Introduction

- Violence against women is driven by gender and societal norms that normalize and justify gender-based inequality and violence.
- Gender inequality is common in Pakistan because of the prevalence of conservative cultural traditions based on male superiority and entitlement.
- Young women are raised to believe that intimate partner violence (IPV) is acceptable.

Purpose

- We present an analysis of the baseline research conducted for a randomized controlled trial with 1,752 grade 6 boys and girls and their attitudes toward gender roles, VAWG and associated factors.

Research Methods

- This article is based on an analysis of baseline data that has been collected as part of a cluster randomized controlled trial in which 1,752 sixth grade students.
- Intervention: Right to Play: 40 to 80-minute sessions administered to each child.
- Interviews were held in Hyderabad in 40 public schools.
- Interview.
- Observation.
- Questionnaire.
- Quantitative.
- Qualitative.
- Mixed methods.

Research Team

- Dr. Rozina Karmaliani
- Dr. Judith McFarlane
- Mr. Hussain Maqbool
- Ms. Yasmeen Somani
- Ms. Rozina Somani
- Ms. Saleema Gulzar

Acknowledgement to:

- Right To Play: Especially Atta Muhammad & Iqbal Jatoi & Fabulous Intervention Team
- 40 Participating Schools, Teachers and 1,752 Children
Measures

Youth Victimization and Perpetration Index

Victimization: How often has another child
1. Hurt you physically
2. Called you with bad names

Perpetration: How often have you
1. Hurt another child physically
2. Called another child with bad names

Descriptive statistics by gender of participant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>BOYS(N=822)</th>
<th>GIRLS(N=930)</th>
<th>t value</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peer violence experience/perpetration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>59.6%</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
<td>-0.61</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes only</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any perpetration</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
<td>-0.84</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Three quarters of boys and half of the girls had been a perpetrator of violence, and many of these were victims as well.

• The proportion of only having experience of victimization among girls is higher than boys.

Descriptive statistics by gender of participant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>BOYS(N=822)</th>
<th>GIRLS(N=930)</th>
<th>t value</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hunger index‡</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected physical punishment at home</td>
<td>20.5‡</td>
<td>20.6‡</td>
<td>-0.13</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missed school (due to fighting for money)</td>
<td>1.6‡</td>
<td>1.4‡</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father fought with other men</td>
<td>37.5‡</td>
<td>40.1‡</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father beat mother</td>
<td>88.8%</td>
<td>91.1%</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relatives hit mother</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The boys had more physical punishment at home as compared to girls. The school attendance was irregular for many boys and girls, when the average number of days missed from schools for boys is higher as compared to girls. The main reason for missed from school is work at home, more for boys than girls. The proportion of children who observed their father fight at home and beat mother was very high among boys than girls.

Descriptive statistics by gender of participant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>BOYS(N=822)</th>
<th>GIRLS(N=930)</th>
<th>t value</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child marriage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promised in marriage</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>0.012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister/cousin of same age married</td>
<td>43.7%</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression (high or depressed)‡</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>-0.06</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• The measure of depression showed boys scoring somewhat higher than girls, with a mean of 16.8 versus 8.6. Boys scored more higher than girls on the measure of gender attitudes, with the mean for boys 26.1 and for girls 19.2.

• A small proportion of the children had already been promised in marriage and this was less common for girls (27%) than boys (63%). For most of these girls (p=0.019) previous preparation had already started for the marriage.

Descriptive statistics by gender of participant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>BOYS(N=822)</th>
<th>GIRLS(N=930)</th>
<th>t value</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hunger index‡</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected physical punishment at home</td>
<td>20.5‡</td>
<td>20.6‡</td>
<td>-0.13</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missed school (due to fighting for money)</td>
<td>1.6‡</td>
<td>1.4‡</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father fought with other men</td>
<td>37.5‡</td>
<td>40.1‡</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father beat mother</td>
<td>88.8%</td>
<td>91.1%</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relatives hit mother</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proportion of boys who did not always have breakfast before school as there was no food at home was 28% compared to 19% of girls respectively. Boys experienced higher level of hunger (as shown on the hunger index) compared to girls.

Multivariable regression models of factors associated with gender attitudes among boys and girls adjusted for age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>BOYS(N=822)</th>
<th>GIRLS(N=930)</th>
<th>Coef</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>CI 95%</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hunger index‡</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-0.61</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-2.65</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• The proportion of boys who did not always have breakfast before school as there was no food at home was 28% compared to 19% of girls respectively. Boys experienced higher level of hunger (as shown on the hunger index) compared to girls.

• The mean age boys was 12.5 and mean age girls was 12.3.

• The mean self-rated school performance for boys was lower than girls.
Results

In multivariable analysis:

• Generalized linear mixed model of factors associated with gender attitude scores among boys and girls showed that for both the genders having more patriarchal gender attitudes towards women was associated with having more experience of hunger and perpetrating peer violence. Similar to other studies conducted in Egypt (Mensch, Ibrahim, Lee, & El-Gibaly, 2003), United States (Ulloa, Jaycox, Marshall, & Collins, 2004), and Brazil (Barker & Loewenstein, 1997).

In case of boys, experiencing peer violence is significantly associated with gender attitudes, but not for girls.

The association between patriarchal attitudes and violent behavior among adolescents has been previously observed (Vernberg, Jacobs, & Hershberger, 1999).

Experiencing physical punishment at home was significantly associated in girls but not boys. This may be an indication of the gender norms that prevail in more impoverished communities that in multiple settings have often been described as highly patriarchal (Bourgois, 1996; Gibbs, Sikweyiya, & Jewkes, 2014).

In multivariable analysis:

• Being promised in marriage and depression were positively associated to patriarchal gender attitude for boys only. These are the indicators of the social environment within which the child lives with respect to gender relations and the use of violence.

For girls gender attitudes were associated with hunger, experiencing corporal punishment at home, and being a perpetrator (for some, and victim) of peer violence.

Summary of Results

This is the first study on gender attitudes in early adolescence in Pakistan and reported associated factors includes hunger, engagement in peer violence, corporal punishment at home and depression.

• Results have shown that youth attitudes endorsing patriarchal gender beliefs were higher for boys, compared to girls. Hunger, depression, being promised already in marriage, and being a victim and/or perpetrator of peer violence.

Recommendation

As women's risk of violence is particularly high when women and their partners share beliefs about the acceptability of violence. There is a need to develop and implement comprehensive effective strategies at the youth level to potentially prevent the occurrence of violence against women and girls.

• Possible intervention is needed at school level.
Conclusions

• Research on social norms and gender attitudes shows that these are generally influenced by both peers and family behaviors.

• Our analysis support that peer violence is associated with patriarchal gender attitudes.

• Moreover, child marriage and corporal punishment are indicative of the gender attitude in the home.

• Moreover, youth violence perpetration is also associated with adult violence perpetration.

Conclusions

• Hunger, engagement in peer violence, corporal punishment at home, and depression were listed as associated factors affecting gender attitudes.

• Youth patriarchal attitudes are closely related to their experience of violence at school and for girl’s physical punishment, at home and for boys being promised in early marriage.

References

• PhD in Medical, School of Nursing and Midwifery and Department of Community health sciences, Aga Khan University, Pakistan

• MSc - Health Policy & Management, MSc Nursing, PhD Nursing, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Department of Community health sciences, Aga Khan University, Pakistan

• DrPH, Texas Women’s University, USA

• MSc Health Policy and Management, Aga Khan University, Pakistan

• Post RN BScN, Aga Khan University, yasmeen.somani@aku.edu, Pakistan

• PhD, South African Medical Research Council, South Africa

• MBBS, MD, Gender & Health Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council, South Africa

Thank You!