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

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Nelson Mandela CHILDREN'S FUND
CHANGING THE WAY SOCIETY TREATS ITS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Norad

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RESEARCH THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

SVRI FORUM 2013:
Evidence into action
14 - 17 October 2013, Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Bangkok Thailand

Do sociocultural norms in traditional leadership villages in the Vhembe District drive “young perpetration” of SGBV?

Protective Factors linked to child health and development[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

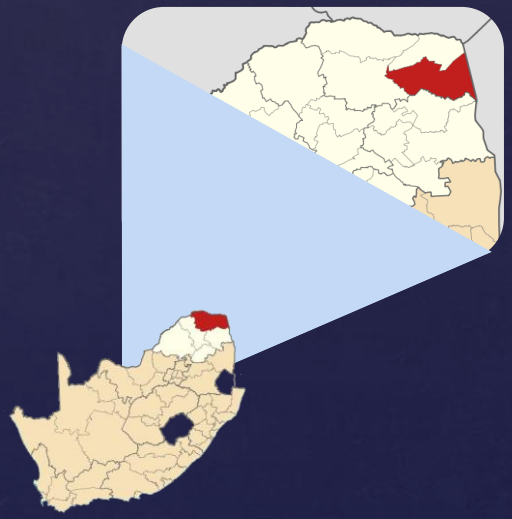
VHEMBE DISTRICT: CONTEXT FROM REGIONAL SAMPLE n= 1134

95% NEVER COMPLETED DIPLOMA

79,2% DON'T OWN A VEHICLE

17,9% DON'T HAVE ELECTRICITY

96,9% DON'T HAVE TOILET



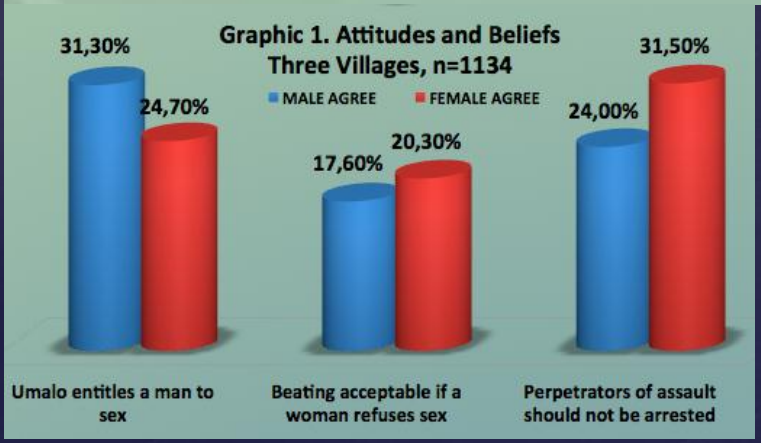
BEATING IS ACCEPTABLE IF A WOMAN REFUSES SEX [Graphic 1]

PERPETRATORS OF ASSAULT SHOULD NOT BE ARRESTED [Graphic 1]

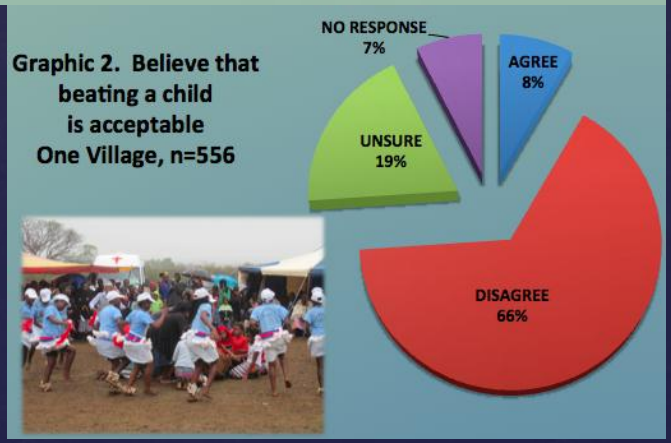
UMALO (BRIDE PRICE) ENTITLES MEN TO SEX [Graphic 1]

BEATING A CHILD IS ACCEPTABLE [Graphic 2]

VIOLENCE



ATTITUDES TOWARD VIOLENCE



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

MORE ACCURATE SCOPE OF SGBV

- 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

Poor Rates of SGBV Reporting

	JUNE 2013				
No. of Sexual Offences Profiles Opened	1	27	15	13	**28**
No. of Domestic Violence Profiles Opened	7	67	8	66	**74**
No. of Severe Trauma Profiles Opened	-	1	-	1	**1**
MONTHLY TOTAL	**8**	**95**	**23**	**80**	**103**
	JULY 2013				
No. of Sexual Offences Profiles Opened	2	36	26	12	**38**
No. of Domestic Violence Profiles Opened	6	61	6	61	**67**
No. of Severe Trauma Profiles Opened	1	1	-	2	**2**
MONTHLY TOTAL	**9**	**98**	**32**	**75**	**107**
	AUGUST 2013				
No. of Sexual Offences Profiles Opened	3	52	23	32	**55**
No. of Domestic Violence Profiles Opened	6	74	5	75	**80**
No. of Severe Trauma Profiles Opened	-	1	-	1	**1**
MONTHLY TOTAL	**9**	**127**	**28**	**108**	**136**

Period	**Cases opened**	**Cases that went to court (13,9%)**	**Convictions**	**Conviction rate**
Quarter 1	138	19	5	**3,6%/26,3%**
Quarter 2	121	16	4	**3,3%/25%**
Total	**259**	**36**	**9**	**3,5%/25%**

Poor Prosecutorial Outcomes

CONTEXTUAL CHALLENGES

+

ATTITUDES TOWARD VIOLENCE

+

POOR SGBV REPORTING

+

POOR PROSECUTORIAL RESPONSES

Protective Factors

- 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~~

10 Year Sample (n=15,565 cases)

Perpetration	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Cases	71	87	63	56	78	71	65	61	71	78
Mean age	14,83	13,76	14,11	13,71	14,42	14,94	14,97	15,08	14,23	13,85
Female %	0,00	0,00	1,6	5,4	16,7	12,7	10,8	18,0	9,9	11,5
Sexual Assault %	100,0	89,7	92,1	96,4	78,2	63,4	72,3	68,9	74,7	80,8

Young Perpetration of SGBV
n = 700 cases
(mean 4,5%, range 3,3 – 13,2%)

Young Perpetrator Characteristics

- 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%.

Observations/Conclusions

- 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

Sources

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[4] ZERO TO THREE. Tips on nurturing your child's social-emotional development. Retrieved from http://main.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ter_key_social_socemottips&AddInterest=1157

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Thank you