

**HELP & SHELTER
WOMEN'S WORLD OF PRAYER GERMAN COMMITTEE PROJECT**

**EVALUATION OF FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS WORKSHOPS – FEBRUARY
2010**

Three 2 day workshops for leaders of faith-based organisations were held in February 2010 in project communities Kaneville/Covent Garden, Den Amstel and Good Hope.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshops were as follows:

- To explain the nature and dynamics of gender-based violence and its relevance to the community
- To commit to facilitating change among members of FBOs and within the wider community with respect to the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours relating to gender based violence

Programme

The programme for the workshops focused on the following main topic areas:

- Exploring Self
- Sex & Gender
- Gender-based Violence/Domestic Violence
- Sexuality, Violence & Sexual & Reproductive Health
- Promoting Positive Action to Reduce GBV

KANEVILLE/COVENT GARDEN WORKSHOP

This workshop was held on the 8th & 9th of February, 2010 at the Diamond Community Centre and included religious leaders from the project communities of Kaneville and Covent Garden.

Attendance, Age & Gender of Participants

Sixteen religious leaders attended the 2 day workshop, 11 from the community of Covent Garden and 5 from the community of Kaneville.

Thirteen (81%) of the participants were female and 3 (19%) male.

The age range of participants was 35 – 70 years as follows:

16-19 – Nil
20-29 – Nil
30- 39- 3 (21%)
40-49 – 4 (29%)
50-59 – 5 (36%)
60-69 – 1 (7%)
70+ - 1 (7%)

**Facilitators: Ms. Bonita Harris
Mr. Kevin Massiah**

Facilitators' Evaluation

Day 1

Exploring Self

At the start of this session participants were exposed to the use of breathing techniques to cleanse the body of toxins including emotional stress thus reducing internal conflict and stress levels. As

an introductory activity, participants were asked to introduce themselves and give a personal experience they had of GBV. Many participants grew up in single parent homes where there was a high incidence of physical and verbal abuse by mothers, stepmothers or grandmothers. Participants shared experiences such as being physical and emotional abused by her mother.; witnessing brothers and sisters being physically abused, neglected and treated unfairly by their stepmother; being slashed by her father with a cutlass for intervening in an argument; being kicked down the stairs by a father; witnessing her father hitting her mother; growing up with a verbally abusive step mother who would instigate conflict between him and his biological father. As a result of this exercise, each of the participants realized that they were not the only ones who have had an experience with gender based violence, and by breaking the silence, everyone knew that they were not alone.

The facilitator went on to indicate that today many of us grow up thinking the use of violence as a way to discipline is normal, but really and truly it damages the individual psychologically and physically. In domestic violence, survivors suffer before, during and also the after effects of violence; as such persons who are DV survivors must have an inner strength which allows them to withstand such abuse and violence. The facilitator advised participants to be careful when using the words victims and perpetrators, as very often, the only true victims are the children of the people involved in domestic violence, because they are dependent and cannot leave the situation with out an adult intervening on their behalf. She also indicated that we are also guilty as charged as perpetrators when we see domestic violence, and allow it to continue.

Differentiating between Sex and Gender

In discussing the difference between sex and gender the facilitator explained that sex is biological it is what makes you a girl or boy, man or woman and is based on being born with male or female sex organs. On the other hand gender are those traits, behaviours, appearance that distinguish a person as being male or female, masculine or feminine and are often learnt and passed on through socialization from generation to generation.

The facilitator also gave an explanation as to why people are gay many of the participants stated that the information was new to them, and it would certainly change the way they viewed homosexuality. Other participants were still uncomfortable with homosexuality and said they would not be equipped to deal with such issues.

