Critiquing gender-based violence intervention models using a ‘cascade approach’ to changing (faith) community beliefs and behaviours

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What is the ToT model?

- Relies on a cascade approach, where training is conducted at two or more levels by trainers selected from the level above.
- The ToT model within community-based work:
Advantages of ToTs

- Can theoretically be sustained indefinitely by the trainers based in the community.
- Thus a cost-efficient model of intervention.
- Sustainability is also supported by number of trainers in each community.
- As the model relies on the trained trainers’ embeddedness within the community, it benefits from their established trust and credibility.
- While the organising institution provides scientific credibility to the training programme, the information is trusted when delivered by a trusted insider.
- Training programmes with roots in a community are viewed as empowering to the community.
- Benefits from and promotes social capital within the community, as it facilitates the building of relationships within the community. This can maximise the benefit of the programme.
Secondary analysis of two faith-based GBV ToTs

KII (n=118)

FGDs (n=8)
1. The core logic and assumptions behind faith leaders as key entry points is sound.
I felt very good because I also have started applying what I teach people in my own marriage and in the community. And when I go for awareness campaign, I see people understand so well because I tell them what I also do at home. This gives me courage to do the work and I feel very proud of myself. (FLm16)

I was in a workshop – and at the start they were so rigid – asking, how can a man do that – but at the end of the day you see them change…. and if you see them changing it is so amazing (2016/08/25/JO1)
2. The theological content is key
For me the powerful thing is, faith is so much a part of their lives. So the way to get into faith communities is to connect the social issue with the faith issues, and [this programme] does it very well. That is what makes it so powerful. It helps them see the issue in a different way, there has been transformation. It is more powerful if the faith connection is there, faith is a great motivator (2016_08_28_LLRJO1).

Compared to other gender trainings it is unique, for it has the biblical, transformative approach... the biblical approach is its strength – it makes buy-in better in [our country]. In [our country] there are lots of Christians, and religious beliefs are very powerful... (2016_08_27_LLRJO1)

The first thing is to control oneself, by finding balance in the role that both you and your wife chose to assume. For instance, there are biblical verses that tackle the issue...I think it’s Peter, chapter 1 from verses 18 to 21. There is also Hebrew...and we use those readings wherever we go. Especially when we speak about marriage, those readings allow us to solve the issues that exist in a family or in marriage. Only on slide
3. But where we see the problems, is in the cascading of the information
‘Paying it forward’

Hypothesis: ‘paying it forward’ is more likely to happen in communities that have low saturation of the information that the ToT focuses on
Cascading theology

One physical violence in intimate relationships

I use bible verses to talk about the love of the neighbour. I told them that Jesus gave us the commandment of love. And based on that love, He told us to behave like children. Because when you hit a child, he will forget what you did, two minutes later (FLf18).

On sex within marriage

[The husband] won’t be happy at all because we all know that when two people are joined in matrimony...if even in the bible, when the wife and husband get into their house together, sex is crucial. Even God says ‘go and multiply’. [The wife] is totally wrong on [refusing sex]. (FGD, F13)

On submission

In Ephesians, CH5:21, it says women have to submit to their real husband, so you don’t have to submit to other husbands, like other men, you only have to submit properly to your husband, that is what the bible says (2016/08/28/JO2).
1. The less controversial the messaging, the less prone to distortion the information is.
2. The trained trainers are not the problem, but the multiple levels of cascading are.
Thank you!

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