

IUSSP SCIENTIFIC PANEL YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIFE COURSE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Final Report: International Seminar on Violence in Adolescence and Youth in Developing Countries

New Delhi, India, 9-11 October 2012

Authors of the final report: Edith Alejandra Pantelides, in collaboration with Kofi Awusabo-Asare, Pablo Di Leo and Marco Castillo.

The International Seminar on Violence in Adolescence and Youth in Developing Countries was held in New Delhi, India, from 9 to 11 October 2012. The local hosting institution was Population Council, India.

The Seminar was sponsored by the IUSSP Scientific Panel on Young People's Life Course in Developing Countries and co-organized with Population Council, India. Funding was provided by UNFPA and DFID- India. One participant was co-funded by Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

There were 26 participants and 17 papers were presented. Papers were written by authors from: Argentina (2), Brazil (1), China (1), India (6), Indonesia (1), Lebanon (1), Mexico (1), Nigeria (2), Paraguay (1), USA (1).

The seminar consisted of 8 sessions:

- Macro and general approaches
- Violence within dating and marriage
- Non-consensual sexual experiences
- Reproductive health outcomes of violence
- Violence among adolescent and young males
- Intergenerational aspects of violence
- Perceptions and violence
- General discussion and Policy implications.

Some of the most important conclusions were the following:

On substantive and theoretical issues

At the societal level, traditional gender-role attitudes, whether held by women or men, are associated with greater acceptance of violence against women, and this is true also for the adolescent and young population. But family and school social climates have also a high incidence in the levels of young people's exposure to violence or to discrimination events (that are perceived as violence, and that are responded with violence).

Several of the papers showed that there is an intergenerational transmission of violence that manifests itself in different ways: children that either witnessed parental physical maltreatment or were themselves victims of violence are at a greater risk of establishing violent relationships with their friends (particularly among male youth), of re-victimization by an intimate partner, of being themselves perpetrators of intimate partner violence in later life. An extension of the phenomenon of “inheritance” of violence was shown in a paper on delinquent youth whose illegal activities were framed in a familial context of delinquent behavior or acceptance of the “benefits” of illegal activities.

Great importance was given in the seminar to intimate partner violence (IPV), in part as a reflection of the attention given to this issue by funding agencies. In relation to adolescents and youth, IPV is important in two ways: when it happens between their parents (as mentioned above) and when it is present in their own dating or marriage relationships. Violence in dating relationships may have negative consequences beyond the actual psychological or physical harm, for example on women’s reproductive health through coercive male control of contraceptive use and through transmission of infections.

In the general discussion, it emerged that some important aspects of adolescent and youth violence were not covered in the seminar. Only one of the papers dealt with mortality resulting from violence (a classical demographic approach) and none with resulting morbidity. Other issues worth researching into, although mentioned in the call for papers, but not covered by any of the papers were bullying, involvement of adolescents and youth in peer violence (as in gang wars) and conscripts in armies. Another issue suggested for future research was the consequences of violence for further life transitions.

Discussants mentioned that some papers lacked a theoretical framework. When it was present, it clearly strengthened the interpretative and predictive power of the research. Also mentioned was that some key concepts (e.g. vulnerability, risk, risky behavior) used in several papers were not clearly defined which made it difficult for results from different researches to be compared. Thus, contradictory results presented (for example about the relationship between alcohol consumption and violence) and those contrary to expected norms could be explained either by contextual differences or by differences in definitions, and consequently, in measurement.

On methodological issues

The limitations of cross-sectional studies and the benefits of a longitudinal approach that would make it possible to explore causality and to unravel changes were frequently mentioned as well as the need to pay more attention to the quality of the secondary data used.

The need to re-think the variables and categories used to measure violence (that are repeated in most instruments) was discussed, and so was the possibility of building indices that would facilitate analysis (beyond the categorization in psychological- physical-sexual violence) and consequently on conclusions reached.

