

# ALiGN

Advancing Learning and  
Innovation on Gender Norms

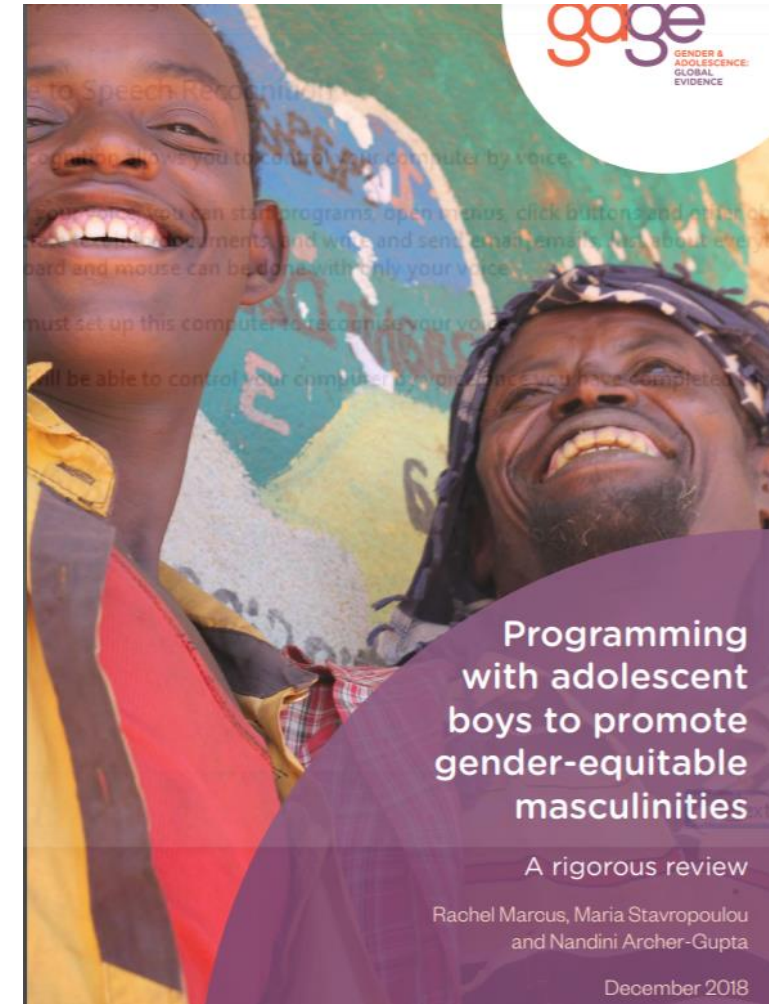
## **Changing masculinities: insights on sexual harassment from an evidence review**

14 October 2020

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# Our study

- Part of broader evidence review
- Conducted as part of DFID-funded Gender & Adolescence Global Evidence programme
- Other topics included intimate partner violence, couple communication, gender roles



# Overview

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- 12 non-formal education programmes with impacts on sexual violence
- 22 programmes with recorded impacts on sexual relationships

- Varied programme designs and age groups targeted
- All had gender awareness at core

- Initiatives spanned all low and middle-income regions

# What norms of masculinity did programmes aim to change?

Boys must be tough

(Hetero)sexual activity is the mark of a real man

Boys/ men don't express their feelings

It's OK to beat/harass a woman or girl in certain circumstances

Men are the ultimate decision-makers in a household

If someone insults you, you should fight back

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# **Sexual harassment**

# All studies recorded positive change

Type of change	Number of studies
Change in attitudes	3
Change in behaviour	4
Change in attitudes and behaviour	5

# Quantitative findings

- 2 initiatives (Pakistan and China) led to less accepting attitudes towards sexual violence
- Specifically: reduced agreement that women and girls provoke assault by dressing in a 'sexy' manner
- 2 initiatives (South Africa, Kenya) led to reduced perpetration of sexual violence
- 1 of these also recorded a reduction in transactional sex (South Africa)

Shift away from young men seeing sexually harassing women and girls as a fun way to pass time

- Earlier the boys had their favourite places where they would sit in groups and tease or pass comments to girls and women passing by. (Mentor, India)
- Before I participated with my friends in actions like sexual harassment because it was fun for us. But now, I have completely changed ... and I advise others ... [on how to make similar changes].
- Young man, Ethiopia



**Pathways  
to change:  
increased  
empathy**

“Earlier when I used to go out with my friends, then I used to also tease girls using vulgar words. But after participating in Yaari-Dosti, my thoughts have changed. I feel now that the girls who are teased by the young boys suffer a lot. We should respect them.”

*(young man, Mumbai, India)*

“I cannot stand such men; torture or atrocity is not right. Even I have mother and sister; this can be the case with them as well.”

*(Bihar, India)*

**Pathways  
to change:  
knowledge  
of the law**

“Now, if I go to the market and see that a boy is harassing a girl, then I scold the guy. If I see someone doing wrong to a girl then I go to them and tell them that if you don’t stop such thing then you will be behind the bars. I explain to them”

*(Young man, Bihar, India)*



# Knowledge gaps



**•Relative impact of different programme approaches, especially more granular analysis on single and mixed gender approaches**

**Added value of particular approaches and curriculum content; would greater use of mass media be effective?**

**Long-term impacts and what contributes to lasting change**

**Cost-effectiveness of non-formal education vs school-based comprehensive sexuality education**

# Key take-aways

- **Quality of mentoring** was very important
- **Longer initiatives** typically achieved greater change
- **Combining social activities/ drop in space** with courses encouraged greater space to explore masculinities, commitment to initiative and to behaviour change
- **Boys/ young men valued male only spaces** but coming together with girls and women helped change perspectives
- Changes were often greater in cultures with **less sticky norms**



ALIGN guide 13 June 2018



**Gender norms and masculinities**  
View ALIGN's in-depth guide to gender norms and masculinities.

Blog 25 September 2020



**World Contraception Day: Why men must be part of the story**  
Authors: Kuhlka Seth, Sharmishtha Nanda, Alshwarya Bahay, Pranita Achyut, Sneha Sharma  
Published by: ALIGN, ICRW

Webinar/event recording 11 May 2020



**Addressing 'sticky' norms to engage men and boys for gender equality: Learnings from South Asia**  
Published by: ALIGN, ICRW

Blog 4 May 2020



**Transforming men, transforming masculinities**  
Authors: Nalini V. Khurana, Sapna Kedia, Ravi Verma  
Published by: ALIGN

Blog 16 January 2020



**Thinking outside 'the box' on men's health**  
Authors: Peter Beher  
Published by: ALIGN

Toolkit 13 June 2018



**Toolkits: Programmes on gender norms and masculinities**  
Authors: Sapna Kedia, Ravi Verma  
Published by: ALIGN

Video/podcast 7 March 2018



**Changing norms of masculinity that uphold male privilege**  
Published by: ICRW, ALIGN

Think piece 10 January 2018



**The potential of a community-led approach to change harmful gender norms in low- and middle-income countries**  
Author: Ben Clabgill  
Published by: ALIGN



# ALIGN Masculinities resources

W: [alignplatform.org](http://alignplatform.org)  
Tw: @ALIGN\_Gender  
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