Culturally sanctioned SGBV as a driver for child perpetration of assault in regions of traditional leadership in Limpopo, South Africa

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Sibasa, Limpopo, South Africa
Do sociocultural norms in traditional leadership villages in the Vhembe District drive “young perpetration” of SGBV?
Protective Factors linked to child health and development\textsuperscript{[1,2,3,4]}

- Nurturing and attachment
  - Stability of primary caregiver

- Knowledge of parenting and child development
  - How a parent guides childhood behaviour and reinforce desired and appropriate behaviour
  - Non-punitive disciplinary techniques with logical consequences for actions

- Parental resilience
  - How to handle minor and major stressors

- Social connections
  - Supportive communities provide valuable resources

- Concrete supports for parents
  - Access to basic and specialized services delivery

- Social and emotional competence of children
  - Ability to learn/identify/express emotions effectively
VHEMBE DISTRICT: CONTEXT

POPULATION: 618,462 (Census 2011)

HIV PREVALENCE: 21.5% (Vhembe District Department of Health, 2013)

UNEMPLOYMENT: 26.8% (Department of Labour, 2011)

56% OF POPULATION UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

REGION OF TRADITIONAL, PATRIARCHAL LEADERSHIP: CHIEFS AND KINGS

LIMPOPO PROVINCE UNDER “CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION” DUE TO FUNDING MISMANAGEMENT

VHEMBE DISTRICT: CONTEXT FROM REGIONAL SAMPLE n= 1134

95% NEVER COMPLETED DIPLOMA

79.2% DON’T OWN A VEHICLE

17.9% DON’T HAVE ELECTRICITY

96.9% DON’T HAVE TOILET
ATTITUDES TOWARD VIOLENCE

BEATING IS ACCEPTABLE IF A WOMAN REFUSES SEX [Graphic 1]

PERPETRATORS OF ASSAULT SHOULD NOT BE ARRESTED [Graphic 1]

UMALO (BRIDE PRICE) ENTITLES MEN TO SEX [Graphic 1]

BEATING A CHILD IS ACCEPTABLE [Graphic 2]

Graphic 1. Attitudes and Beliefs Three Villages, n=1134
- Male Agree: 31.30%
- Female Agree: 24.70%

- Male Agree: 17.60%
- Female Agree: 20.30%

- Male Agree: 24.00%
- Female Agree: 31.50%

Graphic 2. Believe that beating a child is acceptable One Village, n=556
- Disagree: 66%
- Agree: 8%
- Unsure: 19%
- No Response: 7%
Poor Rates of SGBV Reporting

SGBV REPORTING DATA: REGIONAL NUMBERS

- TVEP database captured 17,765 unique cases of SGBV dating to 2001
- Cases over a three-year reporting period (2009 – 2011)
  - 5396 REPORTS (34.67% of 10 year data)
  - 488 VILLAGES (MEAN SIZE 1350 RESIDENTS)
  - 3.69 REPORTS PER YEAR/AVG
  - 0.31 REPORTS PER MONTH/AVG

REPORTING WITHIN 3 MONTHS POST-COMPLETION OF A COMMUNITY MOBILISING INTERVENTION (ZTVA):
  - VILLAGE 1:
    - 13.02 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO REPORT VERSUS REGIONAL AVERAGES
  - VILLAGE 2:
    - 9.77 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO REPORT VERSUS REGIONAL AVERAGES

MORE ACCURATE SCOPE OF SGBV
## Poor Prosecutorial Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Cases opened</th>
<th>Cases that went to court (13,9%)</th>
<th>Convictions</th>
<th>Conviction rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quarter 1</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3,6%/26,3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarter 2</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3,3%/25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3,5%/25%</td>
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### June 2013

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Offences Profiles Opened</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Profiles Opened</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Trauma Profiles Opened</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MONTHLY TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>103</td>
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### July 2013

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<tr>
<td>Sexual Offences Profiles Opened</td>
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<td>38</td>
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<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Trauma Profiles Opened</td>
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<td><strong>MONTHLY TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>107</td>
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### August 2013

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<td>Sexual Offences Profiles Opened</td>
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<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Profiles Opened</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Trauma Profiles Opened</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONTHLY TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>136</td>
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CONTEXTUAL CHALLENGES

+ ATTITUDES TOWARD VIOIENCE

+ POOR SGBV REPORTING

+ POOR PROSECUTORIAL RESPONSES
Protective Factors

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### Young Perpetration of SGBV

**n = 700 cases**

*(mean 4.5%, range 3.3 – 13.2%)*

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female %</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>18.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual Assault %</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>89.7</td>
<td>92.1</td>
<td>96.4</td>
<td>78.2</td>
<td>63.4</td>
<td>72.3</td>
<td>68.9</td>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>80.8</td>
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Average age =14.37 years (SD 2.96 years)
Females comprised 8.6% of the 10-year young perpetrator sample (n=60)
Sexual abuse more likely perpetrated against a younger victim (14.09 year male; SD 3.13 against 9.56 year victim; SD 5.38 and 13.71 year female; SD 3.40 against 9.64 year victim; SD 4.53)
Physical abuse was more likely perpetrated against older victims (15.63 year male; SD 1.46 against 30.26 year victim; SD 12.93 and 15.71 year female; SD 1.30 against 36.15 year victim; SD 16.60).
Females increasingly comprised larger percentages of the annual, overall perpetrator activity measured: range 0% to 18.03%.

Young Perpetrator Characteristics
Childhood experiences of violence in community increase risk for adult perpetration; perhaps also increasing risk for younger perpetration [5,6]

Marked increases in young female perpetration are of particular concern (11.7% of all young perpetrators identified Jan – Sept 2013)

Patriarchy has an impact on culture-bound attitudes by passively sanctioning SGBV in communities [7]

More research is required to determine specific correlates between context and risk for young perpetration

Observations/Conclusions


Sources
Thank you