

**CENTRE FOR SOCIAL POLICY STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON**

**GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AWARENESS CREATION AMONG SEX
WORKERS IN ACCRA: A CASE STUDY OF THE SHARPER INITIATIVE**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA,
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THE AWARD OF MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN SOCIAL POLICY
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By


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DECLARATION

I, Ama Serwaa F. Asamoah the author of this thesis, do hereby declare that except for references to other people’s work which I have duly acknowledged, the study herein presented is the first of its kind to be carried out in Centre for Social Policies Studies of the University of Ghana, Legon, during the 2014/2015 academic year under the supervision of Professor Ama de-Graft Aikins.

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INTEGRI PROCEDAMUS

DEDICATION

I dedicate this study to my family and Dr. Joseph Koroma, my immediate boss at my office who understood and supported me in the course of the study.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I will like to sincerely acknowledge all those who in diverse ways have contributed to successful completion of this work.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to the Lord God Almighty for the strength, wisdom and direction he gave me through the journey of my life and the completion of this work. This is how far the Lord has brought me, Glory and Honour be unto His name.

I will like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to my hard working supervisor, Prof. Ama de-Graft Aikins, who took time off her busy schedule and patiently supervised my work.



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Below are the definitions of terms used in the proposal:

AIDS	-	Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome
BCC	-	Behaviour Change Communication
CEPS	-	Customs Exercise and Preventive Service
FSWs	-	Female Sex Workers
GAC	-	Ghana AIDS Commission
GBV	-	Gender Based Violence
HIV	-	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
HSS	-	HIV Sentinel Survey
IPs	-	Implementing Partners
LEA	-	Law Enforcement Agencies
MARP	-	Most-At-Risk Population
MDA	-	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
M&E	-	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOGCSP	-	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MSM	-	Men Sleeping with Men
NACP	-	National AIDS Control Programme

- NGO** - Non-Governmental Organization
- NSF II** - National Strategic Framework II 2006 - 2010
- NSP** - National Strategic Plan (2011-2015)
- STDs** - Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- USAID** - United States Agency for International Development

ABSTRACT

The study examined gender based violence awareness creation among sex workers in James Town and Abeka Lapaz in Accra. It sought to determine the knowledge, understanding and related experiences following the GBV education rolled out by the SHARPER Project for the most at risk groups: FSWs, MSM and the Law enforcement agencies (LEA). Interviews of focal group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with 20 FSWs, 30 MSM and 6 law enforcement officials in James Town and Abeka Lapaz, in Accra. A thematic content analysis was used to analyze the data. Findings from the study revealed that FSWs, the MSM and LEA knew of what GBV is including acts and behaviours that constitutes GBV. Though the FSWs and MSM are normally the victims of GBV, they are also sometimes the perpetrators while the clients who are usually the perpetrators become the victims. There is a very deep understanding of GBV among all the groups surveyed attributable largely to the educational initiative of the USAID SHARPER project. The educational campaign has led majority of the research participants to understand their rights as citizens in relation to the GBV and has also made the LEA informed about the group's rights in the phase of the illegality of the trade they are engaged in. Due to the education received on GBV the attitude of the LEA has changed towards the FSWs but the same cannot be said of the MSM. Though the education have had some impact, the experience of GBV mostly perpetrated by clients of the commercial sex workers still remains very high. What appears to have changed is the victims knowing how to handle the situations due to their level of knowledge and understanding of GBV. It is recommended that the SHARPER Project should cover clients who are within the general population as both victims and perpetrators of GBV so as to eradicate or reduce GBV among commercial sex workers.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The general lack or limited understanding of gender based violence and its inter-relationship with HIV and AIDS contributes partly to the rather slow decline of HIV infections in some countries and the rising rate of the infection in some other countries (Bucardo, J., Semple, S. J., Fraga-Vallejo, M., Davila, W., & Patterson, T. L. (2004). Gender-based violence is any form of aggression directed at an individual based on his or her biological sex (UN women, 2013). This aggression can be both legitimate and non-legitimate. According to Jewkes, Dunkle, Nduna, & Shai, (2010) Gender-Based Violence (GBV) refers to being targeted for violence because of ideas about what it means to be male or female. GBV includes violence against women (VAW), but also discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or change of gender identity. Gay men and boys also suffer from GBV. Although GBV concerns women, children and men, it disproportionately affects girls and women. Additionally the 1993 UN Declaration on gender based violence on the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) define GBV as any act that that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

It is targeted mostly at women because they are the weaker sex and to some men because they do not meet the stereotype of “tough” men. Different forms of abuse including physical, sexual and psychological, threats, coercion and deprivation of liberty constitutes GBV (WHO, 2013a). Gender based violence is perpetrated by both sexes, social groups, society as a whole and law enforcement agencies in an attempt to enforce and interpret the laws of society (Farley, Lynne & Cotton, 2005).

Gender based violence is one of the critical channels that work to drive the HIV infection rate particularly among Commercial sex workers (Female Sex Workers (FSWs), homosexuals and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) (Patterson et al., 2009). Commercial sex workers who tend to suffer from negative gender norms and its related violence remain “hidden” and hard to reach. They will therefore pass on the virus to their partners and other unsuspecting clients (persons who pay for sex) where there is unprotected sexual activities. Commercial sex workers and PLHIV who suffer forms of discrimination and stigma coupled with gender based violence from health workers are not likely to seek health services and will continue to transfer the virus to the larger population. Ghana has had a rather reducing HIV prevalence since 2000 with the current rate at 1.9% within the general population (Ghana AIDS Commission report, 2012). The downward reduction of the rate of HIV/AIDS will only continue with continued steps to reduce GBV, discrimination and stigma perpetrated on commercial sex workers.

In 2010, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), conducted a gender audit for a five-year USAID-funded Strengthening HIV/AIDS Response Partnership with Evidence-based Research (SHARPER Project) in Ghana (June, 2009 – December, 2014). The objectives of the gender audit were to produce recommendations to strengthen the process of building staff capacity in gender mainstreaming. The targeted populations were Female Sex Workers (FSWs), Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV), Ghana Police Service (GPS), Immigration Services and Ghana Prisons Service (USAID, 2015).

The audit found out among many others that, there were a lot of Civil Society Organizations, public and private organizations that have already developed, or are in the process of developing gender-mainstreaming strategies and programs, policies and monitoring programs. However,

there were weaknesses in the design, implementation steps and methods of evaluation particularly at the national level. Also it was found that gender programmes were decentralized but are not being coordinated by a single mandated institution. Specific mention was made of ministries (Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP) and Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC) who had gender as strategic element within their programme interventions, but lacked gender related targets, benchmarks and indicators in their policy documents. In addition they had limited capacity to supervise interventions that focused on gender based violence.

1.2 Over view of the USAID Ghana SHARPER Project

The Sharpening HIV/AIDS Response Partnership and Evidence-Based Research (SHARPER,2009-2014) Project seeks to reduce HIV/AIDS transmission among Ghana's most-at-risk populations (MARPs), People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and the sexual partners, female and male sex workers, and Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), through increased health behaviour messages and improved access to health services. SHARPER has reached over 15,000 MSM with HIV services. A consortium led by Family Health International (FH1360) in addition to four international NGO sub-contractors, including CRS Ghana, and 35 local NGO sub-contractors, implemented the four-year project in 30 districts which includes Accra Metropolitan, Okai Koi North, Ketu North, Ho Municipal, Mfantseman District, Cape Coast Municipal, New Juaben Municipal, Yilo Krobo District, Ellembele, Secondi Takoradi Metropolitan, Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly, Bekwai Municipality, Tamale Metropolitan Assembly, Techiman Municipal, Jaman North among others. SHARPER is funded by USAID and targets 46,000 beneficiaries.

The plan of SHARPER is to combine interventions shown to be effective under SHARP1 with new approaches that motivate Most-at-Risk Populations (MARPs), People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIVs) and their partners to adopt healthier behaviours. It is also to increase the target group's access to a comprehensive range of non-judgmental, user-friendly HIV/ AIDS services starting from their own communities and reduce stigma and discrimination against MARPs and PLHIV. SHARPER additionally plans to achieve greater involvement of MARPs and PLHIV through the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAP+) and to create an integrated prevention-to care continuum built on formal referral networks with peer-led case management. Finally it plans to build capacity for long-term sustainability that simultaneously strengthens Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and government partnerships and the services they deliver.

1.3 Problem Statement

Studies have proved that gender-based violence is one of the drivers of HIV transmission, care and treatment (Partterson et al., 2008, Sarkar, K., Bal, B., Mukherjee, R., Chakraborty, S., Saha, S., Ghosh, A., & Parsons, S. (2008). Globally, the association between history of gender-based violence and abuse (childhood abuse, intimate partner violence (IPV), and client-perpetrated abuse) and HIV risk among FSWs has been well documented (Malta et al., 2008); Mayhew et al., 2009; Sarkar et al., 2008; Shannon et al., 2009; Wechsberg, Luseno, & Lam, 2005). Gender-based violence (GBV) among commercial sex workers have been found to increase the risk of HIV and reduces the possibility to negotiate for safe sex (Miller, 200). The stigma, rejection and discrimination attached to commercial sex work for both sexes including MSM create barriers to access and use of HIV services including counseling and testing, care, and treatment.

Again, MSM especially are faced with negative attitudes and violence and are mostly not tolerated by the state and society as a whole. MSM often face arrest if they overtly state their sexual orientation. Expressions of same sex behaviour can be punished by imprisonment in some African countries. According to USAID study on ‘Gender Identity and Violence in MSM and Trans-genders’, law enforcement and health care providers often perpetrate widespread, intimidation, and harassment against gay men, MSM, thus hindering them from accessing services (USAID, 2009). Additionally, the rates of violence among heterosexual sex workers are alarming. In Ghana commercial sex workers are often arrested, molested and given all kinds of maltreatment as means of enforcing the law against the behaviour (Adu-Oppong, 2007).

The problem is that these so called sex offenders have often not been given any form of education neither are the law enforcement agencies aware of GBV and its effect on efforts to regulate the activities of sex workers to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS. Against this background a number of interventions have been put in place over the years in Ghana to educate the key population (Sex Workers), the law enforcement agencies like the Ghana Police Service on gender-based violence (GBV). Among such interventions is the program rolled out by SHARPER Project, a USAID project. The present study evaluates how effective gender-based education has affected the knowledge and experiences of GBV of these targeted groups with a special focus on the activities of SHARPER Project in Ghana.

1.4 Research Questions

The following research questions are answered in the study:

- ❖ What knowledge do FSWS, MSM and law enforcement officials have of GBV?
- ❖ How has GBV education informed the understanding of GBV within this group?

- ❖ What is the relationship between enhanced understanding of GBV and GBV related experiences?
- ❖ What are the policy implications of the experiences of the FSWs and MSM?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The following objectives are to be achieved in the study;

- ❖ To determine the knowledge gained by FSWS, MSM and law enforcement officials on GBV
- ❖ To investigate how GBV education has informed the understanding of GBV within these groups
- ❖ To explore the relationship between enhanced understanding of GBV and GBV related experiences.
- ❖ To determine the policy implications of the experiences of the FSWs and MSM

1.6 Significance of the Study

As part of the effort in ensuring gender equity and equality in Ghana, the Government in 2001 established the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs now Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP), ostensibly to deal with issues that bother on women and children. Fifteen years after the establishment of the ministry, a lot appears to have been achieved. For instance, a National Gender and Children Policy was put together in 2004 to address gender issues.

It was based on the gender policy that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) instituted a gender audit to help with evaluation, especially assessing the effect of the policy on gender based violence and HIV/AIDS prevalence among the key population or vulnerable groups such as Female Sex workers (FSWs), Men who sleep with Men (MSM) and

Ghana Police Service among others in Ghana. The major findings from the gender audit were that the implementation of the gender policy was uncoordinated and there were weaknesses in the design, implementation steps and methods of evaluation particularly at the national level.

Also it was found that gender programmes were decentralized but were not being coordinated by a single mandated institution. Specific mention was made of Ministries (Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs now changed to Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP) and Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC) who had gender as strategic element within their programme interventions, but lacked gender related targets, benchmarks and indicators in their policy documents. In addition they had limited capacity to supervise interventions that focused on gender based violence hence the implementation of SHARPER Project to fill the gap.

This study therefore brings to light some major interventions and benefits derived so far through the activities of SHARPER Project in educating stakeholders on commercial sex work and GBV. The study serves as an informative tool to all stakeholders in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS through commercial sex work as to the role GBV education can play in checking the menace. Furthermore, this study will help in formulation of public policies and interventions to improve the sexual and psychological health of commercial sex workers and homosexuals in Ghana.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

The study covers only the Greater Accra Region. The researcher selects purposively two localities which are known for the presence of commercial sex workers and homosexual. As a limitation however the information generated may not be representative of the population of homosexuals and commercial sex workers covered targeted by SHARPER Project let alone the entire country.

Many of the participants may be reluctant to be part of the study for the fear of being exposed publicly or to the law enforcement agencies.