Gender Roles/Responsibilities/Influences

The facilitator in discussing gender roles stressed that gender affects how we are treated and the roles we are conditioned to play. Participants were asked to define gender based violence and identified mothers beating children, men stalking their partners, wives being beaten by their partners. The workshop agreed that gender based violence can occur among the same sex or opposite sexes and can occur among family members, partners, and spouses. In discussing how gender influences behaviour it was agreed that it was usually women who beat children while in spousal abuse it is men who beat women. An example given of GBV involved a boy child who disclosed that he contemplated drinking bleach or poison as a result of being cruelly physically abused by his grandmother. Another participant stated that he knew a man who would sexually abuse women just for fun, and one day she sat down with the abuser and counseled him aggressively. Eventually he was able to drop the habit, and he now goes to church with his family. One male participant stated that when women dress in sexy clothing they are likely to be raped, but the facilitator challenged this view saying that a woman should be able to walk naked on the road without being raped, and that he is blaming the woman for male violence.

One participant who is a pastor disclosed that he was sexual harassed by a member of his congregation. When he reported this no one believed him, and when he complained to the woman's husband he was subsequently beaten up. He stated that Pastors do not usually have anybody to turn and talk to, people would normally tell them to talk to God, but what they really want is a human agent to listen to their problems. The facilitator explained to participants that religion teaches people about love and the value of religion, and parents and guardians should

draw attention to these things and use these teachings to guide them through life. Participants were also encouraged to bring up their children in an atmosphere without violence. Do not tell children that you are beating them because you love them. The facilitator and the participants also discussed the influences of music on the minds of young men. Also discussed were some of the roles and responsibilities of religion, these were identified as: to provide guidance, to teach morals, to teach how to honour and love, spiritual development, to provide service to community, to give strength and support to Church and members.

Evaluation of Day 1

At the end of day one workshop participants stated that they learnt many new things such as the scientific explanation of why people are homosexuals, and stated that they view homosexuals from a different perspective now and have a better understanding. One participant indicated that she thinks sin is responsible for people becoming homosexuals, that is, the sin of our ancestors have fallen on us, and that is why we have premature babies, homosexuals etc.

Many of the participants also stated that they now share a different thinking with regards to disciplining children with violence, and now realize that they need to discuss problems more with their children. They now have a new perspective and different view on issues and they learnt not to be judgmental of people.

They also stated that they did not know they could breathe in and out to release emotional toxins, and will now practice it whenever they get angry.

Day 2

Gender-based Violence /Domestic Violence

Participants were asked what came to mind when you hear the term domestic violence, and majority of them stated physical abuse. The facilitator then went on to discuss the types and forms of domestic violence. Participants were put into groups and asked to act out a situation which had led to domestic violence. These scenarios were then discussed and the causes of the domestic violence identified.

Participants then divided up into groups according to sex, the men had to draw a picture of the ideal woman and list her characteristics and the women had to draw the ideal man, and identify his characteristics. Characteristics identified by women of an ideal man included: a man that loves God, a man who can teach, a loving man, romantic, a provider, faithful, a good listener, educated, one that smells good, affectionate, in a stable job, gentle, skillful, outgoing, street smart, popular, good lover, not abusive, a caregiver, hard worker, domesticated, responsible, faithful, honest, handsome, protective, healthy, uses initiative, family man, etc. Characteristics identified by the men of an ideal woman included: God fearing, supportive, respectful, loving, adventurous, progressive, appreciative, and a winner. After this activity, the participants discussed the roles and responsibilities of men and women in society today, and how socialization is responsible for shaping those roles and responsibilities. Then the group moved into discussing the cycle of violence, how to discipline children without violence, and how violence affects children into their adulthood.

Entrapment and Cycle of Abuse

Participants were asked to identify some of the reasons victims of domestic violence stay with their abuser. Some of the reasons identified were: embarrassment, financial dependence, love, in the hope that abuse will stop, religious vows, fear of the person, because of a lack of family support, culture, custom, religion, etc. After discussing these reasons it was pointed out that these fall under the entrapment process which makes it difficult for persons to leave abusive relationships. The facilitator also discussed with the participants, the main reason why people become abusers, and why some become victims of domestic violence. Reasons given were being brought up in a home where DV is taking place and so children are raised thinking violence is

acceptable and it is a part of family life. Taking vows of marriage, which stipulate that married couples should stay in the marriage through good times and bad times and the woman should love and obey her husband. This it was argued is also a form of entrapment, it was suggested that young people should write their own vows more in keeping with their own values.

