

Men's Role in GBV

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What does it mean to “be a man”

- Those with power and influence — khakims, judges, police officers, store owner — are usually men
- Fathers show sons how to treat women and girls
- When men become allies, it becomes possible to change the ways men are expected to act, and to make laws and policies that protect and support women
- Men can also be victims of violence, but like women, lack support and resources to prevent or address it

Can men be strong without violence?

Do any support groups in Khatlon Province target men?

Diversidades, a men's group in Oaxaca, Mexico, uses questions like these for discussion:

- How has violence affected your life? How did you experience violence as a boy? As an adolescent?
- In what ways do you use violence in your family and personal life? What kinds of violence? Ask yourself why you are violent. Is there another option?
- How does violence affect your relationship with your partner or with your children? How might things improve if there were no violence?
- How do boys and men influence each other either to use or avoid violence? How can you influence other men and boys to avoid violence?

Boys in Khatlon Province

- Young boys are not born to want to commit an act or acts of violence, they are taught – either by individuals or society
- Adolescent boys are actively forming their ideas about becoming men, so it can be an important time to lay the foundation for healthy relationships with girls and women.



Discussion: Do men play a role in prevention?

What are some ways we can get more men (or boys) in Khatlon to address and prevent GBV?

Should violence prevention begin in schools? Are schools currently doing anything to address GBV?

Is sharing stories of violence through art effective?

Activity 3: Role Play the Bystander

Scenario:

You notice that one of the young women in your women's group has not been coming to class for over a month. The other women give each other worried looks but don't tell you what they think (or know) has happened. You think violence is involved.

1. Get into pairs
2. Discuss three things that you would do
3. Discuss together your first reaction

Literature used

- Smith, M., Shannon, S., and Vickery, K. 2015. Health Actions for Women: Practical Strategies to Mobilize for Change. 1st Edition. Berkley, CA: Hesperian Health Guides

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