1.8 Organization of the Study

The study has been organized into five main chapters. Chapter one deals with the general introduction, the statement of the problem, research questions, objectives, significance of the study. The second Chapter is concerned with the review of related literature and the conceptual framework. Chapter three also deals with the research methodology. In this chapter the research design, the population and unit of analysis, the sampling technique, sample size, the research instruments and the data analysis procedures have been outlined. The fourth chapter has to do with analysis of data and discussion of results. The fifth chapter is the summary, the conclusion, and the recommendation.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The chapter presents a review of theories underlying the study followed by a review of pertinent literature related to the subject of GBV and commercial sex work including the activities of men having Sex with men (MSM).

2.2 Theoretical Framework

In this section the theories which provide insight into gender based violence are reviewed. They include the theories of gender and power, cultural and learning.

2.2.1 The Theory of Gender and Power (TGP) (Connell, 1987)

The theory explains the depths of sexual inequity as well as gender and power imbalance (Wingood & DiClemente, 2000). According to the theory, there are three social structures that brings power differences among the genders; sexual division of labour, sexual division of power, and the structure of ‘cathexis’. These three constructs are distinct but are overlapping, and work together to define and explain the heterosexual relationship between men and women and have an influence on women’s health (Connell, 1987).

There are two levels at which these constructs of the TGP exist, the societal level and the institutional level. In the context of public health, these constructs of the TGP identify exposure and risk factors as well as biological factors in relation to issues that adversely affect women’s health such as HIV and STD risk in relation to condom usage as well as violence against women (Wingood & DiClemente, 2000). The TGP addresses women’s health issues and looks deeper into

the gender-based inequalities and disparities in women's health. The TGP can be used in public health research by examining risk factors and biological factors as well as economic, physical, and social exposures also known as acquired risks as they relate to women's health.

The sexual division of labour, at a societal level, divides women and men into gender specific occupations where women are assigned to unequal, lower paying positions (Miller, 1999). At the institutional level, women are often assigned to do "women's work", uncompensated responsibilities such as childrearing, housework, and caring for the sick and elderly and are assigned less value because they are not income generating. Women who are disadvantaged socioeconomically such as minorities and younger women and those with economic risk factors such as those who are living in poverty, have less than a high school education, and those who do not have health insurance, are more at risk for experiencing poorer health outcomes that result from the sexual division of labor than those women who do not have these risk factors (Wingood & DiClemente, 2000).

The basis for the sexual division of power begins at the societal level with the inequality of power between men and women. The sexual division of power, at the institutional level, is maintained by abuse of power, authority, and control (Wingood & DiClemente, 2000). In a study done by Raj et al., 1999 on heterosexual relationship abuse, they hypothesize those relationships where jealous accusations by the man to the woman, are more likely to be characterized by abuse. Men who abuse women often see the woman's feelings and concerns as being less worthy than their own and lack empathy for these women, often believing that the woman should care more about how the man feels rather than her own feelings. In terms of public health and in relation of HIV risk, behavioral risk factors that are a part of the sexual division of power include history of drug and

alcohol abuse, poor condom use skills, low self-efficacy to avoid HIV which leads into low or no perceived control over condom use (Wingood & DiClemente, 2000).

The structure of cathexis is also referred to as the structure of social norms and affective attachment (Wingood & DiClemente, 2000). Connell developed this structure to address the affective nature of relationships. At the industrial level, this structure defines the culturally normative roles for men and women and may further weaken women's role and increase the inequality felt by women in a heterosexual relationship (Raj, Silverman, Wingood, & DiClemente, 1999). At the societal level, the structure of cathexis characterizes the sexual attachments that women have towards men and this dictates appropriate sexual behaviour from the woman. In the realm of public health, women are adversely affected by this structure in the case of HIV risk, they may have limited knowledge of HIV prevention and they may also not perceive themselves to be vulnerable to HIV (Wingood & DiClemente).

In addition women may not perceive themselves as having power over the decision to use condoms, thus making them more vulnerable to HIV and other STDs. The structure of cathexis, along with the structures of the sexual division of labour and the sexual division of power are all integral parts of the TGP and can be used to address other women's health issues and should be considered when designing behavioral health interventions that address issues that adversely and/or disproportionately affect women.

2.2.2 Structural/Cultural Theories

Structural/cultural theories attribute domestic violence to the structures and cultural norms that legitimize deviance. In this category, culture of violence theory and gender inequality theory are included. In the feminist view, the central factors that foster partner violence include the

historically male-dominated social structure and socialization practices teaching men and women gender-specific roles. Patriarchy is a cultural belief system that allows men to hold greater power and privilege than women on a social hierarchy. In its extreme form, it literally gives men the right to dominate and control women and children (Dobash & Dobash, 2009).

In a more moderate form, the feminist approach holds a position of power relations between men and women. The position seeks to equalize power and share it between both genders. The status of women in society is related to the frequency of wife beatings, according to this view. Although some might argue that patriarchy no longer dictates male-female interactions, many disagree. Song (2006), in fact, identifies a number of contemporary cultural standards that not only permit but also encourage husband-to wife violence. They include the greater authority of men in our culture, male aggressiveness that is a positive way to demonstrate male identity, the wife/mother role as the preferred status for women, and male domination of the criminal justice system that provides little legal relief for battered women. Indeed, Bolton and Bolton (2007) also found a significant relationship between rigid sex role expectations and the incidences of domestic violence among Korean immigrants.

Armstrong (1998) carried out one study of domestic violence in Zimbabwe, which involved interviewing twenty-five male abusers and seventy-five female victims of spousal abuse in the Shona-speaking region. Her findings can be interpreted to support the role of cultural factors as causative of domestic violence among the Shona, but more complex interpretations also emerge from them. Armstrong reports that violence arises most frequently in Zimbabwe out of jealousy and over money. For example, violent arguments erupt in Shona couples when the wife simply asks her husband for money, thereby challenging the traditionally absolute control by the male head of household over family finances. A similar dynamic is at work in violence initiated by what

is termed "jealousy." Although male promiscuity has traditionally been accepted, a woman's sexuality is zealously controlled by her husband and/or family.

Two types of domestic violence-producing situations relate to this double standard. The first situation is when a wife is seen as challenging her husband's authority and prerogatives by inquiring about his extramarital involvements. In this scenario, violence erupts when women ask their husbands where they have been and with whom or express their sense of threat at the addition of multiple wives, which is increasingly seen realistically in the modern economy as a threat to the economic survival of the first wife, her children, and also as a potential source of HIV/AIDS. In short, the wife's questioning is itself a challenge to the husband's traditional rights and is seen as a threat to his culturally prescribed position, provoking violence in response.

Another situation involving jealousy as a "cause" of domestic violence centers on the husband's jealousy of his wife's contact with other men. In traditional African society, a married woman would have minimal contact with men other than her husband, but this is much less possible today, especially when the couple lives in an urban area and/or the woman works. Yet tradition-minded husbands feel threatened by interaction between their wives and other men and may act out violently because of that threat, whether imagined or real (Armstrong, 1998). Armstrong (1998), explains that other commonly reported causes of arguments that escalate to violence are: (1) disputes about the husband's traditional economic obligations to his extended family, now seen as a direct threat to the economic survival of the nuclear household; (2) anger over the wife's perceived failure to adequately fulfill the role of a wife within the traditional division of household labour; and (3) violence occasioned by the wife's "talking back," that is, failure to conform to the expected behaviour of a wife to be submissive, not to question or argue with her husband, and to

ask his permission for all her activities. In this way, domestic violence functions as a means of enforcing conformity with the role of a woman within customary society.

The explanations described in this section can be characterized as cultural theories of domestic violence not because they attribute it to violence endemic in African societies, but because they emphasize the close link between violence and the enforcement of conformity to traditional roles for women and dominance for their husbands. They also see violence as emerging almost inevitably out of a society that treats women as property, socializes women to be passive, reduces their bargaining power through the institution of polygamy, and the like. In this sense, the cultural arguments may merge with those based on gender inequality. Arguments based on culture are problematic in the African context for a number of reasons. Culture in Africa varies widely among groups and regions, changes over time, and may be hotly contested even within the same group. Multiple interpretations of tradition exist, yet it is invariably those of dominant males within the society that have been taken as authoritative (Bowman, 2003).

Evidence abounds that culture is often an excuse for male violence, rather than a cause of it (Armstrong, 1998). Finally, what is characterized as cultural in Africa would be interpreted quite differently in the United States. For example, as in Shona land, arguments about money and jealousy lead to domestic violence in the United States, but here they are analyzed as issues of power and control, or as a result of the individual batterer's psychological condition, rather than as cultural issues. Apparently, the United States is presumed to be without culture in this respect. Perhaps the absence of cultural explanations in the United States should be examined instead. Almost every traditional African society was patriarchal, and a woman's place within this scheme was decidedly subordinate. Institutionalization of this inequality remains common in African customary law. For example, under most African systems of customary law, women have no right

to inherit from their husbands, are not regarded as sharing ownership of marital property, are excluded from ownership of land, and are almost without remedy upon divorce.

Because gender inequality is so widespread, domestic violence is often discussed by African authors as simply a brief subsection in articles on violence against women in general or about gender inequality in Africa. The conclusion reached by these authors is that unless the systemic inequality between men and women is addressed, the problem of violence will persist. For example, Ofei-Aboagye (1995) wrote one of the first studies of domestic violence in Ghana. She begins by simply documenting the incidence of domestic violence among women seeking assistance from a legal aid office in Accra, seeing this documentation of the problem as an essential first step in dealing with it. But Ofei-Aboagye's analysis of the women's comments leads her to attribute domestic violence in large part to the subordinate position, passivity, and economic dependence of married women in her society. She concludes that although there is no one answer to this dilemma, changing the social order which teaches a woman that she is incapable of even small decisions and confines her to waiting for her husband to lead the way in all that she does, must be our primary focus. In short, the struggle against domestic violence is clearly seen as just one part of a much broader context; the struggle for gender equality.

2.2.3 Learning theories

Psychological learning theories have influenced explanations of violence and deviance. For example Bandura (1977) explained social learning theory by suggesting that behaviour is first learned by imitation or modeling and then sustained by social contingency; that is, consequences of such behaviour (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990). Works of Mihalic and Elliot (1997) explained that social learning theory is one of the most popular explanatory perspectives in the marital violence literature. Social learning theory (Bandura, 1977) suggests how the interaction of

behaviour, environment and our views of self-efficacy could interact to explain personality. Research work has focused on observable learning, learning that occurs through observing what others do (Santrock, 1998).

Social learning theorists emphasize behaviour, environment and cognition as the key factors in development. Observational learning is also referred to as imitation or modeling. Bandura believes that people cognitively record the behaviour of others and then sometimes adopt this behaviour themselves. Social learning theorists believe that people aggress only if they have learned that it is rewarding to be aggressive. Batterers learn this behaviour through observation. For example, boys who witness their father beating their mothers are seven times more likely to beat their own spouses. Violence is learned through exposure to social values and beliefs regarding appropriate roles of men and women. Violent behaviour is reinforced when peers and authorities fail to sanction batterers for using violence. Myers (1986) suggested that children who grow up observing physically aggressive models in their family, culture, and mass often imitate the behaviour they see.

2.3 Review of Related Studies

The section presents a review of pertinent literature on GBV and commercial sex work. The review covers issues such as GBV and HIV/AIDS, sex work and law enforcement and GBV, education/sensitization and GBV among commercial sex workers etc.

2.3.1 Gender-Based Violence and HIV/AIDS

According to Anderson (2014), over half of HIV-positive people in the world are women. Globally, the greatest cause of death among women ages 15-49 is AIDS-related complications; AIDS diagnoses have disproportionately tripled among women in the last 30 years. In Sub-Saharan Africa, women ages 15-24 now account for 75 percent of all new infections. Young women in sub-

Saharan Africa are eight times as likely to be HIV-positive as men. The majority of women who contract HIV do so through heterosexual sexual contact and, in many cases (like 90 percent of women in Asia, for example) their husbands infected them after marriage. Gender-based violence is the number one precursor to a woman being infected with HIV (Wechsberg, Luseno & Lam, 2005). Currently at least 1 in 7 new infections in women can be directly attributed to either male partner violence or women's lack of relational power (Wechsberg, Luseno & Lam, 2005). Generally their main "risk factor" is having sex with their primary male partner, which means they fall outside of every parameter of who has been traditionally targeted as an "at-risk" group.

Globally, HIV/AIDS has become a gender-based disease mostly suffered by women (Shannon et al, 2008). This is partly attributable to the high rates of gender-based and intimate partner violence aimed at women, and the way in which it greatly exacerbates HIV risk (Ulibarri, et al, 2009). Studies by Ulibarri, et al (2009) have found that women and girls who have experienced violence have a substantially increased risk of HIV infection, a risk that is both increased directly through sexual violence or indirectly through increased risky behaviour or inability to negotiate safer-sex practices with a partner.