The Cycle of Abuse was illustrated by a diagram and the participants were taken through the different phases of this cycle: honeymoon period- tension building period, violent episode period, and back to honeymoon period. It was explained this pattern continue to repeat itself in relationships where domestic violence.

Sexuality, Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health

Participants were placed into groups and asked to name one form of sexual violence that occurs in their community, things that led up to it, things that followed on after it and how the situation was dealt with in terms of victim and perpetrators. Both of the groups identified child sexual abuse incidents. One involved incest between a father and his daughter from the age of 3-7 yrs, when the child eventually ran away and reported to matter to the police but was told she was too young to give a statement so the child had to go back home where the abuse continued. In the 2nd incident the child was described as depressed, emotionally and mentally unstable but managed to speak to a teacher who arranged to have her removed from the home. The man who had abused her hid himself after the matter was investigated but eventually went back to live with the child's mother. After presentations by the groups the facilitated observed that none of the groups identified incidents of sexual abuse occurring in adult relationships including sexual abuse in marriage. This led to some soul searching with participants agreeing that sexual abuse occurs in their communities and among married couples. One participant spoke of her own experience of this which prompted other to also speak out. Contraception and the different types available, their pros and cons were also discussed with participants.

The Way Forward: Community Plan of Action

The participants divided themselves into 3 groups, and each group reported their plan of action. One group stated that they will sensitize members of the community about domestic violence, and they will target housewives. Another group planned to go out into the community and invite persons to come to their women's church and then conduct an awareness programme about DV.

The third group said their focus will be on youth, and they plan to talk to them about DV, other social issues and try to get them involved in sports so that they can help develop their community. After the reports the participants made a personal commitment to improve and share their knowledge.

Analysis of Participants' Evaluation Forms

Fourteen evaluation forms were filled out and returned, representing 87% of the total number of participants attending the workshop. The majority of participants, 93% definitely agreed that the workshop increased their understanding of DV, they agreed to give full support their plan of action, thought facilitation of the workshop was definitely good as was handouts distributed. A further 86 % of participants were of the opinion that the workshop definitely increased their knowledge and understanding of self and the venue arrangements and food were good. In addition 79% agreed that information presented was definitely understood and they learnt new ideas and skills; while 72% felt that the workshop did increase their understanding of sex, gender and gender roles, sexuality, violence and sexual & reproductive health. Only 64% of participants felt that the workshop was definitely successful in promoting positive action to reduce GBV; and only 57% felt that there was adequate time for group work and sharing of information.

Programme Topic	Yes, Definitely	Somewhat	No, Not at all	No Response
Was information presented in a way you could understand?	11/79%	1/7%		2/14%
Did you learn new ideas or skills?	11/79%	2/14%		1/7%
Did the workshop increase your knowledge and understanding of Self?	12/86%	2/14%		
Did the workshop increase your knowledge & understanding of Sex, Gender & Gender Roles?	10/72%	2/14%	1/7%	
Did the workshop increase your understanding of Domestic Violence?	13/93%			1/7%
Did the workshop increase your understanding of Sexuality, Violence and Sexual & Reproductive Health?	10/72%	3/21%		1/7%
Do you think the workshop was successful in promoting positive action to reduce domestic violence & other form of gender based violence in your community?	9/64%	3/21%		2/14%
Do you think your group/community plan of action is a good one?	10/72%	2/14%		2/14%
Will you give support to activities in your community to reduce domestic violence & other forms of gender based violence?	13/93%	1/7%		
Did you like the way the workshop was facilitated?	13/93%			1/7%
Do you think there was enough time for group work and sharing of information?	8/57%	4/29%		2/14%
Was the workshop venue, arrangements and food good?	12/86%	1/7%		1/7%
Were handouts useful and informative?	13/93%			1/7%

What Participants Found Most Useful

- The methodology used by facilitators which encouraged all participants to share and which allowed everyone to learn
- Presentations made by facilitators were very informative
- Most useful was realizing that you have to deal with self before dealing with others
- Most useful was sexual abuse because of the many types identified
- Understanding Self
- The cycle of domestic violence and the 3 stages involved
- Workshop was informative, every topic that was discussed over the 2 days was very useful and I have gained increased knowledge on these topics
- Group work and interaction.

