

Using participatory design to understand drivers of SGBV among youth

Findings from Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, India and Rwanda

03 June 2020 | Laura Baringer, Project Director

Adolescent boys are not all the same

To tackle SGBV, we need to reject the simplistic archetypes that boys and men are inherently aggressive. We can use human-centered approaches to unpack societal and gender normative drivers of SGBV.

- For many boys, “being a man” means suppressing emotion, holding the power in relationships, and using violence to demonstrate authority.
- To design SGBV prevention interventions, it's critical to analyze personal, social and gender drivers of how power gets asserted from early adolescent onwards.
- How do we engage men and boys as partners in the design process, seeking a more nuanced and empathetic understanding of boys and men's experiences and pressures?



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**MEN
STAND
UP**

Broken hearts

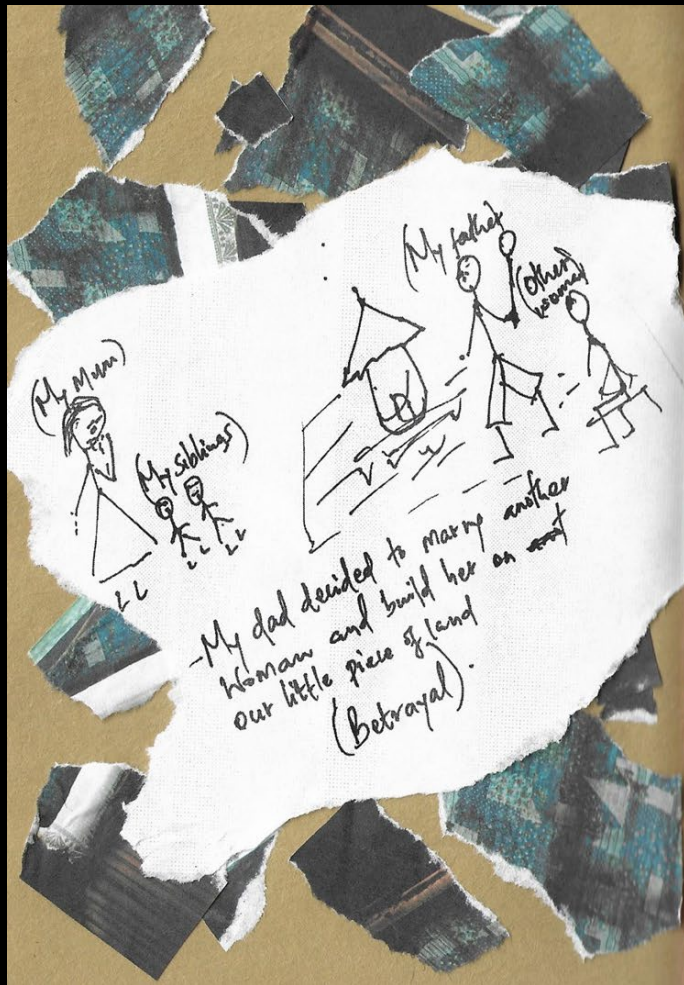
When I first started my relationship when I was still in Form 1 (mono) I began my relationship with a certain girl whom decided to love me and I gave her all my heart and he did it too. When we broke up with her due to me seeing her with many boys she started to throw words with me, then that's when I realised that we love should not be forced. We departed ways upto now we don't talk to each other due to such things.

JIM.

upto know that I am writing am always still single because of that girl, because the love she gave me was strong than any other girl. But still I believe even if we broke up with each other she can still remember the kind of love and support I gave her. I still love her and I know she does the same. Thank u

Heartbreak/Mend

This activity required young men to write or draw about their heartbreak stories on a cutout of a heart. First, on the broken side of the heart, young men talked of their heartbreak experiences and emotions; and on the mended side of the heart, young men talked of how they overcame heartbreak and their emotional state today.



My father betrayed my mother; betrayed my family. I call him the betrayer. He married another woman and took a piece of our land from us in order to build a house for his new wife. When my mother objected, though, my father threatened to beat her. I'm away at school now but my brothers, even though they are so little, protect my mother in the village. I know my little boys are there to stand up to my dad when he threatens to abuse my mom.

Learnings from Men Stand Up

POWER

Ego and masculinity are central to a young man's perception of himself and how he is perceived by male peers. Young men report that if ego is threatened, they might retaliate through violence or through invasions of privacy.

MONEY

In relationships, money and power are inextricably linked. Young men still feel economic pressures to be the breadwinner. Money creates an uneven power imbalance with the poorer partner often having less negotiating power for safe sex.

SEX

The internalized and cultural stigma against premarital sex limits young men's sexual health learning opportunities. This leads young men to learn about sex and adopt sexual cues from pornography and peers.

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**Watching porn makes you
want sex. If you can't get
it from your girlfriend,
you need to force it.**

Young Man - Lucknow, India

Opportunities for designing interventions

INTERVENE EARLY

Where possible, work with younger adolescents, targeting boys and girls at a key developmental stage.

TARGET DRIVERS OF SGBV

Focus programming on structural drivers of SGBV, i.e. gender norms and economic empowerment. Be inclusive of boys, LGBTQ youth, and girls, in order to transform norms in communities and ultimately decrease the risk of violence .

BE DATA DRIVEN

Use data gathered to identify motivations and guide every aspect of the intervention - from behavioral outcomes and delivery channels, to content, engagement and behavior change techniques.

Thank You

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