Women who are abuse survivors have been found by studies to be more likely to be infected by an abusive partner and then once positive, more likely to become a target of abuse (Maman, Campbell, Sweat, & Gielen, 2000). In the United States of America, more than a third of women have experienced gender-based violence; of those 91 percent were under 25 years old (Farley & Barkan, 1998). According to the findings by Cwikel, Ilan and Chudakov (2003) over half of women with HIV (55 percent) have experienced violence; that is nearly double the national average of 36 percent. They also found that one in 5 HIV-positive women reported experiencing violence after they became positive and half of them attributed that violence directly to being HIV

positive. Statistics show that the numbers of post-positive violence is even higher in African countries where stigma and misinformation is common (Day, Ward, & Perrotta, 1993).

Indeed, internationally the numbers are even worse. In the last decade, wide-scale studies across Asia and Africa have shown women who experience violence from male partners are significantly more likely to be infected with HIV (El-Bassel, Witte, Wada, Gilbert, & Wallace, 2001). In some African countries, intimate partner violence is around 48 percent; the mortality rate from IPV in South Africa is double that of the United States of America. In South Africa, 44 percent of men admit to physical violence against their female partners, and intimate partner violence is so common that in one study, a majority of high school students surveyed in the country said they did not consider forced intercourse a crime (Wechsberg, Luseno & Lam, 2005).

Risk factors of GBV among sex workers have been identified to include drug use, childhood abuse, sexual assault, or domestic partner violence. It is found that women who experience gender-based violence are more likely to engage in unprotected sex, drugs and alcohol abuse. Early sexual violence as a child affects a woman's HIV risk throughout her life through increased likelihood that she will become involved in an abusive or controlling relationship, which has been proven to increase HIV risk (El-Bassel, Witte, Wada, Gilbert, & Wallace, 2001).

A WHO study in 2013 in Rwanda and Tanzania show that HIV-positive women were more likely to report a history of physical violence, sexual coercion, or gender inequality because women subjected to those forms of violence are less likely to request condom use, more likely to have partners who have risky sex behaviors outside their relationship, and more likely to have genital tract injuries associated with sexual violence (which increase HIV susceptibility). According to

the findings once those women are diagnosed as HIV-positive, they are less likely to get treatment, more likely to go off their medication, and to miss health care appointments.

Research on working men in South Africa, married men in India, and men in methadone treatment programs in New York who admitted to being perpetrators of intimate partner violence found that this disparate group of men were all far more likely to report multiple sexual partners, thus increasing their risk for HIV, and some researchers have postulated that abusive men are more likely than non-abusers to be HIV positive or to be infected with co-factors like genital herpes, which make women more vulnerable to HIV transmission (WHO, 2013b).

2.3.2 Sex Work and Law Enforcement and GBV

Global Network of Sex Work Project reported that 97% of sex workers in Phnom Penh reported having been raped in the past year (Jenkins, 2011). Abuse of power described by Thukral and Murphy (2011) involved sex workers being taken into police custody and in some cases detained without legal reason. This is consistent with reports on sex workers extra-legally detained by anti-trafficking non-governmental organizations (UN Women, 2008). Sanders (2003) found that the use of “Anti-social Behaviour Orders” against sex workers, make sex work more difficult. The consequences are serious as sex workers’ health are jeopardized because they do not negotiate with and check out their clients before getting into clients’ cars (Sanders, 2003). This leaves sex workers more vulnerable to client violence and to difficulties negotiating condom use. Sex workers in Hong Kong suffer discrimination both on the street and indoors. Police visit sex workers without legal residency are easier targets and suffer more than others.

According to studies by (Sohal, & James-Hanman, 2013) sex workers in the illegal sector reported far more harassment by police than sex workers in legal work. Monitoring of arrests in four

different areas of Cape Town between February and July 2004 and sex workers indicated that they had been arrested as often as four to five times in a month. Some individuals said that they had been arrested almost every day. When sex workers are arrested they are usually held for 48 hours, fingerprinted and released without appearing before a magistrate. Sex workers are also often fined for minor offences like loitering, with intent to solicit and littering (Sohal, & James-Hanman, 2013) and they are often not given any receipt for the fines they pay. Some sex workers have also reported that their clients have often been asked to pay a bribe to the police (Sohal, & James-Hanman, 2013).

Studies by Nelson et al (2012) revealed that sex workers experience other serious difficulties with the police and report that they have been harassed, insulted, physically abused, arrested and when they were not working, or forced to have sex with members of the police. Sex workers also experience physical violence at the hands of the police. They experienced being thrown into the police van when arrested, being beaten by the police, being dropped off far from where they work in a deserted area and being sprayed with tear gas. Day et al (1993) found that transgender sex workers are particularly vulnerable to police abuse. They are not only vulnerable as a result of being sex workers but also on the basis of their gender identity. Transgender sex workers who identify as female being held in the male prison cells and of the police encouraging male prisoner to abuse them. According to the findings, sex workers in police custody are often refused permission to make a telephone call to let their families know where they are and they are also refused medical treatment for burn wounds and a dislocated shoulder while in police custody. In some cases, Police officers do ask sex workers for sexual favours in return for not being arrested. According to a study commissioned by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and facilitated by Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC) in 2012, the Ghana Police Service

frequently violate the human rights of Female sex workers and breach domestic and international laws, through practices such as physical, sexual and verbal abuse, rape, torture, unlawful arrest and detention, and extortion (Adu-Oppong, 2007). Ghana Police Service have problems understanding the laws concerning Female Sex Work (FSW). Also, the majority of officers are opposed to FSW operations based on moral and religious ground and do not support legislating those operations. Furthermore, Ghana Police Service have subjected Ghana to some grave infringements of human rights, including rape and torture, and that they have distinct examples from FSWs in relation to experience with extortion by the Ghana Police Service.

2.3.3 Gender Perceptions and stereotypes among Most-At-risk Population (MARP) and PLHIV in Ghana

According to Dawuni, (2008) there is a general attitude of male superiority over women in Ghana, particularly in the sphere of sexual relations (male-female) where all decisions are made by the male or on the approval of the male. This male-dominance even extends outside the relationship and in most instances includes male members of the extended family. The seemingly accepted male dominance in sexual relations could be one of the reasons why the general population finds it difficult to understand and accept Men who have sex with Men (MSM) where it is assumed one male dominates another male.

According to WHO (2013), HIV/AIDS is widely viewed as a consequence of sexual immorality or immoral behaviours by the general population, thus, infected individuals are considered responsible for acquiring the disease. In some cases, the infection is perceived as punishment given by God to perpetrators of sins like prostitution, promiscuity, drug use or homosexuality. This influences the attitude and behaviour of others towards those who have the infection leading to all form of violence against them.

2.3.4 Female Sex Workers (FSW)

A desk review report on commercial sex workers in Ghana by Sustainable Change Project (2013) indicated that there are two general categories of female sex workers in Ghana: those that operate at their residences (Seaters) and non-residents (Roamers) who operate from places of entertainment, and on the streets. Seaters are generally older, well organized groups, and thus accessible to interventions that have been targeted at FSW. It is now clear that occasionally Seaters crossover to becoming “temporal roamers” when situations do demand. A third category is the virtual brothel. In this case a “Madam” identifies attractive girls (both educated and uneducated) and provides them with rented rooms, clothing, grooming and means of communication. She makes appointments for the girls who meet their clients in various locations and then use the rooms provided by the Madam. The Madam also determines the client fees and pays the girls.

Female Sex Workers have male sexual partners generally described as non-paying partners (NPP) who are described as providing the FSW with social and emotional needs of a male partner. They are generally recognized as the “*boyfriends*” of FSW. For persons outside the commercial sex industry, these NPP are seen as the male partners of the FSW, and some instance their potential husbands. This arrangement may seem as a façade but is a symbiotic relationship that benefits both parties. The FSW meet social/family expectations of having a male partner (boyfriend/husband) with accompanying male “*muscle*” to protect them in their trade often described as physically dangerous. The NPP on the other hand receive financial benefits from the FSW who generate more income than the NPP (Patterson et al (2006)).

2.3.5 Negotiation for condom use

A number of HIV prevention projects have reported that negotiating for condom use is still difficult even for FSW. Despite the increased awareness of STIs and HIV, few FSW reach 100% condom usage both with their clients and especially with their non-paying-partners (NPP). Clients believe that they still have the ultimate decision on the use of condoms. Negotiating for condom use most often becomes violent in instances where the client opts for no-condom and the FSW insists on the use of condom (Sanders, 2003).

2.3.6 Influence of Education/Sensitization the Rate of GBV

An intervention to reduce GBV was initiated through “Masimanyane's programmes” run by several NGOs in South Africa. Through public education and training communities were helped to understand the impact of violence at the personal, family and community level, and on the transformation process of South African society (Hegarty, O'Doherty, Taft, Chondros, Brown, Valpied & Gunn, 2013). The programme provides information and training on legislation and informs communities about GBV among all the entire populace especially women. One target of the programme is to garner support to end violence from men who are non-violent and committed to alleviating GBV. Gender training challenges men to examine patriarchy, religion, culture and tradition, and the ways in which they benefit men and oppress women. A follow up study in three years revealed a downward trend of GBV in some communities attributable to the impact of the Programme.

2.4 Summary of Literature Review

From the literature review, it is evident that gender-based violence is very prevalent and experienced on daily basis by commercial sex workers and is found to be the number one precursor

to a woman being infected with HIV. Risk factors of GBV among sex workers have been identified in the literature to include drug use, childhood abuse, sexual assault, or domestic partner violence. It is found that women who experience gender-based violence are more likely to engage in unprotected sex, drugs and alcohol abuse. There exists abuse of power by law enforcement agencies in different parts of the world in form of sex workers being taken into police custody and in some cases detained without legal reason. They are often harassed, insulted, physically abused, or forced to have sex with members of the police. Law enforcement organizations have problems understanding the laws concerning FSW. Also, the majority of officers are opposed to FSW operations based on moral and religious grounds. This is consistent with reports on sex workers extra-legally detained by anti-trafficking non-governmental organizations (UN Women, 2008).

Commercial sex workers are known to be more vulnerable to client violence and to difficulties negotiating condom use. MSM is generally regarded as a more abominable act than even sex work by females. Populations in Africa most especially find it difficult to understand and accept Men who have sex with Men (MSM). These issues in the literature have served as a background against which the present research questions and objectives are formulated.

CHAPTER THREE

3.1 Introduction

The chapter presents the methodology adopted for the study. It entails the description of the study population and sample, sample selection research design and data collection and analysis.

3.2 Target Population and Sample

The population for the study is all commercial Sex Workers (Male and Female) including homosexuals in the Accra Metropolis. Though there are presently no available statistics, their population is estimated to be over 1000 in Accra-Tema metropolis alone. Because of lack of resources a total of 50 commercial female sex workers and homosexuals (gay men) were targeted to constitute the sample for the study. According to the UNFPA study, sex workers are organized into groups. The various groups especially the “seaters” were targeted. The female sex workers are aged between 14 to 55 years on the average and hails from different parts of Ghana, and neighboring countries such as Nigeria, Togo and Benin (USAID SHARPER desk report, 2012).

3.3 Study Area

Population

This research was conducted in James Town which is part of Ashiedu Kekete District and Abeka Lapaz also part of Ayawaso Central in the Greater Accra Region and forms part of Accra Metropolitan Assembly. The population in Ashiedu Keteke is 117,525 (Population Census Report, 2010). Abeka-Lapaz is located off N1 to Mallam Junction road and has well laid buildings, drinking bars and active night life. Women form greater part of the community and the community is a heterogeneous one and has a population of 228,271 (Population Census Report, 2010) and they are predominantly government workers, traders and privately-own businesses.

Economic Activities

Inhabitants of James Town are predominantly fishermen and women, government workers, private business operators and traders. There are several entertainment centers including night clubs in James Town which serves as a source of income for some of the inhabitants. These entertainment centers serve as a converging point for the sex workers of all sexes. Because it is a fishing community it attracts foreigners who are sometimes the clients of the commercial sex workers.

These communities are purposively selected because they serve as the home for numerous identifiable groups of commercial sex workers and homosexuals and are formally known to organizations such as SHARPER Project who have been working with them. Some of the individuals engaged in the commercial sex work are located in Kiosks sited at specific locations in these communities of Accra where they are visited by their clients. These settlements have served as targets for contestant police swoops over the years.

3.4 Research Design

The study is a case study design within the qualitative method. Qualitative study according to Yin (2012) is most suitable for investigating a phenomenon or behaviour, notwithstanding its potential to reflect the researcher's bias or opinion. Techniques of qualitative research support thoroughness in the development of interpretation of themes derived from individual behaviours and from real life experience (Crowe et al, 2011). Qualitative research connects techniques that support the investigation of a phenomenon or behaviour (Yin, 2012 p 12). Semi-structured interviews and focus group discussion techniques were used in the collection of data.