What Participants Found Least Useful

- Group sharing

How Participants Will Use Knowledge Gained

- I will use workshop to educate men, by using my position as deputy head of the Men's Ministry of my Church in and outside of my Church
- Go out into my community and help persons become more aware of DV
- By first looking at what goes on in my home, identify any form of abuse which I was not previously aware of and use the knowledge gained to deal with this.

- Share, sensitize others and teach what I have learnt with community, family and Church
- Share with women in my community, the different forms of DV and how to address these e.g. professional counselling

Additional Comments

- Workshops should come into my community
- I would appreciate a follow up workshop
- More workshops and more often

DEN AMSTEL GARDEN WORKSHOP

This workshop was held on the 15th & 16th of February, 2010 at the Den Amstel Community Centre and included religious leaders from the project community of Den Amstel

Attendance, Age & Gender of Participants

Seventeen religious leaders attended the 2 day workshop; 15 (88%) females and 2 (12%) males. The age range of the participants was 17 – 65 years as follows:

16-19 – 4 (33%)
 20-29 – 1 (8%)
 30- 39- 2 (17%)
 40-49 – 2 (17%)
 50-59 – 3 (25%)
 60-69 – Nil
 70+ - Nil

Facilitators' Evaluations

Day 1

Facilitator: Mr. Vidyaratha Kissoon

Exploring Self

The facilitator as an introductory activity, asked each participant to draw a picture of anything representing them, list some of their good and bad characteristics and share with the group. In response to participants identifying anger as one of their negative characteristics the facilitator outlined ways in which they can control and deal with anger.

The facilitator also used the Johari Window with participants to further explore self; stressing the importance of communication, and being open to learning things about yourself from other people that you are unaware of, whether it be good or bad. Strategies to use when helping people in abusive relationships such as: giving direct assistance (money, clothes, shelter, etc.), giving information, giving advice, giving support, and recognizing that you cannot change the world and seek further help were shared with participants. Participants were asked to share experiences where what they or others first observed or believed turned out to be incorrect.

One participant who was a pastor told of his experience of attempting to befriend and help a boy who had been sent to a correctional centre for minors. When the boy was released from the centre he would frequently visit the pastor's home. One day the pastor invited the boy to a crusade and found to this amazement that the boy stole the crusade money. When the pastor confronted the boy his only explanation was that he was sorry. This experience has made the pastor a lot more cautious about getting personally involved when helping people.

Another participant who worked at an HIV Clinic was surprised to learn that a young, pretty girl with a baby was HIV positive. She learnt that this girl was kicked out of her home when it was found out that she was HIV positive and the father of the child who had infected her also disappeared. She was living with a friend and was anxious and worried about what would happen to her baby who was not HIV positive when she died. The participant talked and reassured her that her friend who was so kind to her would probably also take care of her child when she was no longer around. The girl went back and talked to her friend who reassured her that she would indeed take care of the child if anything happened to her friend. This was of great relief and comfort to the young HIV infected mother.

Another participant who was a head teacher stated that she knew a very brilliant child who was attending secondary school in Georgetown, but because of bad behavior he was moved to another school. One day the father told the head teacher that he was going to put him out of the house because his behaviour was not improving, the head teacher advised him otherwise and started to work closely with the boy and eventually the boy succeeded at his Caribbean Examinations (CXC), and is now a changed person.

The facilitator also indicated that when counseling people you need to be objective, and if you feel that you are unable to do the task then you should seek help.

