

ALiGN

Advancing Learning and
Innovation on Gender Norms

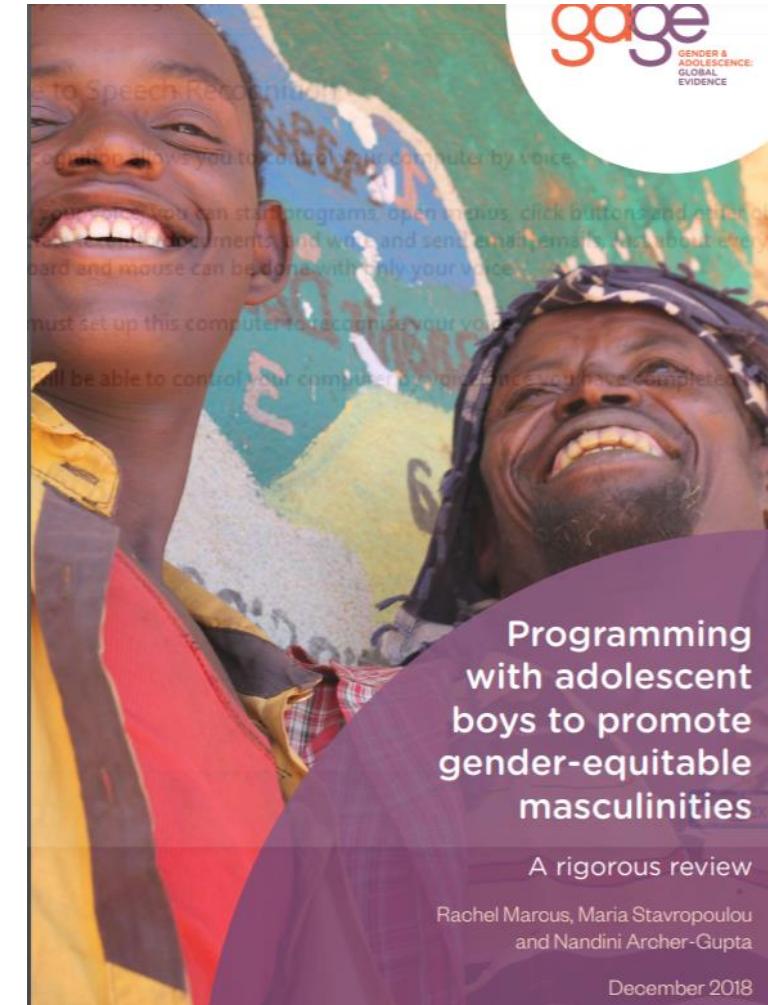
Changing masculinities: insights on sexual harassment from an evidence review

14 October 2020

Rachel Marcus

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

ALiGN

- 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

ALiGN

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.”

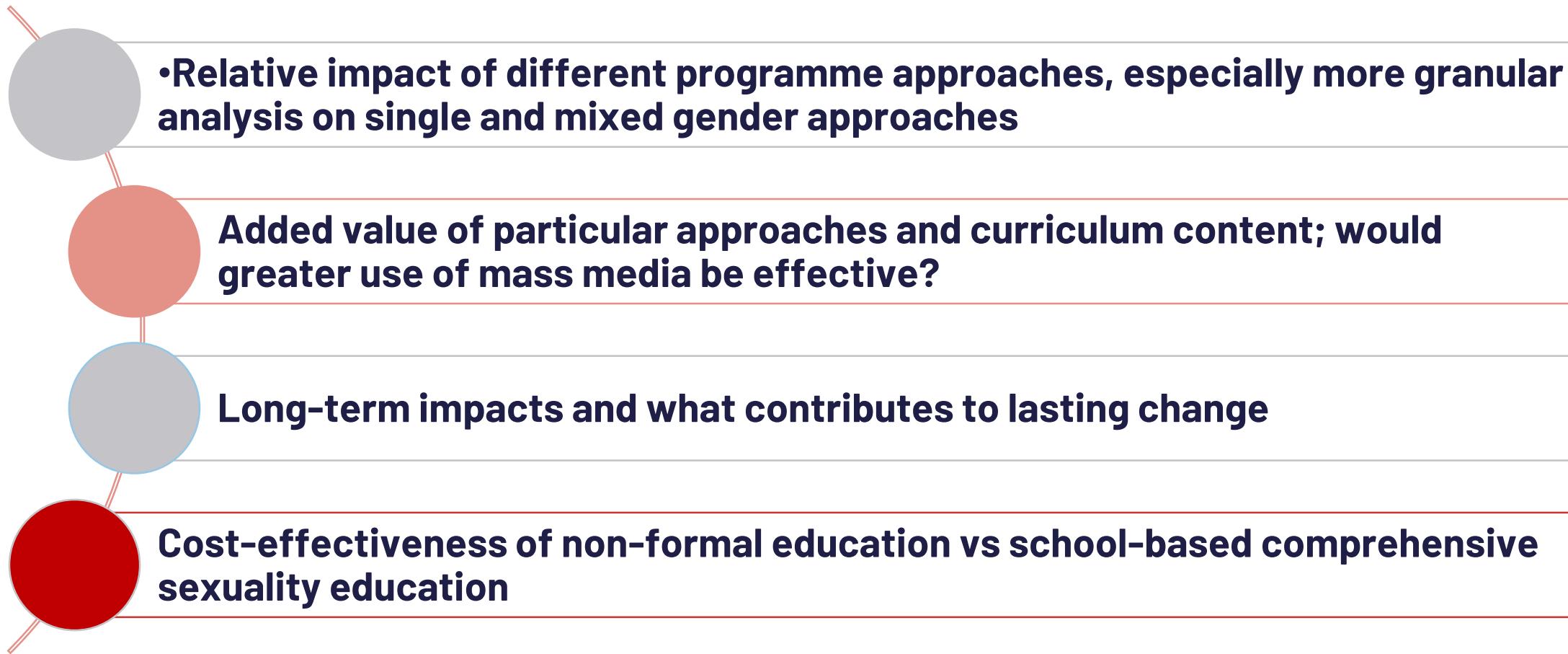
(Bihar, India)

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

ALIGN Masculinities resources

W: alignplatform.org
Tw: @ALIGN_Gender
#GenderNorms



ALIGN guide 15 June 2018



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

Published by: ALIGN, ICRW

Blog 25 September 2020



World Contraception Day: Why men must be part of the story
Authors: Kuhika Seth, Sharmishtha Nanda, Aishwaryya Sehoy, Pranita Achyut, Sheha 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
Authors: Nafini V. Khurana, Sopna Kedia, Ravi Verma

Published by: ALIGN, ICRW

Blog 4 May 2020



Transforming men, transforming masculinities
Authors: Nafini V. Khurana, Sopna Kedia, Ravi Verma

Published by: ALIGN

Blog 16 January 2020



Thinking outside 'the box' on men's health
Authors: Peter Baker

Published by: ALIGN

Toolkit 13 June 2019



Toolkits: Programmes on gender norms and masculinities
Authors: Sopna Kedia, Ravi Verma

Published by: ALIGN

Video/podcast 7 March 2018



IN INDIA, PRACTICE SOCIAL STEREOTYPES: PUT THE ISSUE OF CAREGIVING AND HOUSEHOLD WORK IN MENS' SPACES
Changing norms of masculinity that uphold male privilege

Published by: ICRW, ALIGN

Think piece 10 January 2019



The potential of a community-led approach to change harmful gender norms in low- and middle-income countries
Author: Ben Oisieghi

Published by: ALIGN