The purposive, convenient and snowball sampling techniques were used in selecting the participants for the study. The purposive sampling technique was used in selecting the specific

areas of Accra where commercial sex workers including MSM can be located and also the key informants to be used. The convenient sampling was used in selecting the participants. Convenient sampling involves selecting samples based on availability and accessibility. The convenient sampling was used because the entire sample frame cannot be accessed for a possible simple random sampling and more so not every member of the identifiable groups were willing to participate in the study. Any member of the identified group of commercial sex workers and homosexuals willing to take part in the study was interviewed. Some of the homosexuals were recruited using the snowball sampling. In this case, some of the homosexuals helped in recruiting their colleagues and partners. The selected participants for FSWs were put into two groups with 10 participants in each group. There were three groups for the MSM.

3.5 Sources of Data

The researcher used only primary sources of data. With the primary data, the researcher gathered information from the field which helped in the analysis of the findings. The primary data was collected through interviews, and focus group discussions with FSWs, MSM and expert interviews with Ghana Police Service.

3.6 Data Analysis

The thematic content analysis following the recommendations of Miles and Huberman, (1994) was conducted on the data collected. The demographic characteristics of the sample and some responses will be presented in frequencies and percentages.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

The researcher followed scientifically the laid down procedure in obtaining data from respondents. There was informed consent from all the participants. Respondents were given the option to decide

whether they would be willing to participate with the research or not. Anonymity and confidentiality of respondents were respected in this research. The objectives of this study were made known to respondents. Respondents were educated more on the research that is being carried out. The researcher identified herself as well and the institution she is coming from so as to clear doubts from respondents as to the originality or otherwise of this research.

CHPATER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

The study examined gender based violence awareness creation among sex workers in James Town and Abeka Lapaz in Accra. The objectives were to determine the knowledge gained by FSWS, MSM and law enforcement officials on GBV and to investigate how GBV education has informed the understanding of GBV within these groups. It further seeks to explore the relationship between enhanced understanding of GBV and GBV related experiences and to determine the implications for interventions. The thematic content analysis (Miles & Huberman, 2004) was adopted in analyzing the interview and focus group discussion data. Data was collected from 20 FSWs, 30 MSM and 6 law enforcement officials in Accra metropolis specifically James Town and Abeka Lapaz. The participants were selected through a combination of purposive and snowball sampling strategies.

4.2 Data Analysis Process

An interview protocol was developed to ensure that participants were guided towards discussing the same topic areas. The recorded interviews were transcribed verbatim by the researcher with all reference to the interviewees (name and any other data identifying the individual) removed from the transcript to ensure anonymity. A thematic analytical approach was adopted in analyzing the interviews. Thematic analysis is a method used to identify, analyze, and report repeating patterns of meanings within data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). One of the benefits of this method is its flexibility, as it is not theoretically bounded as other qualitative analytic approaches such as grounded theory and discourse analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The initial stage of the analysis

involved an iterative process where the researcher actively read and re-read all the interview transcripts. The interview transcripts were then coded.

Codes represent an aspect of the data that may be of interest to the researcher as well as captures the qualitative richness of the phenomenon (Boyatzis, 1998). Initial codes were generated mainly from the data. This inductive approach to coding was adopted to minimize the tendency of superimposing the researcher's theoretical interest on the coding frame. An important consideration in this analysis was the unit of coding. The unit of codes was defined as individual statements, usually a sequence of interrelated sentences, which highlight interesting features of the data with regard to the overall research objective. Next, the initial codes together with the coded data extracts were collated to identify key patterns or themes within and across the data set. This also involved searching for potential sub-themes within the major themes identified.

4.3 Data Analysis

Three set of FGDs were conducted; FSWs, MSWs and law enforcement officials were interviewed as separate groups in three focus group discussions. FDG for FSWs were conducted in Twi at Abeka Lapaz, MSWs in Ga at James Town and was transcribed into English and LEA interview was in English.

Table 1 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC OF RESPONDENTS

Variable	Total number of respondents
Female	20
Male	30
Age	Total number of respondents
14-20	10
21-25	15
26-31	18
32-36	7
Education	Total number of respondents
Primary	18
Middle	6
Tertiary	2
None	14
Number of years in sex work	Total number of respondents
2-6 years	21
7-10 years	22
11-16 years	5
Not stated	2

Table 2 Detailed Profile of respondents

Respondent	Gender	Age	Number of years in sex work	Sexual orientation	Religious affiliation	History of GBV Experience	Ethnicity
FGD1FSW1	Female	16	2years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Ewe
FGD1FSW2	Female	18	2 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Akan
FGD1FSW3	Female	21	4 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Akan
FGD1FSW4	Female	20	6 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1FSW5	Female	19	6 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1SW6	Female	27	3 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Akan
FGD1FSW7	Female	23	5 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Nigerian
FGD1FSW8	Female	18	5 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Akan
FGD1FSW9	Female	24	6 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1FSW10	Female	30	6 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Ewe
FGD1FSW11	Female	36	12 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	

							Akan
FGD1FSW12	Female	25	7 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Dagbani
FGD1FSW13	Female	28	11 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Moslem	Yes	Northerner
FGD1FSW14	Female	29	9 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Krobo
FGD1FSW15	Female	26	10 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Akan
FGD1FSW16	Female	30	10 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Moslem	Yes	Northerner
FGD1FSW17	Female	22	8 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Moslem	Yes	Krobo
FGD1FSW18	Female	32	Not stated	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Akan
FGD1FSW19	Female	36	16 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Ewe
FGD1FSW20	Female	31	4 years in sex work	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Akan

Table 3 Detailed Profile of respondents

Respondent	Gender	Age	Number of years in sex work	Sexual orientation	Religious affiliation	History of GBV Experience	Ethnicity
FGD1MSM1	Male	14	2years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1MSM2	Male	24	3 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	
FGD1MSM3	Male	20	3 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1MSM4	Male	33	6 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1MSM5	Male	19	6 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1MSM6	Male	30	4 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	
FGD1MSM7	Male	32	4 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1MSM8	Male	25	5 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	
FGD1MSM9	Male	31	6 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Akan
FGD1MSM10	Male	25	6 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	

FGD1MSM11	Male	36	12 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1MSM12	Male	32	7 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	
FGD1MSM13	Male	25	11 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1MSM14	Male	29	9 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	
FGD1MSM15	Male	26	10 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1MSM16	Male	28	10 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1MSM17	Male	27	8 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga

Table 3 Detailed Profile of respondents

Respondent	Gender	Age	Number of years in sex work	Sexual orientation	Religious affiliation	History of GBV Experience	Ethnicity
FGD1MSM18	Male	21	2years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1MSM19	Male	23	2 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Akan
FGD1MS20	Male	24	4 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Akan
FGD1MSM21	Male	21	6 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1MSM22	Male	19	6 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ewe
FGD1MSM23	Male	27	3 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Akan
FGD1MSM24	Male	23	5 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1MSM25	Male	18	5 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Akan
FGD1MSM26	Male	24	6 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ewe
FGD1MSM27	Male	30	6 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga

FGD1MSM28	Male	26	12 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1MSM29	Male	26	7 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga
FGD1MSM30	Male	28	11 years in sex work	Homosexual	Christian	Yes	Ga

Table 4 Detailed Profile of respondents

Respondent	Gender	Age	Number of years in sex work	Sexual orientation	Religious affiliation	History of GBV Experience	Ethnicity
LEO1	Male	36	9years in Police Service	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Ewe
LEO2	Male	50	26 in police service	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Ewe
LEO3	Female	42	10 in police service	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Ewe
LEO4	Male	27	4 years in police service	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Northerner
LEO5	Male	30	6 years in police service	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Akan
LOE6	Female	30	7 years in police service	Heterosexual	Christian	Yes	Akan

4.4 Findings

The themes identified were awareness of GBV, understanding of GBV, human rights and GBV, Change of attitude towards commercial sex work. A dominant theme in the literature is experience of GBV. The labels for the various themes identified in this study were chosen to reflect those identified in the literature on GBV and commercial sex work. This was done to facilitate comparison between emerging themes in the current study and conceptual perspectives on education on GBV among commercial sex workers.

4.4.1 Knowledge of GBV among Female Sex Workers (FSWs), Men Sleeping with Men (MSM) and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA)

All FSWs involved in the study know what GBV is and are very much aware of the presence of GBV as it has been personal encounter for most of them. They are able to identify acts or behaviors from mostly their male clients and sometimes the law enforcement agencies that constitutes GBV. According to a participant;

“.....When we say GBV it means a male or female who leashes violence on each other or a male partner who leashes violence against his female partner or vice versa but most especially the female is being treated unfairly with violence in terms of our work.

Similarly, another participant said GBV is when my boyfriend or husband or my male client refuses to pay me after having sex with me or have sex with me without condom use constitute gender-based violence... FGD1-FSW1

The experience of GBV according to the FSWs takes several forms such as beating, pushing, tearing of dresses, non-usage of condoms during sex and stealing of our money and items and mostly perpetrated by their male clients. They explained that this occurs because their clients see them as vulnerable and weak and could therefore not defend themselves.

“...Some of the violence perpetrated to me is sometimes when I put my money down and my partner picks it, when I demand for my money, my partner beats me up. Sometimes too when I go for business, the clients have sex with me without paying for my services and when I push for my money, I am beating by the clients... FGD1-FSW 6

Another respondent said one will be there and a client will pick you to his house, after having an affair with you, he will see you off quietly and after he realizes that there is nobody around and seeing the type of bag you are holding, he will push you to the wall and pull your bag and give you dirty slaps, remove all your money from the bag and run away. If you are not wild, all your money for the day will be stolen from you.....

FGD1-FSW2

Among the MSM who are referred to us Homosexuals or gay knowledge about GBV abounds. According to all the participants they experience these forms of violence because of their sexual orientation which is frowned upon by Ghanaian society.

“...We experience insults from all categories of people, the marijuana smokers, and the drunkards among others. The community members always create a situation where you might talk back for them to have opportunity to beat you. They even sometimes warn us not to pass certain areas of James Town which is very discriminatory. Even the

previous day, a friend and I were walking by the roadside around 11.00am when a bicycle intentionally ran over us and said, they should give way else, he will run over them again and again. We also quarrel with our partners but not too serious. Sometimes, when you have one time sex with a partner, they try to stigmatize us but not our serious partners. The one time partners may want to tease or accuse you in whatever you into among friends pretending he has no knowledge of you. But with our serious partners, the violence comes when you are accused of infidelity that brings about fighting, beating, hitting etc. ...FGD3-MSM 6

“.....Another respondent said he was beating and burnt with fire on his arm which I was shown just because he spoke with another gay. The reason being that his partner was thinking that he was going to have an affair with the one he spoke with but because I love him, I did not retaliate..... FGD1-MSM 3

“....as for me I am beaten every day because I love my marriage. The beating and slapping comes as a result of my partner having an affair with someone else and when I talk, am beaten but after that we resolve our differences. Sometimes when we go out as a group to weddings, outdoorings we are chased with knives, firewood and throwing of sachets of pure water, stones and throwing of hot water on us and we scatter, they trace us to where we have passed and chase us and collect our tablets, mobile phones, or jewellery and some strip us naked. After that they ask you to go home naked.. FGD1-MSM 3

”.....Another violence that occurs among ourselves is when sometimes your partner asks for sex and they deny, the male partners do beat us which also brings about violence. You know sex is for pleasure and if your partner decides not to have sex at the moment, just control yourself. But to fight and hit your partner, that does not augur well.... FGD1- MSM 10

Knowledge of GBV among the LEA who participated in the study is generally high. On daily basis they receive reports of abuse and molestation from commercial sex workers. More so the actions of the law enforcement personnel themselves towards female commercial sex workers constitute violence by itself of which they are very much aware.

“.....According to a participant GBV is defined as a kind of violence that is perpetrated due to the fact the person is a female or male or the person is vulnerable. I know of SHARPER project about two years ago and I also read a lot about on gender issues. I also do my research since I am very interested in gender issues. Education on GBV by SHARPER project was through role plays, presentations, brainstorming, group work and film shows.....LEA 1

“...GBV can be said to be unjust act perpetrated to a group of people basically because of the roles society assign to those people. For example, with women because society expects women to be subordinate to men, society tends to place them in subordinate position such that if they are not fitting into such roles assigned by society or they do not fit into societal expectations. So far women when they are not playing such roles, we turn to be harsh on them. In marital relationship, the woman is expected to be subordinate to the man so if the woman seem not to be doing that, the man becomes violent because the man thinks he has authority over the woman... LEA 2

Acts which constitute GBV are well known to the personnel. This is because both the clients of the commercial sex workers, their partners and the law enforcement agencies themselves engage in the abuse. A participant said;

“....We are talking about assault here. Assault in form of battering if we want to look at it from the police perspective is what the commercial sex workers experience. That is where they come and you see scars on their bodies either from hitting the arms with some gadgets. I think the perpetration of the abuse cuts across. From their partners who are usually called the Non Paying Partners (NPP), uniform officers, who clearly think that they are doing is against the law but never actually take them to the police station, just abuse them and let them go. And then the society as a whole because you know the country we live in is religious inclined. They frown upon some of these things they do and we take advantage to abuse them but it is not right... LEA 3.

