceptions of ‘successful re/integration’ constructed and practiced?
Argument

- Different groups within the ‘field of remedial assistance’ hold competing perspectives on success.

- Discerning these constitutes an important step towards defining and evaluating effective remedial interventions which are able to effectively assist beneficiaries to determine and pursue their own paths to success.
Ethics

- Deakin University Higher Research Ethics Committee
- Cambodian National Ethics Committee for Health Research
- Secretary of State and Chair of the National Committee Secretariat for Suppression of Human Trafficking, Smuggling, Labor and Sexual exploitation (National Committee);
- Ministry of Women’s Affairs;
- National Program of Mental Health.
- Child Affairs and Protection Working Group (National Committee sub group) identified eight ‘best providers’ of reintegration assistance.
Sampling, safety & sensitivity

- Four undisclosed NGOs participated in generating a sampling list of 200 young women ‘successfully reintegrated’ and facilitating access to family members and others involved in facilitating reintegration.
- NGO invitation to participate, followed up by translator and researcher.
- Introduction & invitation to consent. Generic plain language statement provided containing real phone number for counselling support if required. A fuller description provided to non-client participants.
- A focus upon perceptions of success with opportunity to reflect and volunteer one’s experiences that lead to the shelter and constraints to reintegration.
- **Role of the female translator**
Grounded theory methodology
Qualitative Interviews

- Twenty-five interviews with young women
  - of Khmer ethnicity and aged 18 – 25 years of age;
  - sexually abused or exploited as children or youth through rape or sex-trafficking;
  - having spent time in residential care services;
  - And identified as ‘successfully reintegrated’

- Twenty-eight interviews with others from the field including family members (n=7) NGO staff (n=16), social enterprise managers (n = 2) and government authorities (n=3).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Characteristics: Young Khmer Women Successfully Reintegrated</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average length of interviews</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identified as victim of rape / sexual abuse (r)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identified as victim of sex trafficking (t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at rape / sexual abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at trafficking / sexual exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated months in shelter care (n=22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average no. months reintegrated (n=22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reintegrated to former home or community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated to a new home or community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban reintegration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural reintegration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stable employment (x3@school, x1 housewife by choice, x2 unemployed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presently have stable accommodation</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Conceptions of ‘success’
Findings
Implications

- Empirical
- Theoretical
- Policy
- Limitations

Position in a contested social field is relationally determined by one’s habitus & accrued capitals, e.g., social, cultural, symbolic, educational economic.
Thank you

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