Differentiating between Sex and Gender

This session started with the facilitator discussing the difference between sex and gender so that participants had a clear understanding of the two terms. Participants were then asked to draw the ideal man and woman, and identify their characteristics. Participants identified characteristics of an ideal man as: loving, gentle, open minded, friendly, disciplined, caring, not hot tempered, understanding, intelligent, not lazy, bread winner, clean and tidy, resourceful, hardworking, helpful, firm in dealing with the children, advisor, role model, protector, respectable, romantic etc. The characteristics identified of an ideal woman were: nurturing re children, a good cook, one who shows love and affection, home maker, cleaner, beautiful, expressive, loving, responsible, strong minded, educated, intelligent, etc. Participants also discussed their likes and dislikes, how each partner should share family responsibilities and how their gender is formed and affected by socialization. What makes a good leader, and the characteristics of a good leader were also discussed. Participants were also asked to name someone who they thought was a good leader.

Evaluation

At the end of the session, participants said that they will share the information with their family and children, they now have a better understanding of male and female differences, they learnt new techniques of anger management, they learnt positive and negative aspects of themselves, they learnt the importance of communication and reaching out to others, and they thought the Johari Window was really helpful in helping them to understand themselves.

Day 2

Facilitator- Mr. Kevin Massiah

Gender-based Violence/Domestic Violence

The facilitator asked persons if they had any experience with gender-based violence. Here are some testimonies of the participants; witnessing a woman getting slapped because she said something that the perpetrator did not want her to say, seeing a woman getting beat up by her boyfriend on the road, knowing a woman who makes her nursery school child miss school to look after the baby at home, knowing of a girl being abused by her boyfriend emotionally then physically and remaining in the relationship, knowing of a girl who was abused by her newly wed husband after witnessing the abuse taking place between his newly wed wife's parents.

When the girl complained to her mother about the abuse her mother told her that it is supposed to be like that; knowing of a mother who constantly physically and verbally abuses her daughter; knowing an adult daughter who hit, curses and burns her mother with hot water when her mother gets drunk; knowing an elderly woman who physically and verbally abuses her 12 yr old grandson , the grandson in turn is now verbally abusing his grandmother; Knowing of a wife who physically abuses her husband and he in turn abuses his wife verbally.

The facilitator then asked persons whether they were a victim or a perpetrator of DV. Many said they were perpetrators and hardly anyone said they were victims. The facilitator then shared a victim's abused check list, and then many of the participants attested to being victims. Participants were then given an activity to think of an abusive relationship and either write a poem about it, draw a cartoon, write a song, or act out a skit about it.

Group 1: The Child I am, and the Child I long to be

*It hurts when they are not at home,
When they're here I still feel alone,
It seems like nothing I do is ever right,
Sometime I cry myself to sleep every night,
You're a dunce, you're stupid, even a dog have better looks than you,
You're good for nothing, you will never amount to anything,
I wish they can take the time to see,
That no dog has better looks than me,
I feel like running away,
After all why should I stay?
They don't love me like the others,
I'm talking about my sisters and brothers,
Sometimes I wish I could die,
But for now I'm just going to cry.*

Group 2: did a cartoon depicting financial abuse by husband to wife.

Group 3: did a role play where the mother physically and verbally abuses daughter and daughter is emotionally and mentally unstable. A friend then referred the victim to H&S for counseling.

Gender/Socialization & DV

The facilitator then discussed how society impacts the roles and responsibilities of men and women. We socialize boys to suppress their emotions at an early age. When disciplining boys many parents use a lot of force in hitting, and then teach their sons not to cry thereby encouraging the suppression of their emotions which then sometimes gets expressed through violence when they get older. One participant stated that he grew up in a home that shared licks, and licks got him straight and so today he would give his children licks. He says that we are following the North American system which says no corporal punishment and that is why there is so much disobedience among the children in school. The facilitator then explained that a child is like a sponge when he/she is 0-5 years, and it is important to instill good values into that child during that age.