4.4.2 GBV education and Understanding of GBV among Female Sex Workers (FSWs), Men Sleeping with Men (MSM) and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA)

All FSWs clearly understood GBV. According to majority of the participants, they did not understand GBV until the initiative from the SHARPER Project. They now know what domestic violence is and their rights as citizens irrespective of what triggers the violence against them or the type of work they are engaged in which is prostitution.

“....Since the education of GBV by SHARPER/Pro-link, I now know what constitutes violence and how to deal with it. GBV education has changed my life because first of all, when I have a case and I send it to the police station, because I cannot read nor write, after the police have taken my statement, I insist that the police read the statement to me to be sure of what

have been stated on the paper. Secondly, if it comes to police enquire bail, I know the victim is not supposed to pay any money before he is granted bail. Additionally, though I am a sex worker, I have rights to live, speak out when I am not treated well” ...FGD1-FSW5.

“...I now know that if I am going to have sex with a client, I must use condom. If I am beaten or maltreated, I must report at the police station. At first, I did not know that when you are beaten, you can report at the police station but through GBV education, I am now bold and can go to the police to report. I was also taught that anytime I go to report a case at the police station, I must speak the truth and not lies and if I am asked to pay, I tell them that is not the law. If I go to any police station to report my case and I am told that the area in which the violence occurred does not fall under their jurisdiction, I am able to tell them that I have already been to the appropriate police station but did not get any positive response. I know if my partner perpetrate violence against me, I have the right to report and have him arrested” ...FGD1-FSW 4

FSWs understand that perpetration of GBV is not only a one way affair where only the commercial sex workers are at the receiving end but it sometimes happen the other way round where the clients are also abused by the renders of the service. A FSW said;

“.....We send the clients to their homes and steal money from them, it is a squad. Sometimes, the clients report the case to the police station but where the clients send us to our own rooms; it is for tit for tat which is justified which means that sometimes we also perpetuate violence against the clients. We do that because sometimes when you are picked by a client for

services, the men beat us so when we also get the opportunity, we do same” FGD1FSW 10

Other acts and behaviours which constitute GBV have been identified by the participants to demonstrate their deep understanding of GBV following the programme rolled out by SHARPER Project. Negotiations on condom use also constitute GBV. Majority of the participants understands and are of the view that GBV also occurs during negotiations on condom use.

“...Most clients use condoms but some do not use and when you complain, they will beat you, insult you and sometimes kill you. We insist on condoms because we have been educated extensively on condom use to prevent infections like HIV and STIs. When you go for a short with your client, out of stupidity after wearing condom for your client, then he himself removes the condom and tell you that inside of your vagina is too wet and the client himself mops up the vagina and the client have sex with you without a condom. So imagine this, when we have been given lubricant to apply to avoid bruises and when you complain, they beat your mouth to shut up. Some clients sometimes tear the tip of the condoms before having sex with us after agreeing to use condom.... FGD1-FSW 8

GBV education has led many of the MSM in James Town to better understand GBV and reasons why they are being treated by society in that manner. GBV education has also made them understand their rights as citizens and how to protect themselves. One of the MSM said;

“.....Education on GBV has helped me to some extent. Now I know my rights and if a client comes to me, I insist on wearing condoms to avoid contracting HIV or STIs which hitherto, I did not know. Because of education on GBV

by SHARPER, and other NGOs, we have been armed with a lot of information and if some policies are put in place we all will know what GBV and human rights stands for and if someone insults you, you will be able to react appropriately by reporting them to the police. Similarly, the police will also treat us like any other person in society, there should be no discrimination” FGD1-MSM 3.

“....When we all access our human rights equally GBV would be reduced but if someone offends you and you go to the police to report and no action is taking or report false allegation for them to be arrested, there will be more GBV or violence” FGD1-MSM 3.

With the LEA the SHARPER initiative and efforts at educating stakeholders on GBV has shown that the understanding of GBV among them (the law enforcement agencies) specifically the Police has gone up or has been greatly enhanced. A member of LEA interviewed said;

“.....My interaction with SHARPER has been positive and it has enhanced my understanding of GBV and human rights violation. It has also better informed me about domestic violence as well which is very positive. The objectives of SHARPER initiative are to make the Police service or personnel appreciate and understand the sex workers because they are vulnerable in society for which they need protection from the police. The objectives of the SHARPER project also coincided with the objectives of the police service since in the past years there has been increase of HIV positive police personnel who hitherto were having sex with these FSWs without using condoms”LEA 6.

“.....My interaction with SHARPER has been positive, yes in the sense that again, before we went for that project, much of your influence about these

people was based on religious beliefs, but with SHARPER initiative, it has given me the understanding of what they do and how you should relate to them. Again, SHARPER project has taught me that what they are doing is legal but the point is, they should be treated as citizen of this country just like anybody. But formally, once the person comes to the police station to report, even if that person has been abused, the reaction will be “but you are selling yourself” forgetting that the person has been abused. It doesn’t matter whether she was involved in illegal action but once she has been abused and she reports, she should be treated as any other person” ... LEA 4

“...In fact, the interaction with SHARPER has been positive and spreading fast. Interaction with SHARPER has been effective. Yes, at least it is changing people’s mindset; their relationship with these key populations is actually changing. Also, the objectives set came out positively. We do before and after evaluations and we see that there is an improvement in knowledge base” ...LEA 1.

4.4.3 Relationship between Enhanced Understanding of GBV and GBV Related Experiences

Though the FSWs still experience GBV as before the educational programme, what the educational programme has achieved in relation to the experiences of GBV among the commercial sex workers is knowing what to do or how to handle GBV or the abuses.

“....The GBV education by SHARPER is very positive because at the moment we know where to go whenever our human rights are violated. The intervention by SHARPER project has been effective, especially with the way the education was programmed. It was interactive and practical. Also, there was regular monitoring to make sure that everything that we were

taught was being implemented. Example like condom use, HIV education and how GBV interrelates with HIV infection. SHARPER has done its part in educating us on GBV which has served as a special tool in the course of our work. What is left is the law enforcement agency like the police to also implement what they have been taught so that there will be reduction of human rights abuses. In doing so, more FSWs will be able to trust them and work in hand in hand to punish those who perpetrate violence against us. In doing so, GBV can be reduced if not totally” FG1D-FSW 10.

The MSM or gays do no longer fight back when violence is perpetrated on them because through the GBV education they have come to know that the society and the police do not understand their sexual orientation. The GBV education has however done little in changing the attitude of society and that of the police towards the homosexuals. This makes them experience the GBV more as even never before. The same does not apply to the FSWs.

“...“The ‘ashawo’ ladies are not treated like this. The police sometimes understand them and even arrest those who attack them but as for us they sack us or even arrest and lock us up if we complain of the abuse which in itself is another form of abuse. People hoot at us, call us all sorts of names and when you turn to look at the person talking, they will say, but I have not asked you to come and have anal sex with me. When you talk back, you are slapped and beaten. When the case is sent to the Police, the complainant will tell the police that he the homosexual was soliciting for sex for which he the complainant refused and that is what caused the violence. Because people know that Ghanaian laws frown over homosexuality, they use that as an excuse to perpetrate violence against us. Unfortunately, the police buy into their arguments and refuse to protect us”FGD2MSM6.

The enhanced understanding of GBV through the educational activities of SHAPPER project has changed the attitudes and behaviours of the LEA towards FSWS and MSM.

“.....Yes, my attitude has changed towards victims of GBV especially the FSWs since I am also a woman. I now appreciate them and try to understand their circumstances. I now understand that their rights has been abused although they are into illegal trade but since they are citizens of Ghana and they are entitled to rights as human beings. To score myself on the scale of 0-5, I think I can score myself 5 since GBV education has not been new to me before SHARPER initiative or education...LEA 2.

Furthermore the education has led to certain positive actions among the police force towards handling issues related to GBV involving the commercial sex workers. Another member of the LEA said;

*“...“You know, We train our officers on these issues a lot and after their trainings you realize that attitudes towards these vulnerable population change so you will see there is reduced police raids, there is reduced abuse and the police are now open to listen to the complains of these people when they come to the police station, and so they offer them protection, and shelter. So there is a drastic change in their behaviour from their outlook, their perception about these key population changes a lot and even when we follow up we see from written reports about how they have been able to help these key population. You could see that there is improvement in complains”...
LEA 1*

But this is not to say that it is the same throughout the country even in Accra. But it applies to only the areas specifically covered by the SHARPER Project example James Town which is

one of the study areas in the present study. Similar project would have to be rolled out across Ghana where commercial sex work is practiced.

4.4.5 Policy Implications

The implications of the level of knowledge, understanding and related experiences of GBV following the educational initiatives are that;though level of knowledge is high as well as understanding of the GBV, the act still occurs, mostly from clients and some law enforcement officials. This implies that more interventional measures on the expansion of the coverage of the present measures are needed...(LEA, FSW and MSM). More stringent laws on GBV is needed so as to severely punish perpetrators of GBV. Regarding the handling of GBV among the MSM much stronger interventional measures are required...(MSM).

The intensification of education on GBV and related human right issues is required among the law enforcement organizations...(MSM, LEA). By implication there is no need to legalize homosexuality and commercial sex work but there should be a system where everybody will have liberty to express his/her sexual orientations.. (MSM). The need for allocating some credit hours for GBV in all the police training schools is imperative. There is also the need to accelerate the development of manual on GBV for the police both in and out of training to guide their operations... (LEA, FSW, MSM).

4.5 Summary and Implications

This study examined the experiences of GBV among FSWs, MSM and LEA. Findings from semi-structured interviews and focus group discussion provided insights into the linkages between GBV education and knowledge, understanding and related experiences of GBV commercial sex workers and the law enforcement agencies. Themes of knowledge of GBV and understanding of GBV were common. Findings from the study suggest similarities as well as differences in experiences in GBV with those reported in the literature. From the study, it

emerged that all the FSWs, the MSM and the law enforcement agencies knew of what GBV is including acts and behaviours that constitutes GBV. Though the FSWs and MSM are mostly the victims of GBV, they are also sometimes the perpetrators while the clients who are usually the perpetrators become the victims. There is a very deep understanding of GBV among all the groups surveyed attributable largely to the educational initiative of the USAID SHARPER project.

The educational campaign has led majority of the FSWs, and the MSM to understand their rights as citizens in relation to the GBV and has also made the law enforcement agencies informed about the group's rights in the phase of the illegality of the trade they are engaged in. Due to the education received on GBV the attitude of the police has changed towards the FSWs but the same cannot be said of the police and the MSM. Though the education have had some impact the experience of GBV mostly perpetrated by clients of the commercial sex workers still remain very high but what has changed is the victims knowing how to handle the situations due to their level of knowledge and understanding of GBV. The implication of these finding is that, the GBV education targeted as only the most at risk population: FSWs, MSM and the law enforcement agencies is not enough to reduce or eradicate the problem. The core of the perpetrators who are the clients of the commercial sex workers should also be a target of the education.

4.6 Discussion

The study examined gender based violence awareness creation among sex workers in James Town and Abeka Lapaz in Accra. The objectives were to determine the knowledge gained by FSWS, MSM and law enforcement officials on GBV and to investigate how GBV education has informed the understanding of GBV within these groups. It further seeks to explore the relationship between enhanced understanding of GBV and GBV related experiences and to

determine the implications for interventions. The thematic content analysis (Miles & Huberman, 2004) was adopted in analyzing the interview and focus group discussion data. Findings are discussed in the frameworks of gender and power, cultural and learning theories and empirical studies reviewed.

4.7 Knowledge of GBV among Female Sex Workers (FSWs), Men Sleeping with Men (MSM) and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA)

It was found that all FSWs involved in the study know what GBV is and are very much aware of the presence of GBV as it has been personal encounter for most of them. They are able to identify acts or behaviours from mostly their male clients and sometimes the law enforcement agencies that constitutes GBV. It is evident that GBV prior to the educational initiative being undertaken by the USAID SHARPER project, battering by a partner is the only form of GBV known among the commercial sex workers. Now what defines GBV and what it constitutes is known the commercial sex workers. Similar findings were made in existing empirical studies. Example is the “Masimanyane's programmes” run by several NGOs in South Africa as an intervention to reduce GBV. Through public education and training communities were helped to understand the impact of violence at the personal, family and community level, and on the transformation process of South African society (Hegarty, O'Doherty, Taft, Chondros, Brown, Valpied & Gunn, 2013). The programme provided information and training on legislation and informs communities about GBV among all the entire populace especially women. One target of the programme is to garner support to end violence from men who are non-violent and committed to alleviating GBV. The SHARPER Project in comparison to the South African one however has not covered entire communities where mostly the perpetrators come from.

