

# Men and women's perspectives on options to address FSV in Lae, Morobe Province - PNG

Presentation – PNG Update  
New Lecture Theatre

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# Research team

## **Phase 1 : women's perspective**

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## **Phase 2: men's perspective**

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# Background

- Urbanisation, gender violence and education in PNG are often addressed separately.
- Services aimed at addressing gender based violence should also include families' plans, values and strategies for educating their children.

# How are children negatively affected?

- Dropped out of school
- Excluded from school (by the school) because of no school fees or behavioural problems
- Attend School but grades dropped
- Stayed home during violent episodes in family
- More information on women's perspective can be found on the following links;  
<https://www.devpolicy.org/fsv-childrens-school-attendance-and-strategies-used-by-schools-to-help-20181210/>

<https://www.devpolicy.org/family-and-sexual-violence-and-its-impact-on-families-in-lae-20181206/>

- Results from men's perspective will elaborate on this point

## MEN PERSPECTIVE

### Introduction

This is the findings of the research conducted in May 2019 build up from the study of women in 2018. It examines the perspectives of men about the effects of FSV on their families, with a particular focus on the available services they accessed when experiencing FSV. We also explore the family and school responses to support school children affected by FSV.

Gender-based violence in PNG is a product of socialization that erroneously tends to associate masculinity with an overt expression of violence towards women (Onyeke, 2010).

Family, domestic, and sexual violence is present and is a growing challenge facing many families and communities in Lae. It has multiple impacts on people and families, ranging from physical and psychological harm, financial abuse and trauma, through to negative impacts on families' abilities to make a living and keep their children in school.

# Research methods/methodologies

- **Exploratory study**
- **In-depth semi structured Interviews**
  - (Single & Married 18 years & over)
  - Service providers
- **Focus group discussion**
  - (Single & Married 18 years & over)
- **Key Informants and service providers**

# Main factors and reasons for FSV

- Widespread endemic violence is happening that is why it seems to be normalised.
- When physical/sexual/intimate needs are not met.

- When physical/sexual/intimate needs of woman not met and this leads her to look for another partner.
- Lack of understanding and trust between married couples.
  - Arranged marriage at an early age
  - Lateness
  - lack of family time
  - Age difference (men/women)
  - Abuse of technology (on the phone during odd times)
- Lack of respect

- **Gender cultural expectations of men/women**

- Tensions arises when gender roles are not full-filled.

- **Unfulfilled arrange marriage – jealousy**

- **Different education levels.**

- **Delay in bride price payment.**

- Other work by Gibbs (2016, p.336) -Woman's response can threatens her husband's masculinity.

- **Failure of performing household duties.**

- **Lack of ongoing family meetings and talks.**

- **Men's denial of wrongdoing.**

- **Consumption/abuse of drug and alcohol.**

- **Tribal conflicts/land disputes**

- **Unemployment**
  - No food and money
- **High cost of living**
  - Overcrowding in the house
  - Borrowed money
  - Daughters getting support from older men (sugar daddy)
- **Gambling**
  - is a big reason that consumes scarce money that is meant for food and this is one major reason for men getting angry. Gibbs ( 2016)-Tension builds as a result of gambling.

- **Not being generous or kind towards his family and friends.**
  - Men view his family and friends as a important part of his social circle and should be respected.
- **Extra marital affairs**
  - Fun
  - Polygamy
- **Too much talking (pop corn)**

# Strategies that men used to have a harmonious home:

- Men acceptance to acknowledge their own faults. For example:
  - ✓ Womanising
  - ✓ Gambling
  - ✓ Wasteful use of money
  - ✓ Aggression
  - ✓ Denial. Men deny that they cause problems that enrage women.

- Walk away: mainly to walk away when things get too heated. Men also talked about women talking too much or nagging or talking and not stopping – pairap olsem pop kon (making noise like pop corn) the best strategy is to walk away.
- Utilizing community leaders (Pastor, Priest, Councillor, VC magistrate, respected men in community (Papsy)).

- Family meetings
- Seeking professional services from Family Support Centre (FSC)
- Restorative justice- Mekim kaikai – in reference to family/customary approach when they prepare a meal to share and make amends and peace. Similarly this is evident in studies as outline by Gibbs (2016, p.337) and around Biersack (2016, p.200).

# Available FSV services

- Church
  - Social services (Lutheran Social Concern Office)
  - Social care and empowerment (FHI, 2019 - Education/Feeding children)
- Village court – justice, order & mediation
- Police
  - Apprehend, arrest, IPO, mediate
  - Family & Sexual Violence Unit – social support and justice



- Hospital

- Emergency department
- Family Support Centre

- Marie Stopes

- Peer Education

- Femili PNG

- case management/counselling



# Men's roles in addressing FSV & its effects on school children

- Parents avoid arguing when kids are around.
- Parents explaining the reasons for arguments/fights to children in very clear and simple terms.
- Fathers lead in family meetings and making peace with the whole family.
- Father visit children at school encourages attendance.  
Eg. Bring lunch

- **Intervention by other family members**
  - Families who care for children in the foster care system often experience challenges related to the system, accessing services and supports, and managing relationships. Despite these challenges, many families thrive because of unique attributes and strengths that contribute to experiences of resilience.
- **Church community programs – BCC**

- Paying school fees and meeting their educational needs
- Parents to be role models to kids by setting good example in the family
- Parents carrying out their roles responsibly
- Encouraging children to focus on their education – go to their rooms and speak to them and help make their breakfast.

- Take children out for shopping.
- Conduct awareness in communities on good parenting.
- Proper and responsible discipline of children.

# Summary

- Men admit, there is clear evidence that FSV exist in families.
- Men take lead to address FSV in their own homes. COMMON THEME: MEN SPEAK about their role to 'control' meaning to be able to maintain harmony, peace and order. But this is not always possible, or they are challenged by their wives or others.
- Family and extended relatives also play a part in addressing FSV.
- None of the men justified that it was right to use violence on their wives but rather emphasis that culture demands women respect their male dominance.

- Furthermore there were non violent ways to show men's dominance; some men indicate using restorative justice in form of giving money, pig and food to wife, kids or wife's family (especially brothers). The bigger the amount of money and food re-enforce a non-violence dominance.
- Most men don't know the available services. In most stories – women are the ones who go seek help outside the community. Men try to solve within family. – It is expected that she will seek help but not him. Most times it is she who is seeking help.

# Way forward

- Develop a policy for families in PNG
- Stakeholder collaboration
- Awareness and consensus raising.
- Build on existing Melanesian family support system.

- EM TASOL..TENK U TRU..
- ANY QUESTIONS?

# References

- Gibbs, P. (2016). *I Could Be the Last Man: Changing Masculinities in Enga Society*, *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, 17:3-4, 324-341.
- Onyeke, D. (2016). Real Men Don't Hit Women The virtue of respect as a strategy for reducing gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea
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