Cycle of Violence

The cycle of violence was discussed with participants and the 3 stages of this cycle demonstrated. It was stressed that very often at the start of a relationship we ignore the warning sign of potentials abusers because we are in love with the person. Reasons why people become abusive were discussed and it was shown how often the source of our anger can be traced back to past experiences. Recognizing how past experiences can influence our emotions/feelings were also discussed.

Entrapment

The discussion then moved into why people stay in abusive relationships, reasons identified by participants were; because of the children, having nowhere else to go, wanting to keep the relationship, fearful of what people might think, money, hope for change, love, family pressure, not wanting to lose joint assets, religious beliefs, fear of abuser, etc. The facilitator then asked the participants how they felt about telling persons who are in an abusive relationship to stay and pray, and many of them said that they would tell the individual to stay and pray and give them counseling. The facilitator then quoted the bible which said that if the woman is a believer and the man is not a believer then she should let him go, but yet the congregation tells them to stay in the relationship.

One participant stated that she has a friend who is married to a wealthy man, and she is being constantly abused. She says her friend is staying in the abusive relationship because she is trying to take enough money without his knowledge to build her bank account to run.

Another participant stated that she knows a couple in which the man found his wife cheating and he threw her in a canal, and she could not swim. However, he did not know that his brother jumped into the canal and saved the woman. After he threw the woman into the canal he drank poison assuming that she had died. Today, her son blames her for his father death and said he will kill her.

Participants asked a lot of questions about gays, lesbians, and hermaphrodites, and majority of them stated that sin was responsible for their state.

The Way Forward: Community Plan of Action

Group 1

Activities: Holding awareness sessions at youth meetings

Distributing flyers, putting up posters

Organizing a video show

Target Group: 14-25 years

Time & Place: Once a month at the Church and in the community

Support Needed: Commitment from members on every last Sunday for the year

Group 2

Activities: Workshops with youth from Christian Brethren Church,

Topics- Anger Management, Self, DV

Family Counselling for one family experiencing DV

Target Group: Youth 12-25 yrs

Family

Time & Place: Youth –twice a month for 6 months Fridays from 19.00-21.00 hrs

Family- once a month for 6 months on Sundays for 1 ½ hrs

Activities will be held at the Church building and at the home of the family or another suitable location

Group3

Activities: Education sessions-workshops, lectures

Showing of educational DVD's and videos

Target group: Married adults within the Restoration AOG Church and community

Time & Place: Sessions to be conducted once per month for 9 months March-Nov 2010

On the 2nd Sunday from 17:00 hrs

Resources Needed: Resource Persons, stationery (files, typing paper)

Informational material (handouts, flyers, posters etc)

Analysis of Participants' Evaluation Forms

Twelve evaluation forms were filled out and returned, representing 71% of the total number of participants attending the workshop. All of the participants definitely agreed that the workshop increased their knowledge and understanding of self, gender and gender roles. The majority of participants, 92% said that information was definitely presented in a way they understood and they learnt new ideas and skills. In addition 92% also thought the workshop was successful in promoting positive action to reduce GBV and the facilitators did a good job of presenting topics. A further 83% of participants felt that the workshop definitely increased their understanding of DV, handout were useful and informative and they were prepared to give support to activities to reduce GBV in their community. However only 50% of participants definitely felt that their group/community plan of action was good, 42% did not respond to this question and 1 person felt that the plan of action was somewhat good. The lowest rating was given for group work and sharing of information, only 33% felt that there was definitely enough time for this and 42% felt that the time allotted was only somewhat adequate. Food, arrangements and venue at the workshop was also assessed as definitely good by 67% of participants and somewhat good by 17%.

Programme Topic	Yes, Definitely	Somewhat	No, Not at all	No Response
Was information presented in a way you could understand?	11/92%			1/8%
Did you learn new ideas or skills?	11/92%			1/8%
Did the workshop increase your knowledge and understanding of Self?	12/100%			
Did the workshop increase your knowledge & understanding of Sex, Gender & Gender Roles?	12/100%			
Did the workshop increase your understanding of Domestic Violence?	10/83%	2/17%		
Did the workshop increase your understanding of Sexuality, Violence and Sexual & Reproductive Health?	<i>(Not presented)</i>	–	–	
Do you think the workshop was successful in promoting positive action to reduce domestic violence & other form of gender based violence in your community?	11/92%	1/8%		
Do you think your group/community plan of action is a good one?	6/50%	1/8%		5/42%
Will you give support to activities in your community to reduce domestic violence & other forms of gender based violence?	10/83%	1/8%		1/8%
Did you think the facilitators did a good job of presenting topics??	11/92%			1/8%
Do you think there was enough time for group work and sharing of information?	4/33%	5/42%	2/17%	1/8%
Was the workshop venue, arrangements and food good?	8/67%	4/33%		
Were handouts useful and informative?	10/83%	2/17%		

What Participants Found Most Useful-

- Every topic was useful but most important were topics on self, DV and how to influence positive change

- Information on sex and gender and responses to DV were useful and educational
- The way the information was presented
- Learning about the differences between sex and gender
- Victim and perpetrator DV checklists, learning about perpetrators, anger management
- You had to be creative and think about what you were doing
- I learnt how to reach out to people who are experiencing DV
- Most useful was learning that men and women are equal in everything

What Participants Found least Useful

- The food

How Participants will use Knowledge Gained

- First I will use the information gained to positively impact my life and also share this information with others
- Examine myself and try to improve on personal weaknesses also share information with Church members
- To work with a group to help others
- To share with others in my Church, neighbourhood, family and friends
- To share the information with members of my youth group
- To help others experiencing abuse
- I will counsel people in DV situations within my community and family

Additional Comments

- There is a need for more workshops like these because a lot of people do not know about these issues
 - The food came late on first day and portion size was small.
 - This was my first workshop and also the first time learning about H&S. I enjoyed it a lot
 - All the sessions were very good and the information was clearly presented
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GOOD HOPE WORKSHOP

This workshop was held on the 10th & 11th of February, 2010 at the Lusignan Community Centre and included religious leaders from the project community of Good Hope.

Attendance, Age & Gender of Participants

Nine religious leaders attended the 2 day workshop; 7 (78%) females and 2 (22%) male.

The age range of participants was 15 – 65 years as follows:

16-19 – 2 (22%)

20-29 – 2 (22%)

30- 39- Nil

40-49 – 2 (22%)

50-59 – 2 (22%)

60-69 – 1 (11%)

70+ - Nil

Facilitators' Evaluation

Days 1 & 2

Facilitators: Ms. Bonita Harris

Mr. Kevin Massiah

Exploring Self

The facilitator used the four-petal seven shaper concept to explain the biological and chemical definition of sex and compared this to the environmental, parental and societal influences that shape gender expectations. She also got the workshop participants to think and talk about their own personal experience of violence- both as 'victims' as well as 'perpetuators', how they communicate with their partners and children, the role of power in relationships, as well as the different types of familial and intimate relationships and forms of abuse. She also engaged the participants in thinking about their selves, using the Johari Window tool, and encouraged them to teach and lead similar workshops themselves, in their communities. The participants all reacted very well to the facilitator and were very engaged and communicative. She did an especially good job in facilitating a discussion with one of the participants who was currently experiencing domestic abuse; she engaged the other participants in providing helpful feedback to this individual understanding the sensitivity of the situation.

Differentiating between Sex and Gender

Participants were split into 2 group according to sex and they had to draw their ideal partner of the opposite sex. The women depicted a partner who was caring and attentive, as well as responsible and hard working. In comparison, half of the qualities the men desired in a partner referred to physical characteristics!