The experience of GBV according to the FSWs takes several forms and mostly perpetrated by their male clients. They explained that this occurs because their clients see them as vulnerable and weak and could therefore not defend themselves. According to Dawuni, (2008) there is a

general attitude of male superiority over women in Ghana, particularly in the sphere of sexual relations (male-female). This can be explained by the Gender and Power theory and cultural theory. Gender and Power theory (Connell, 1987) explains the depths of sexual inequity as well as gender and power imbalance that create violence against women perpetrated mostly by the men (Wingood & DiClemente, 2000). According to the theory there are social structures that bring power differences among the genders. In sexual relationships females are therefore seen as subordinates and are often the victims of GBV.

Similarly structural/cultural theory will attribute these occurrences to the structures and cultural norms that legitimize deviance. According to the theory the central factors that foster partner violence include the historically male-dominated social structure and socialization practices teaching men and women gender-specific roles. In its extreme form, it literally gives men the right to dominate and control women (Dobash & Dobash, 2009).

Among the MSM who are referred to as Homosexuals or gay there is high level of knowledge about GBV. According to the participants they experience these forms of violence because of their sexual orientation which is frowned upon by Ghanaian society. Commercial sex work involving females (FSW) has been with us for many decades and though illegal it is what is generally known to the Ghanaian society. MSM is more alien to the Ghanaian culture. Dawuni (2008) explained in support of the above finding that the seemingly accepted male dominance in sexual relations could be one of the reasons why the general population finds it difficult to understand and accept Men who have sex Men (MSM) where it is assumed one male dominates another male.

Just as the FSWs and the MSM, level of Knowledge of GBV against the most at risk groups among the LEA who participated in the study is generally a high. On daily basis they receive reports of abuse and molestation from commercial sex workers. More so the actions of the law enforcement personnel themselves towards female commercial sex workers constitute violence

by itself of which they are very much aware of as they have been educated severally on these issues on various platforms including the SHARPER project. The findings further revealed that, acts which constitute GBV are well known to the personnel. This is because both the clients of the commercial sex workers, their partners and the law enforcement agencies themselves engage in the abuse. Empirical studies have made similar findings in support of the present findings.

A UNFPA study facilitated by Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC) in 2012, found that the Ghana Police Service frequently violate the human rights of Female sex workers and breach domestic and international laws, through practices such as physical, sexual and verbal abuse, rape, torture, unlawful arrest, detention, and extortion (Adu-Oppong, 2007). With the GBV education the general attitude of the law enforcement agencies have changed even though at the individual level some of the officers exploit the victims to their benefit either materially or sexually which is known to the commercial sex workers as a form of abuse. This could be attributed to learning factors as the learning theory is one of the most popular explanatory perspectives in the domestic violence literature.

Bandura (1977) explained social learning theory suggests that behaviour is first learned by imitation or modeling and then sustained by social contingency; that is, consequences of such behaviour (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990). The benefits the law enforcement officials derive from exploiting the sex workers in form of extortion and sexual favours is what makes some of them continue to abuse them irrespective of their knowledge on the rights of these sex workers. The situation itself where the trade is illegal itself makes the sex workers more vulnerable to the abuse by the police.

4.8 GBV education and Understanding of GBV among Female Sex Workers (FSWs), Men Sleeping with Men (MSM) and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA)

The study also revealed that FSWs and the MSM as well as the law enforcement personnel clearly understood GBV though initially they do not understand. The initiative from the SHARPER project has sensitized them on their rights as citizens irrespective of what triggers the violence against them or the type of work they are engaged in which is prostitution. There are other acts and behaviors which constitute GBV and most of the participants have identified some of them to demonstrate their deep understanding of GBV following the programme rolled out by SHARPER project. Some have to do with disagreements during negotiations on condom use. This makes some of them to contract HIV at the end.

According to Ulibarri, et al (2009) women and girls who have experienced violence have a substantially increased risk of HIV infection, a risk that is both increased directly through sexual violence or indirectly through increased risky behaviour or inability to negotiate safer-sex practices with a partner. Freedom begins with knowing ones rights and once the most-at-risk groups understand their rights, they are at an advantageous position in helping to reduce GBV in all forms more especially in commercial sex work.

Interestingly to the FSWs especially, perpetration of GBV is not only a one way affair where only the commercial sex workers are at the receiving end but it sometimes happen the other way round where the clients are also abused by the renders of the service. Through the GBV education they have become aware of these but what is left again is whether the larger society are aware of this. Majority of the clients are from the larger population who are not aware of the various forms of GBV and even when they fall victims, they are unable to enforce their rights. It can therefore be said that though the SHARPER educational initiative is having a positive impact on the most-at-risk population, there is a larger segment which are equally at risk but are outside the domains of the educational project. Furthermore the understanding of

GBV and related issues had made many of the commercial sex workers especially the MSM to better understand GBV and reasons why they are totally rejected by society, hooted at and sometimes chased out of public places.

It was found that efforts at educating stakeholders on GBV have enhanced the understanding of GBV among the law enforcement agencies because it has been partially included in their training curricula. At least it has enhanced the phase of police service. There is also a living document (curriculum) that feeds into the training of policemen which is in two stages: Pre-service training curriculum are those who are entering the police service like the recruits. It is being taught in the police training schools all over the country. Then those who are in the system already, there is continuous in-service training.

4.9 Relationship between Enhanced Understanding of GBV and GBV Related Experiences

Though the experience of GBV is as before and even higher, what the educational programme has achieved in relation to the experiences of GBV among the commercial sex workers is knowing what to do or how to handle GBV or the abuses. The MSM or gays do no longer fight back when violence is perpetrated on them because through the GBV education they have come to know that the society and the police do not understand their sexual orientation. Unlike in the case of the FSWs the GBV education has done just little or nothing in changing the attitude of society and that of the police towards the MSM. This makes them experience the GBV more as even never before. This experience of GBV which has failed to reduce according to the experiences of the commercial sex workers which can partly be attributed to the non-inclusion of the general populace where their clients come from in the GBV educational campaigns.

The above finding is however in contrast with existing findings. The Masimanyane's educational programmes" in South Africa lead to downward trend of GBV in some communities attributable to the impact of the Programme (Hegarty, et al, 2013). As highlighted

earlier on the difference could be due to the involvement of whole communities in the study which the SHARPER project did not consider.

Additionally the enhanced understanding of GBV through the educational activities of SHARPER project has also changed the attitudes and behaviours of LEA towards the commercial sex workers, especially the FSWS. There are now certain positive actions among the police force towards handling issues related to GBV involving the commercial sex workers as they are fully aware of their duty to protect their rights despite the illegality of their trade or engagements.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The chapter presents the summary of the study, the conclusions drawn and recommendations for practice, policy and research.

5.2 Summary

The study examined gender based violence awareness creation among sex workers in James Town and Abeka Lapaz in Accra. It sought to determine the knowledge, understanding and related experiences following GBV education rolled out by the SHARPER Project for the most-at-risk groups: FSWs, MSM and the Law enforcement agencies (LEA). The thematic content analysis (Miles & Huberman, 2004) was adopted in analyzing the interview and focus group discussion data. Data was collected from 20 FSWs, 30 MSM and 6 law enforcement officials in Accra metropolis specifically James Town and Abeka Lapaz.

Findings from semi-structured interviews and focus group discussion provided insights into the linkages between GBV education and knowledge, understanding and related experiences of GBV commercial sex workers and the law enforcement agencies. Themes of frequent knowledge of GBV and understanding of GBV were common. Findings from the study suggest similarities as well as differences in experiences in GBV with those reported in the literature. From the study, it emerged that all the FSWs, the MSM and the law enforcement agencies knew of what GBV is including acts and behaviours that constitutes GBV. Though the FSWs and MSM are normally are mostly the victims of GBV, they are also sometimes the perpetrators while the clients who are usually the perpetrators become the victims. There is a very deep

understanding of GBV among all the groups surveyed attributable largely to the educational initiative of the USAID SHARPER project.

The educational campaign has led majority of the FSWs and the MSM to understand their rights as citizens in relation to the GBV and has also made the law enforcement agencies informed about the group's rights in the phase of the illegality of the trade they are engaged in. Due to the education received on GBV the attitude of the police has changed towards the FSWs but the same cannot be said of the police and the MSM. Though the education have had some impact the experience of GBV mostly perpetrated by clients of the commercial sex workers still remain very high but what has changed is the victims knowing how to handle the situations due to their level of knowledge and understanding of GBV.

5.3 Conclusion

The USAID SHARPER Project which is an educational initiative on GBV among commercial sex workers has proved to be effective in driving home the knowledge and understanding of GBV among the most at risk populations; FSWs and MSM and the law enforcement agencies. Prior to GBV education by SHARPER project, battering by a partner is the only form of GBV known among the commercial sex workers. Now the commercial sex workers know various forms of GBV and what constitutes GBV. The experience of GBV according to FSWs takes several forms and mostly by male clients because the male clients see them as vulnerable and weak and could not defend themselves which was explained by Gender and Power theory and cultural theory. According to Gender and Power theory (Connell, 1987), there are social structures that brings power differences among the genders and so in sexual relationships, females are therefore seen as subordinates and are often the victims of GBV. Similarly, cultural theory attribute these occurrences to the structures and cultural norms that legitimize deviance.

The central factors that foster partner violence include historical male-dominated social structure and how society is socialized on gender-specific roles.

There is high level of knowledge about GBV among MSM and also acknowledge that they experienced these forms of violence because Ghanaian society frowned upon their sexual orientation which is alien to Ghanaian culture. Just as the FSWs and MSM, level of knowledge among LEA who participated in the study is high. On daily basis they receive reports of abuse and molestation from commercial sex workers. The actions of LEA towards female sex worker itself constitutes violence which they are now aware and have been severally educated on these issues including the SHARPER project. The findings revealed that acts that constitute GBV are well known to LEA because clients of the commercial sex workers, their partners and the law enforcement agencies themselves engage in the abuse.

Furthermore, on GBV education and understanding of GBV among FSWs, MSM and LEA, the study revealed that all the three categories of most-at-risk population clearly understood GBV hitherto, they did not understand. The sensitization by SHARPER project have made them know their rights as citizens irrespective of the type of work they engaged in which is prostitution. The participants were able to demonstrate their deep understanding of some acts and behaviours which constitutes GBV. For example FSWs also perpetrate GBV on their clients which they have become aware of through the GBV education. Interestingly, the majoring of clients are from the larger society who may not be aware of the various forms of GBV when they fall victim, they are unable to enforce their rights. Also, the understanding of GBV and related issues had made many commercial sex workers, especially the MSM better understand why they are totally rejected by Ghanaian society. Through GBV education, it has enhanced the understanding of GBV by law enforcement agencies notably the police have partially included GBV education in their training curricula which has enhanced the phase of police service. The GBV training is in two phases: Pre-service training curriculum for the fresh

recruits which is being taught in all the police training schools all over the country and there is continuous in-service training for those who are already in the system.

What the educational programme has achieved in relation to enhanced understanding of GBV and GBV related experiences is that the commercial sex worker knows what to do or how to handle GBV or the abuses. The MSM on the other hand no longer fight back when violence is being perpetrated to them because through GBV education, they have come to realize that the Ghanaian society including the police do not understand their sexual orientation. The study also brought to light that GBV education has just done little or nothing in changing the attitude of society and the police towards the MSM. They experience the GBV more as never before. This experience of GBV which has failed to reduce GBV according to the experiences of the commercial sex workers can partly be attributed to the non-inclusion of the general populace among which their clients come from in the educational campaigns.

According to a popular saying, knowledge is power, therefore it is expected that the knowledge gained will go a long way in reducing GBV targeted at commercial sex workers in our societies. This however does not, in any way, give legitimacy to commercial sex work including homosexuality of any form. The general negative attitude towards commercial sex work among Ghanaians including law enforcement agencies is partly informed by the illegality of commercial sex work coupled with societal cultural norms and religious ideologies. Sensitization and education of this nature is imperative.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations are made for practice, policy and research;

- ❖ The National Gender Policy, 2004 must be revised to factor in social protection and intersectionality issues to take care of all manner of people in the society.

- ❖ The laws on GBV should be made more stringent so as to severely punish perpetrators of GBV.
- ❖ Regarding the handling of GBV among the MSM much stronger interventional measures are required.
- ❖ The education on GBV should be intensified among the law enforcement agencies since their attitudes just as that of society towards MSM especially is still negative.
- ❖ Gender based Violence (GBV) should be inculcated into the curricula of all training institutions like the police, teachers, nurses, doctors and the curricula of Junior and Senior High schools.
- ❖ The GBV courts should be established by the Attorney General to facilitate the work of DOVSU in prosecuting perpetrators of GBV.
- ❖ Future studies should focus specifically on the clients who are within the general population as both victims are perpetrators of GBV.
- ❖ Future SHARPER Project should cover the clients as well.

