

Research on Gender-based Violence and Masculinities in China :

Quantitative Findings

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FOREWORD

Globally, millions of women and girls are subjected to all forms of violence and violence against women and girls (VAWG) remains a major health and human rights concern. As the global spotlight fell on the 57th UN Commission on the Status of Women this year, which focused on the priority theme of addressing VAWG, the momentum has been built for the international community's renewed commitment to address prevention and elimination of VAWG.

UNFPA has a long history of advocating for the human rights issues of women and girls, in particular VAWG. UNFPA is committed to strengthening and expanding its efforts to bring an end to gender-based violence (GBV). Over the years, UNFPA has identified the dearth of adequate and accurate GBV data as a common challenge to understand the problems, and to inform evidence-based policy change and programme design.

The programmes on GBV are generally focused on improving services in response to violence. While these interventions continue to be key priorities, addressing the root causes of GBV through primary prevention and engaging men and boys is also vital. This pathway was long underestimated due to the lack of data and insights on those men and boys who perpetrate GBV. This pressing need for and the difficulty of collecting accurate data on this issue, as well as the importance of engaging men and boys in preventing GBV, has drawn growing attention worldwide, including in China.

In order to collect reliable data, understand the underlying drivers of violence, and point to more effective ways to prevent violence, UNFPA China and Partners for Prevention supported a quantitative research which for the first time in China looks at GBV by taking into account masculinity, and examines the association between men's attitudes and behaviour and perpetration of violence. The research is part of a regional study – the UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence conducted in 6 countries, including China.

The present study, while limited to only one county in China, provides various entry points to work on violence prevention by addressing the root causes of violence. Based on the findings, the report proposes a set of recommendations that may guide future interventions by engaging men and boys. UNFPA will continue to support further research and will follow up on the recommendations to promote initiatives addressing masculinities and eliminating GBV. Together with other UN Agencies, national counterparts, like All-China Women's Federation, and civil society organizations, we hope to garner the support of a broad coalition of organizations and committed people to work towards a society free of gender based violence.

Mr. Arie Hoekman

UNFPA Representative to China

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