Gender Based Violence/Domestic Violence

Another activity that the participants found very useful was the review of 2 checklists, detailing specific forms of physical, sexual, psychological, financial abuse and intimidation that can be used to help identify individuals who are victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse. Another vitally important component of the facilitator's presentation was explaining the cycle of violence and the elements of entrapment. The facilitator also provided the participants with a list of ways that they could assist domestic violence victims including information on the legal rights of abused women which they were very grateful for. The facilitator used humor very well to create an open and engaging atmosphere.

Sexuality, Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health

Facilitator explained sexual orientation as a combination on biological and psychological factors and reviewed the different types of birth control methods. Abortion was also discussed. Participants were also provided with a list of ways that they could assist DV survivors, which was found to be very helpful.

The Way Forward: Community Plan of Action

All workshop participants verbalized a commitment to share the information they gained at the workshop with their religious communities, friends, and family members. The women from the Missionary Baptist Church committed to sharing the information with the other members of their Women's Group, and the Hindu Mandir members also committed to conducting a similar educational workshop with the Youth Group and other Mandir members. The Community Educator, Mobilizer, and Peer Educators will be following up with all workshop attendees to ensure that the action plans they developed during the second day of the workshop are indeed implemented, and to provide an additional information or assistance that they may need.

Analysis of Participants' Evaluation Forms

A total of 9 evaluation forms were filled out and returned, representing 100% of the total number of participants attending the workshop. All of the participants agreed definitely that the workshop was successful in promoting positive action to reduce GBV in their community and they would give support to community activities to reduce DV and GBV. Similarly all 9 participants thought that the facilitators did a good job of presenting topics and handouts were useful and informative.

In addition 89% said they definitely learnt new idea and skills, increased their knowledge of self, sex, gender and gender roles sexuality, violence and SRH. A total of 78% of participants also felt that information was definitely presented in a way they understood, the workshop increased their understanding of DV and there was enough time for group work and sharing of information. The lowest rating given was for workshop arrangements and food which received a 67% approval.

The community plan of action only received a 33% approval rating; however it appeared as if no written group plan of action was done by participants.

Programme Topic	Yes, Definitely	Somewhat	No, Not at all	No Response
Was information presented in a way you could understand?	7/78%			2/22%
Did you learn new ideas or skills?	8/89%			1/11%
Did the workshop increase your knowledge and understanding of Self?	8/89%			1/11%
Did the workshop increase your knowledge & understanding of Sex, Gender & Gender Roles?	8/89%			1/11%
Did the workshop increase your understanding of Domestic Violence?	7/78%			2/22%
Did the workshop increase your understanding of Sexuality, Violence and Sexual & Reproductive Health?	8/89%			1/11%
Do you think the workshop was successful in promoting positive action to reduce domestic violence & other form of gender based violence in your community?	9/100%			
Do you think your group/community plan of action is a good one?	3/33%			6/67%
Will you give support to activities in your community to reduce domestic violence & other forms of gender based violence?	9/100%			
Did you think the facilitators did a good job of presenting topics?	9/100%			
Do you think there was enough time for group work and sharing of information?	7/78%	2/22%		
Was the workshop venue, arrangements and food good?	6/67%	2/22%		1/11%
Were handouts useful and informative?	9/100%			

What Participants Found Most Useful

- The way in which the topics were presented along with the helpful handouts
- The most useful part of the workshop was that everyone was given the opportunity to share their opinions together and facilitators presentations on each topic
- Information was well presented
- Most useful were topics about DV
- Workshop was useful as information shared would help to stop DV

How Participants Will Use Knowledge Gained

- I will use knowledge gained to try and stop DV and GBV in my community. in addition I will share this information with members of my Mandir
- I will use the knowledge gained in my community, Church and family
- I will help other people in abusive situations by giving them leaflets to read and advise them on what to do at my Church
- I will use the knowledge gained to share with my ladies group and in the community
- I will try to get the word out about all I have learn

Additional Comments

- Need to hold more workshops and target men to come out
- Get more people to come out to workshops
- My expectations were met. The workshop was an excellent step taken on the part of H&S