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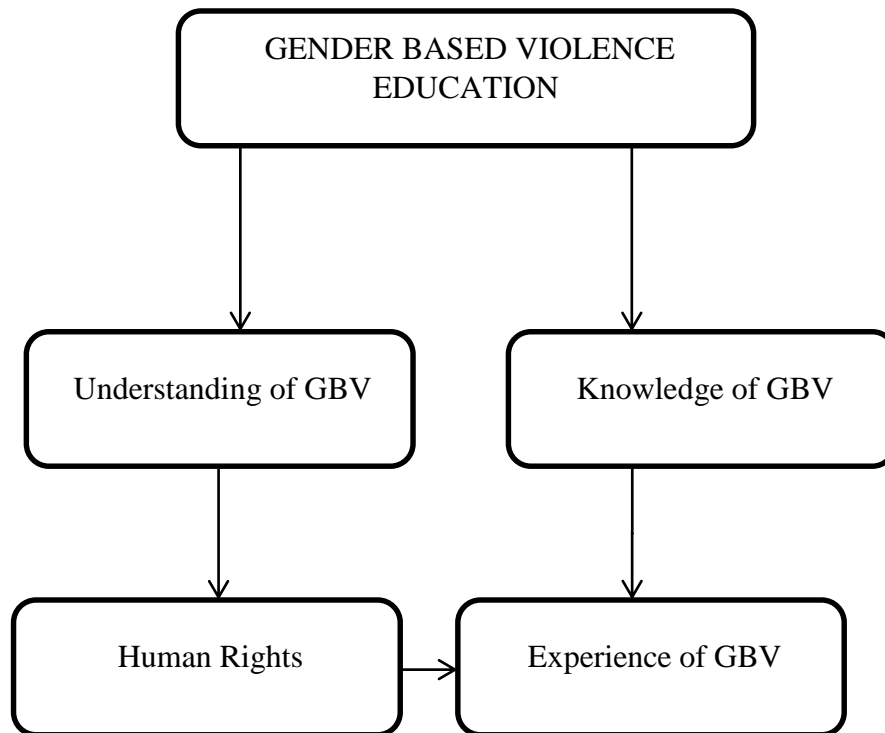
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APPENDIXES**Figure 1. Thematic network of GBV awareness creation among FSWs, MSM and LEA**

Source: Author of Study

Table 5: Coding Frequency Table for FSW

Themes	FGD1 FSW1	FGD1 FSW2	FGD1 FSW3	FGD1 FSW4	FGD1 FSW5	FGD1 FSW6	FGD1 FSW7	FGD1 FSW8	FGD1 FSW9	FSW FGD1 10	FGD2 FSW 11	FGD2 FSW 12	FGD2 FSW 13	FGD2 FSW 14	FGD2 FSW 15	FGD2 FSW 16	FGD2 FSW 17	FGD2 FSW 18	FGD 2 FSW 19	FGD2 FSW 20	TOTAL	
Awareness of GBV																						
Experience of GBV																						
Physical violence	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	20
Sexual violence	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	20
Emotional	*		*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	15	
Change of attitudes towards commercial sex work			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	18
Human rights	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	20

Table 6: Coding Frequency Table for MSM

Themes	FGD1 MSM1	FGD1 MSM2	FGD1 MSM3	FGD1M SM4	FGD1 MSM5	FGD1 MSM6	FGD1 MSM7	FGD1 MSM8	FGD1 MSM9	FGD1 MSM10	FGD2 MSM11	FGD2 MSM12	FGD2 MSM13	FGD2 MSM14	FGD2 MSM15	TOTAL
Awareness of GBV																
Experience of GBV																
Physical violence	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	15
Sexual violence	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*							8
Emotional	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	15
Change of attitudes towards commercial sex work					*	*				*		*	*			5
Human rights	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	15

Table 6: Coding Frequency Table for MSM

Themes	FGD3 MSM16	FGD3 MSM7	FGD3 MSM8	FGD3 MSM9	FGD3 MSM20	FGD3 MSM21	FGD3 MSM22	FGD3 MSM23	FGD3 MSM24	FGD3 MSM25	FGD3 MSM26	FGD3 MSM27	FGD3 MSM28	FGD3 MSM29	FGD3 MSM30	TOTAL
Awareness of GBV																
Experience of GBV																
Physical violence	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	15
Sexual violence	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*							8
Emotional	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	15
Change of attitudes towards commercial sex work					*	*				*		*	*			5
Human rights	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	15

Table 7: Coding Frequency Table for Law Enforcement Agency

Themes	LEA1	LEA 2	LEA3	LEA 4	LEA5	LEA 6	TOTAL
Awareness of GBV							
Experience of GBV							
Physical violence	*	*	*	*	*	*	6
Sexual violence	*	*	*	*	*	*	6
Emotional	*	*	*	*	*	*	6
Change of attitudes towards commercial sex work	*	*	*	*	*	*	6
Human rights	*	*	*	*	*	*	6

Table 8 coding Framework for Illustration

Global theme	Organizing theme	Basic theme	Definition	Frequency	Sample Quotes
Awareness of GBV	Knowledge of GBV	Experience of GBV	Directing violence to female or male	50	"...When say GBV it means a male or female who leashes violence on each other..." FGD1FSW1
	Understanding of GBV	Physical violence	Beating, locking up	20	".....when I put my money down and my partner picks it, when I demand for my money, my partner beats me up....FGD1FSW6.
	Understanding of GBV and GBV Related Experiences	Sexual violence	Refusal to accept condom use, demanding sex before rendering a service	20	"...Most clients use condoms but some do not use and when you complain, they will beat you, insult you and sometimes kill you...FGD1FSW8
	Policy Implications	Emotional	Hooting at and social rejection	50	"....People create a situation where you might talk back for them to have opportunity to disgrace you. They even sometimes warn us not to pass certain areas of James Town which is very discriminatory...FGD3MSM 3.
		Change of attitudes towards commercial sex work	Not maltreating and abusing the FSWs and MSM	6	"....so you will see there is a reduced police raids, there is reduced abuse and the police are now open to listen to the complains of these people when they come to the police station, and so they offer them protection, and shelter.....LEA4
			Human rights	Knowing what to do when maltreated and respecting human rights of FSWs and MSM and protecting them from abuse	50

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL POLICY STUDIES**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON****TITLE: GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AWARENESS CREATION AMONG SEX WORKERS IN ACCRA: A CASE STUDY OF SHARPER INITIATIVE****INTERVIEW GUIDE****INTERVIEW GUIDE (FSWs, MSM)****SECTION A: Demographic Characteristics**

1. Sex of participant
2. Age
3. Sexual orientation A. Heterosexual B. Homosexual
4. No of years in commercial sex work/homosexuality
5. Ethnicity
6. Location/residence

SECTION B: What knowledge do FSW, MSM and Law enforcement officials have of GBV

7. Can you define Gender Based Violence?
Probe: glossary of terms or definitions from literature review)
8. Have you been educated on GBV?
Probe: to explore what kind of information; compare with the content of the SHARPER education project.
9. Can you give examples of GBV against FSWs and MSM?
10. Have you suffered any form of GBV?
Probe: clients, partner, family members, police
11. Have you experienced GBV?
12. If yes, what type of violence?
Probe: Beating, sex without condom, etc...
13. Who are perpetrators of violence against FSWs and MSM?
14. Why do they abuse them?
Probe: rich or poorer clients, police, partners, older or younger
15. Why do they abuse them?

Probe: inability to pay for the services, reduced agreed upon rate, client not satisfied with the service

16. Who does it affect?

Probe: children, partner, self.

SECTION C: How GBV education has informed understanding of GBV within these groups

17. Are different social categories treated differently by the police?

18. Do you still face abuse and harassment from the police?

19. How often have you been harassed by the police and other law enforcers over your activities?

20. Will you say the police understand your rights as an individual?

21. Do the police tell you anything to educate you anytime they come to arrest/harass you?

22. Are some of the police your clients?

23. Do the police sexually harass you when they come for you?

SECTION D: What is the relationship between enhanced understanding of GBV and GBV-related experiences?

24. How has your experience of GBV changed since the education of GBV by SHARPER project?

25. How has your interaction with SHARPER Initiative influenced your better understanding of GBV?*(probe response if possible or negative)*

26. How has the intervention by SHARPER Initiative effective?

27. How do you foresee the reduction or elimination of GBV against and among sex workers in Ghana?

Implications of the interventions

28. What can be done to improve GBV experiences and official responses to the problem?

Suggestions and any other remarks

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL POLICY STUDIES**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON****TITLE: GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AWARENESS CREATION AMONG SEX WORKERS IN ACCRA: A CASE STUDY OF SHARPER INITIATIVE****INTERVIEW GUIDE (Law Enforcement)****SECTION A: Demographic Characteristics**

1. Sex of participant
2. Age
3. Sex:
4. No of years in law enforcement?
5. Location:

SECTION B: What knowledge do FSW, MSM and Law enforcement officials have of GBV

1. What is Gender Based Violence?
Probe: glossary of terms or definitions from literature review)
2. Have you been educated on GBV in the past 2 years?
Probe: to explore what kind of information; compare with the content of the SHARPER education project, if yes, Source of education, mode of education.
3. Can you give examples of GBV against (a) FSWs, (b) MSM?
4. Who are the most likely perpetrators of violence against (a) FSWs and (b) MSM?
Probe: rich or poorer clients, police, partners, older or younger
5. Why do they abuse them?
Probe: Probe: likely reasons for abuse
Probe: inability to pay for the services, reduced agreed upon rate, client not satisfied with the service, drug use, and gender/power play
6. What are likely effects on FSW/MSM?
Probe: Physical, mental, sexual.

SECTION C: What is the relationship between enhanced understanding of GBV and GBV-related experiences?

7. Since the education project, has your attitude towards victims of GBV changed?

Probe: scale score 0 - 5

8. How has your interaction with SHARPER Initiative influenced your understanding of GBV? (*probe response if positive or negative*)

9. How has the intervention by SHARPER Initiative effective?

Probe: relate to SHARPER objectives

10. How do you foresee the reduction or elimination of GBV against and among sex workers in Ghana?

SECTION D: Implications of the interventions

11. What has been put in place for people who have experienced GBV in the past are less likely to experience GBV in the future?

12. What is the official responses to GBV

Suggestions and any other remarks

APPENDIX II

TRANSCRIPTS

Glossary

{...}	Laughter
(xx)	Short pause
(xxxx)	Long pause
[@@@]	Gestures
////	Stressed and higher pitch statements
!!!!!!	Incomplete statements

Interview begins

Interviewer: How old are you?

Respondents: FGD1FSW1: 16 years

FGD1FSW2: 18 years

FGD1FSW3: 21 years

FGD1FSW4: 20 years

FGD1FSW5: 19 years

FGD1FSW6: 27 years

FGD1FSW7: 23 years

FGD1FSW8: 18 years

FGD1FSW9: 24 years

FGD1FSW10:30 years

Interviewer: No. of years in sex work

Respondents: FGD1FSW 1: Two years

FGD1FSW2: Two years

FGD1FSW 4: Seven years

FGD1FSW5: Seven Years

FGD1FSW3: Two years

FGD1FSW6: Two years

FGD1FSW7: Ten years

FGD1FSW8: Eight years

FGD1FSW9: nine years

FGD1FSW10: seven years

Interviewer: Ethnicity:

FGD1FSW 1: Ewe

FGD1FSW2: Akan

FGD1FSW 4: Akan

FGD1FSW5: Ga

FGD1FSW3: Ga

FGD1FSW6: Akan

FGD1FSW7: Akan

FGD1FSW8: Akan

FGD1FSW9: Ga

FGD1FSW10: Ewe

Interviewer: Interviewer: What is gender-based violence?

FGD1FSW1: When say GBV it means a male or female who leashes violence on each other or a male partner who leashes violence against his female partner or vice versa but most especially the female are treated unfairly with violence in terms of our work.

FGD1FSW3: A partner having sex with you without a condom is GBV.

FGD1FSW6: When your partner steals money or your belongings from you, it is GBV.

Interviewer:

Have you been educated on GBV?

Respondents: FGD1 FSW1: Yes. Pro-Link educated us on GBV through their peer educators. They taught us that when we have a problem with somebody and you do not report to the elder of the community or send the case to the

Police station for the person to be caught, or the perpetrator to be arrested, next time he will do more than he did previously.

FGD1 FSW 4: I was taught that when someone beats me, I should go report to the police station for his arrest to prevent next occurrence.

FGD1FSW6: Some of the violence perpetrated to me is sometimes when I put my money down and my partner picks it up without my knowledge, or when I demand for my money, my partner beats me up is GBV. Sometimes too when I go for business and the clients have sex with me without paying for my services and I push for my money, I am beating by the clients.

When it happens like that, I am not able to report to the police because I know I engaged in illegality and most at times, you do not know the client for easy identification for him to be arrested. When it happens like that, you just keep to yourself and come back home.

FSW 8: Being a sex worker is not legal so when such things happen to you, you cannot report to the police.