It was acknowledged that comparisons between different contexts and even between different researches undertaken in the same context were at times difficult to compare because of the different time frames used to measure the existence of violence (at least once in a lifetime, last year, etc.); differences in social and cultural contexts; and different thresholds for the perception of what is violence: the point of view of the researcher and the point of view of the population may differ, and that difference should be explicit.

Only a few papers made use of qualitative techniques. The use of qualitative data collection methods was recommended to help explain some of the patterns that are emerging from the quantitative data.

On the population being studied

Some of the papers gave insights into the world of young males as victims of violence, which was a welcome addition to our knowledge of females as victims that were the object of most studies presented. But it was pointed out that there is a need to focus also on other adolescent and young populations such as homosexuals and transgender, migrants, and women (as perpetrators). Also, research is needed that covers non-metropolitan areas since there are indications that youth violence may be spreading beyond the large urban centers.

On policies and programs

Regarding the content of policies and programs, it was concluded that greater attention should be to gender equality, since women's inferior status in real (economic, educational, power) or normative terms fuelled violence against women. However, women are not the only victims of violence. When it is exercised among peers, the perpetrators and the victims could be of the same gender. In this regard, interventions should be geared towards the promotion of non-violent conflict resolution techniques. In the case of IPV or sibling violence, the focus should be on making parents aware of the consequences of their violent behavior. The contents of the interventions should not only be informative but should above all address power structures and social norms that justify violence, and gender relations.

The means to eradicate violence should be laws punishing violent behavior: violence should not be left unpunished. At the same time, institutional support should be in place to help victims. Other set of laws should be directed against the abuse of alcohol and drugs and could involve awareness campaigns about effects on inter-personal relations and on violent behaviours.

Interventions should take advantage of areas of youth institutions such as schools, sports centers, religious and other youth groups which are directly or indirectly involved in the socialization of young people. Health promotion campaigns should include the issue of violence and its consequences. In schools, concepts of domestic violence and its unacceptability should be emphasized in peer education programmes and at an early stage. Programs should also be directed at teachers and school authorities to sensitize them on the issue of violence and its consequences.

Public policy should take into account young people as recipients of services and as strategic actors, and should respond to the heterogeneity of existing youth groups. Solutions should take into consideration the fact that some solutions are already being negotiated by the social actors themselves: many interventions have overlooked the adaptive ability of local actors and have therefore failed to exert the expected impact, or have produced contradictory results. When this happens it is necessary to question the assumptions guiding the initiatives.

Original research on interventions that have/have not worked were conspicuously absent in the presentations at the seminar. However, research was quoted that showed that family-centered interventions initiated when children were pre-adolescents could motivate parents to foster respectful relationships with each other and improve their parenting skills. Research on successful/unsuccessful interventions would be very valuable in guiding future programs aimed at minimizing violence in general, and violence affecting or involving adolescents and youth in particular.



Population Council

International Seminar on Violence in Adolescence and Youth in Developing Countries

New Delhi, India, 9-11 October 2012

Organized by:

IUSSP Scientific Panel on Young People's Life Course in Developing Countries
in collaboration with Population Council, India

With financial support from:

Department for International Development of the British Government (DFID), and
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Programme

Day 1, October 9

8:30- 9:00 – Registration

9:00- 10:00 – Welcome and opening addresses

- Shireen Jejeebhoy, Population Council, India
- Mary Ellen Zuppan, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP)
- Frederika Meijer, UNFPA, India
- Peter Evans, DFID
- Edith Alejandra Pantelides, Scientific Panel on Young People's Life Course in Developing Countries, IUSSP

10:00- 10:30 – Introductions. Administrative matters

10:30- 11:00 – Coffee / tea break

11:00- 12:30 - Session 1. Macro and general approaches

Chair: Shireen Jejeebhoy

Discussant: Edith Pantelides

- *Determinants of mortality by homicide among young people in urban areas of Brazil.*
Mardone Cavalcante França, **Neir Paes Antunes** and Renata Clarisse C. de Andrade, Brazil
- *Experience and perpetration of violence by secondary school students in Ibadan, Nigeria.*
Fawole Olufunmilayo, Ajuwon, AJ and Osungbade, KO. Nigeria

12:30- 14:00 – Lunch

14:00- 15:30 – Session 2. Violence within dating and marriage

Chair: Iwu Utomo

Discussant: Edith Pantelides

- *Characteristics and risk factors for physical partner violence among married and cohabiting Paraguayan adolescent and young adult women: Results from a national survey.*
Marco Castillo, Edgar Tullo, Mercedes Melián and Alejandra Martínez, Paraguay.
- *Intimate partner violence against married female youths in Nigeria: forms, determinants and implications for sexual and reproductive health.*
Onipede Wusu, Nigeria.
- *Young men as perpetrators of violence within marriage: Findings from early marrying settings in India.*
Shagun Sabarwal, KG. Santhya, India.

15:30- 16:00 – Coffee / tea break

16:00- 18:00 – Session 3. Non-consensual sexual experiences

Chair: Edith Alejandra Pantelides

Discussant: Monica Magadi

- *Non-consensual sex within pre-marital relationships: Experiences of young women in India.*
K.G. Santhya and AJ Francis Xavier, India.
- *Gender role attitudes, perceptions and experiences of non-consensual sex among university students in Shanghai, China.*
Xiayun Zuo, Chaohua Lou, Hongfeng Niu, Ersheng Gao and Iqbal Shah, China.

Day 2, October 10

9:00- 10:30 – Session 4. Reproductive health outcomes of violence

Chair: Kofi Awusabo-Asare

Discussant: Monica Magadi

- *Dating violence and condom use among young men and women in Mexico.*
Irene Casique, México
- *Physical and sexual violence and symptoms of gynaecological morbidity among married young women in India*
Shireen Jejeebhoy, K. G. Santhya and Rajib Acharya, India

10:30- 11:00 – Coffee / tea break

11:00- 13:00 – Session 5. Violence among adolescent and young males

Chair: Monica Magadi

Discussant: Kofi Awusabo-Asare

- *Vulnerability and risk towards violence: a study among urban adolescent boys in Mumbai, India.*
Madhumita Das, Sancheeta Ghosh, and Ravi Verma (India)
- *Capturing violence among young Men in India: The influence of family, community, suppression, addiction and media.*
Aparna Mukherjee and Sulabha Parasuraman, India
- *Youth and delinquency. Cordoba, Argentina.*
Martha Melo, Argentina.

13:00- 14:00 – Lunch

Free afternoon

Day 3, October 11

9:00- 10:30 – Session 6. Intergenerational aspects of violence

Chair: Kofi Awusabo-Asare

Discussant: Edith Pantelides

- *From family to friends: Does witnessing interparental violence affect young adults' relationship with friends?*
Mahua Mandal and Michelle J. Hindin, USA.
- *Thriving in abusive homes: the case of adolescent girls from disadvantaged areas of Lebanon.*
Rouham Yamout and Zeina Ghantous, Lebanon.

10:30- 11:00- Coffee / tea break

11:00- 13:00 – Session 7. Perceptions and violence

Chair: Monica Magadi

Discussant: Kofi Awusabo-Asare

- *Sociability and violence in young people's experiences in three cities of Argentina.*
Pablo Di Leo, Argentina.
- *Understanding of domestic violence: evidence from a school based survey of Grade 6 and Grade 12 students in Jakarta, West Java, West Nusa Tenggara, and South Sulawesi.*
Iwu Dwisetyani Utomo, Anna Reimondos, Peter McDonald and Ariane Utomo, Indonesia/Australia.
- *Wife beating – from young men's perspective in India.*
Atreyee Sinha and Biswabandita Chowdhury, India.

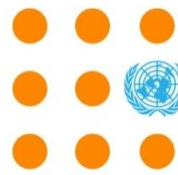
13:00- 14:00 – Lunch

14:00- 17:00 – Session 8. General discussion. Policy implications.

Chair: Edith Pantelides

Closing remarks.

END



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