Stepping Stones and Creating Futures Intervention: Outcomes of a formative evaluation of a behavioural and structural pilot intervention for young people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender and Health Unit, MRC</th>
<th>Project Empower</th>
<th>HEARD, UKZN</th>
<th>University of Pretoria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Jewkes</td>
<td>Mpume Mbatha</td>
<td>Andy Gibbs</td>
<td>Milly Mushinga</td>
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<td>Nwabisa Jama-Shai</td>
<td>Laura Washington</td>
<td>Alison Misselhorn</td>
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<td>Yandisa Sikweyiya</td>
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<td>Samantha Willan</td>
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Background: Informal Settlements

In South Africa 29.1% of the total estimated number of new HIV acquisitions are found in urban informal settlements, even though only 8.7% of South Africans older than 2 years live here (Rehle et al., 2007)

Gender, poverty, violence and HIV risk are tightly intertwined (Hunter, 2010)
IPV and poverty

Men: argument made that in contexts of economic exclusion, unable to fulfill their ‘hegemonic masculinity’ use strategies such as violence to assert authority.

Women: substantive evidence women’s economic disempowerment overlaps and reinforces social disempowerment.

IMAGE Project: microfinance and gender training saw reduction in IPV experienced by women.
Sessions include:
• Communication
• Sex and love
• Conception and contraception
• HIV
• Gender violence
• Assertiveness training
Creating Futures

Sessions include:
• Dreams and wishes
• Social resources
• Getting and keeping jobs
• Saving and coping with shocks
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male (n=110) %</th>
<th>Female (n=122) %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age group: &lt;20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>66.4</td>
<td>48.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;30</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matric.</td>
<td>45.4</td>
<td>23.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child or fathered</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>66.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked or earned past 12 months</td>
<td>65.2</td>
<td>36.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earnings in past month</td>
<td>R359</td>
<td>R140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPV (sexual or physical – 3 months)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>29.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPV sexual – 3 months</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPV physical – 3 months</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape non-partner – 3 months</td>
<td>4.5</td>
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Results: Livelihoods

Mean earnings in past month

- Men's mean earnings in past month (p<0.0001)
- Women's mean earnings in past month (p<0.0001)
Women’s experience of IPV in past 3 months

- Physical or sexual IPV in last 3 months (women) (p<0.046)
- Physical IPV in last 3 months (women) (p<0.22)
- Sexual IPV in last 3 months (women) (p<0.018)
Men’s Perpetration of IPV or Rape of Non-Partner in Past 3 months

- Physical or sexual IPV in last 3 months (men) (p<0.56)
- Physical IPV in last 3 months (men) (p<0.37)
- Sexual IPV in last 3 months (men) (p<0.66)
- Rape of a non-partner in last 3m (men only) (p<0.56)
Limitations

• Quasi-experimental – ITS design
• Small sample size (232)
• One year follow up
• Looking for promise
Summary

As with the IMAGE project, Stepping Stones/Creating Futures seems to show promise that building young women’s economic power and gender power can reduce experiences of violence.

Still need more research on understanding the impact of gender transformative and economic empowerment interventions on men.
Thanks

Stepping Stones available from:  
www.mrc.ac.za/gender/stepping.htm

Creating Futures available from:  
www.heard.org.za/gender/creating-futures-stepping-stones

Facilitators and participants

Funded by: