Drivers of violence against children
Research to Policy and Practice Process

Systematic Literature Review of the Drivers of Violence against Children

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Why is violence against children an urgent concern in the Philippines?

Total prevalence of violence against children, by sex and age group

80% of children and young people (aged 13-24 years) experienced any form of violence in all settings.
149 research studies
89 grey literature
59 journal articles/reports
were reviewed to identify prevalence of emotional, physical, sexual abuse

Secondary analysis of 2014 Philippines Demographic Health Survey
Structural
How drivers of violence affect the home setting

Absent and Alone

- Lack of supervision in the home is a risk factor sexual violence (due to economic pressures, rapid change)
  - Absent parent/s
  - Lack of supervision over sole male at home
- Domestic violence (due to gender inequity & ineffective gender-friendly laws)
- Gender norms (due to gender inequity)

Witnessing parental violence is a risk factor of subsequent violence in a variety of relationships for both males and females
Institutional

How drivers of violence effect the school setting

“Necessary for control”

“Natural reaction”

• Violence perpetrated by teachers in schools, mostly as a form of discipline, includes acts of emotional and physical violence against children (due to ineffective school policies and procedures)

• Children accept violence as part of school discipline (due to lack of application of their rights by CRC)

Children and adults state that corporal punishment in schools is closely linked with violent discipline and family circumstances in the home
Community

Filipino values at play—

**Hiya**

“Shame”

A sense of propriety, honor and dignity

An act of courtesy or deference in order not to offend the other person a protective mechanism

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**Utang na loob**

“Debt of one’s being”

A deep sense of appreciation and gratitude; act of solidarity with the other

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**Bahala na**

“Whatever…” or similar to saying “Inshallah”

Resilience, courage and determination in the face of all the odds
Hiya

• Honor and respect (self and family)

Utang na Loob

• A good and honorable person by showing gratitude

Bahala na

• Facing challenges, sacrificing for significant others

Filipino values at play

Interpersonal
Drivers & Risk Factors Interaction
In the context of VAC

- Will not disclose abuse
- Expecting absolute obedience to parents
- Fatalism
- Will suffer and bear the abuse quietly

Hiya
Utang na Loob
Bahala na
Socio-Ecological Model for Sexual Abuse in the Philippines

**Structural**
- Poor access to info on sex & contraceptives
- Impunity-ineffective protection under the law
- Age of statutory rape

**Institutional**
- Belief boys are not at CSA risk
- Walking to & from school
- Availability of alcohol
- Shaming of survivors
- Internet cafes; smart phones

**Community**
- Vulnerable e.g. with disability
- Poor life skills
- Gender identity- LGBT, MSM

**Relationship**
- Lack of Supervision
- Single-headed households
- Absent Mother e.g. OFW
- Child alone with unemployed male
- Presence of "step-father"
- Domestic Violence

**Individual**
- Political repression=culture of silence & fear
- Gender inequity and norms that promote subordination of women & girls to men
- Migration
- Rapid social change especially with technology: ICT

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Driver Pathway: Social and cultural norms around family

**Risk Factors**

1. Gender norms in the home and in schools
2. Beliefs around effectiveness of corporal punishment
3. Family stress + confidence in parenting

**Driven by Structural and Institutional Factors**

- Lack of SRH education and access to services
- Poor school legislation, poor teacher training; effects of poverty and toxic stress from financial issues creates parents ill-equipped
- Lack of laws, legislations and services to address family needs

**Implications to Country Office Programming**

- Prioritizing legislative advocacy on SRH access for children and adolescents
- Strengthening evidence on effectiveness of programs that promote non-violent discipline
- Develop parenting programs and C4D strategies based on evidence
Driver Pathway: Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Online or Offline

Risk Factors
- Family & economic stress + social norms + poor parenting + previous experience of violence

Driven by Structural and Institutional Factors
- Social & political history, a rapid growth economy with no local income generating industry, destabilizing community conditions
- Weak enforcement of laws, social & political history, lack of local income generating industry, advancement in technology and access to it

Implications to Country Office Programming
- Legislative advocacy on public investment, legal reforms to address bottlenecks in law enforcement, capacitating implementing agencies
- Empower children to be more careful in their use of the internet
- Research for policy advocacy
- Targeted advocacy

Demand for sexually explicit materials with children + access to the internet + family & economic stress + social norms regarding foreigners