FGD1FSW9: The reason why men unleash violence against us in the course of our work is that because we do not have support from anybody, be it family member etc. and have to do this work for survival, the man goes in for one short and will not pay us. Additionally, the policeman knows that I am engaged in illegality, but why is it that the same policeman too do have sexual intercourse with me? The police are supposed to enforce the law, but since they also patronize our services, it means both of us are violating the laws of Ghana. So in this case, where do you report? She asked.

FGD1FSW10: Another respondent said sometimes we the prostitutes go to town with the intention of extorting or stealing money from our clients. We send the

clients to their homes and steal money from them, it is a squad. Sometimes, the clients report the case to the police station but where the clients send us to somebody's room, it is tit for tat which is justified. It means that we also perpetuate violence against the clients. We do that because sometimes when you are picked up by a client for services, the men beat us so when we also get the opportunity, we do same.

FGD1FSW3: Sometimes when you go out with your clients and have sex with you they refuse to pay. When you talk, they will beat and insult you in addition. Sometimes, they even collect your money that you have previously worked for and asked you to go.

FGD1FSW 8: Most clients use condoms but some do not use and when you complain, they beat you, insult you and sometimes kill you. We insist on condoms because we have been educated extensively on condom use to prevent infections like HIV and STIs.

When you go for a short with your client, after wearing condom for your client, out of stupidity, the client removes the condom and tell you that inside of your vagina is too wet. The client himself mops up the vagina and have sex with you without a condom. So imagine this, when we have been given lubricants to apply to avoid bruises which aid easy transmission of STIs and HIV, you complain and your mouth is beaten and ask you to shut up.

Interviewer: *Probe: do you sometimes get afraid of being infected with HIV?*

Respondents: FGD1FSW1: Yes, I do but in the first place I am afraid to talk about it because the client will beat you and sometimes kill you. There are incidences where some of our girls have killed for insisting on their rights. At times some FSWs extort big monies from their clients which results in beating and killing.

FGD1FSW4: *Sometimes when the clients send you inside the room, because you have charged him for the services, it may be that he has no enough money on him, he will strangle you to death. Quite recently, there was a case where an FSW was killed and kept under the bed. Additionally, the clients will steal all your belongings and bolt away.*

Interviewer: What type of violence do you face?

Respondents: FGD1FSW6: The type of violence we face is, for instance when you go in for a short (which means going to have intimate relationship with your client for a short period), after you have finished bargaining, and the act is accomplished, the client refuses to pay you it results to beating. Or if the person is your boyfriend and he beats you it can sometimes result into death.

Interviewer: Who are the perpetrators of violence?

Respondents: FGD1FSW7: Mostly, it is our male clients who perpetrate violence against us. The police do not perpetrate violence. Sometimes the boys even threatening us with knives, tear the tip of the condoms before having sex with us after agreeing to use condom.

FGD1FSW8: On one occasion, I experienced a situation where after my client has agreed to use condom, in the process of having sex, the client removed the condom and immediately told him that I was recently tested HIV positive and that put fear in him to stop having sex with me. Initially, he wanted to threaten me but after mentioning my HIV status, he stopped and I was saved.

Interviewer: Why do they abuse you?

Respondents: FGD1FSW9: First of all, our clients have already declared us as not part of the normal society but we are those who help them satisfy the sexual demands rather than going to rape children who will put them into trouble. As for we the FSWs, we are selfless and have allowed the males to come and feel us and be free from

rape. But this goes with payment, but because of their greed, they usually cheat us and beat us which make us suffer a lot.

FGD1FSW 2: One will be there and a client picks you to his house, after having an affair with you, he will see you off quietly and after he realizes that there is nobody around and seeing the type of bag you are holding, he will push you to the wall and pull your bag and give you dirty slaps, remove your all your money from the bag and run away. If you are not wild, all your money for the day will be stolen from you.

FSW3: Sometimes the men who come to pick us are thieves but will intentionally come for us as clients and steal our money. If you are careless and you put your cell phone and other belongings that are dear to you in your bag, they will collect them from you. Again, when they come for us with a taxi with the pretense that they are sending you to their homes, we do not get to the destination before they remove knives on us in a taxi. If you refuse to give them your money, they will use the knife to wound you. I experienced such an encounter and my luck was that that day I removed all money and hid it in my underpants and was left with my face powder, lipsticks and other things.

FGD1FSW1:

Interviewer: Do rich men also behave the same?

Respondents: Yes, some our clients are very rich and they can pay us as much as GHC50 or GHC100 for a short time. If you the FSW are the type who is money conscious and the client asked you to accompany him to his house, he might have planned with the taxi driver. On reaching a quiet place, he will collect all your money from you so if you are not wise to hide your money, all your sales for the day will be taken away from you.

In the course of our work, we have two types of clients. We have the normal (responsible) and the armed robbers. The normal or responsible clients are those whose wives have travelled or not staying with them. Such clients are very safe to be with. But with the clients who are armed robbers, they come with the intention of coming to rob you of your money.

Interviewer: Is it inability to satisfy the clients?

Respondents: FGD1FSW5: For the beating, it depends on the kind of client you get. Even some married couples do experience beating if not the right partner because there are some men who take delight in beating their partners so, any little thing, he will like to beat you. With our clients, sometimes when you ask them to use condom, they get infuriated. As we were taking through a programme called “**Love and Trust**” I do tell my clients that if you really love me, then use condom so that we can live long because you may not know who can infect you with HIV or STIs. For me, that is how I educate my clients which it sometimes works for me.

Interviewer: Who does GBV affects?

Respondents: FGD1FSW1: GBV affects our children for those of us who have kids.

At one time, my child was thrown on the ground and the child died a few days after. FSW 8: Sometimes we get hurt and we cannot go for work which affects our day to day living.

Interviewer: Probe: do the Police educate you on GBV when you go to them?

Respondents: FGD1FSW4: Yes, some of them do and try to explain what GBV is when they encounter us and they even assure us that they are our friends. One day when I was beating and went to the police station, after introducing myself as one of the FSW that he educated on GBV, he said to me: Did I not tell you to be

careful? There are other policemen who have not changed but will rather try to have sex with you when you go reporting of violence.

FGD1FSW6: One day when I went out deep in the night with a client, after having sex with me, I was beaten for demanding my money. My face was swollen and when I got to the police station, there was only one policeman at post and instead of him to console me, he rather demanded to have sex with me first before he deals with my problem. The policeman asked “do you think if I don’t have sex with you I will go and arrest your client? What about if I follow you the sex worker and I am also hit with a stick what will be my profit?. Let me remove my feelings before dealing with your case”.

I thought the policeman was joking, before I could remove my pants, the policeman had already removed his trousers and shirt ready to have sex with me.

I then murmured and said: It was not useful to come to the police after all. She admonished the police to stop that shameful behaviour. Also the policemen do complain that because do not offer them sex, they will continue to treat our cases with contempt. It is not a guarantee that the police will act on our case after offering them sex.

Interviewer: **How often have you been harassed?**

Respondents: FGD1 *FSW1*: Every day the police come for patrol we run away. Although they have told us we are friends, the policemen do not understand that language. The police will take your money before they realize that we are friends.

FSW2: Sometimes the police come to patrol intentionally just to come and search for we the sex workers and share among themselves. The police usually have sex with us in a bush, in their patrol vehicles and even ask us to sit on their

penis. Others even have anal sex with us and when you refuse they put you in cells.

FGD1FSW5: Shared her experience when she was put in cells at the Central Police station in Accra. There was no statement taken from her and when the station master came around in the morning and asked for her charges and there was no response, he ordered for her release.

Interviewer: *Why do FSW smoke marijuana?*

Respondents: FGD1FSW3: It is something we usually do whether pregnant or not. The reason for smoking marijuana is enable us satisfy more clients than when we are normal.

Interviewer: *Do the police understand your rights?*

Respondents: FGD1 FSW5: Not at all of them do respect our rights. Some Policemen are stubborn whilst others are a bit okay.

FGD1FSW7: It is not a law that any man can just stand up and have sex with a women without consent even with married couples. So if a policeman forces me to have sex with him and makes me pregnant, he has violated my human rights.

Interviewer: **Do the police educate you on GBV when you are arrested?**

Respondents: FGD1FSW9: One day when we went for business and we saw the police patrol, we started running away but the policemen asked us not to run away because they are our friends and are there to protect us.

Interviewer: **How has your experience of GBV changed since the Education?**

Respondents: FGD1FSW4: Since the education of GBV by SHARPER/Pro-link, I now know what constitutes violence and how to deal with it.

FSW1: GBV education has changed my life. First, when I have a case and I send it to the police station, because I cannot read nor write, after the police

have taken my statement, I insist that the policeman reads out the statement to me to be sure of what have been stated on the paper.

Secondly, if it comes to police enquiry bail, I know the victim is not supposed to pay any money before he is granted bail. Additionally, though I am a sex worker, I have rights to live, speak out when I am not treated well.

I now know that if I am going to have sex with a client, I must use condom. If I am beaten or maltreated, I must report at the police station.

FGD1FSW6: At first, I did not know that when you are beaten, you can report the case at the police station but through GBV education, I am now bold and can go to the police to report. I was also taught that anytime I go to report a case at the police station, I must speak the truth and not lies and if I am asked to pay, I tell them that is not the law.

FGD1FSW8: If the violence occurred and does not fall under their jurisdiction, I am able to tell them that I have already been to the appropriate police station but did not get any positive response.

I now know that if my partner perpetrates violence against me, I have the right to report and have him arrested.

Interviewer: How has your interaction of SHARPER initiative influenced your understanding of GBV?

Respondents: FGD1FSW10: Yes, the GBV education by SHARPER is very positive because at the moment we know where to go whenever our human rights are violated.

Interviewer: How has the intervention of SHARPER initiative effective?

Respondents: FGD1FSW10: SHARPER has done its part by educating us on GBV which has served as a special tool in the course of our work. What is left is the law enforcement agency like the police to also implement what they have been taught so that there will be reduction of HR abuses. In doing so, more FSWs

will be able to trust them and work in hand in hand to punish those who perpetrate violence. In doing so, GBV can be reduced if not totally.

Interviewer: What can be done to improve GBV?

Respondents: FGD1FSW 2: The government should enact a law such that when our clients or our partners are arrested over GBV, they should be punished very well so that it will serve as a deterrent to others or else, they will finish us.

For the police patrol teams, their superiors should include policemen who are God fearing because some of them are more than armed robbers.

FGD1FSW 7: Education for the police should be intensified in the use of condoms anytime they want to have sex with us because maybe that policeman is HIV positive which he can infect us.

FGD1FSW8: Madam, look at how we are suffering. We all have various reasons for being a sex worker but as for me, it is because I don't have anybody to support me and that is why I am doing this work. If I am given support, I will stop sex work.

FGD 2 – FSW

Glossary

{...}	Laughter
(xx)	Short pause
(xxxx)	Long pause
[@@@]	Gestures
/////	Stressed and higher pitch statements
!!!!!!	Incomplete statements

Interview begins

Interviewer: How old are you?

Respondents: FGD2FSW1: 16 years

FGD2FSW2: 18 years

FGD2FSW3: 21 years

FGD2FSW4: 20 years

FGD2FSW5: 19 years

FGD2FSW6: 27 years

FGD2FSW7: 23 years

FGD2FSW8: 18 years

FGD2FSW9: 24 years

FGD2FSW10:

Interviewer: No. of years in sex work

Respondents: FGD2FSW 1: Two years

FGD2FSW2: Two years

FGD2FSW 4: Seven years

FGD2FSW5: Seven Years

FGD2FSW3: Two years

FGD2FSW6: Two years

FGD2FSW7: Ten years

FGD2FSW8: Eight years

FGD2FSW9: nine years

FGD2FSW10: seven years

Interviewer: Ethnicity:

FGD2FSW 1: Ewe

FGD2FSW2: Akan

FGD2FSW 4: Akan

FGD2FSW5: Ga

FGD2FSW3: Ga

FGD2FSW6: Akan

FGD2FSW7: Akan

FGD2FSW8: Akan

FGD2FSW9: Ga

FGD2FSW10: Ewe

Interviewer: Define Gender-based violence

Respondents: FGD2FSW1: When say GBV it means a male or female who beats you, hit and perpetuate violence on each other or a male partner who leashes violence against his female partner. In most cases females are affected.

FGD2FSW2: when your partner beats you or steals your money, it is GBV.

FGD2FSW3: A partner forcefully having sex with you can be turned GBV.

Interviewer: Have you been educated on GBV?

Respondents: FGD2FSW5: Yes, through SHARPER project we were educated on GBV and taught us that we should always report any violence activity to the police.

FGD2FSW7: I was taught that when someone perpetrates violence against me, I should go report at the police station for his arrest to prevent next occurrence.

FGD2FSW 9: Violence perpetrated when my partner steals money and I am beaten on demand or when I am not paid by client after sex and the client reigns insults or beat me up is GBV.

FGD2FSW10: When it happens like that, I am not able to report to the police because I know I am engaged in illegality and sometimes you do not know the client for easy identification for him to be arrested. When it happens like that, you just keep to yourself and come back home.

FGD2FSW2: Sex work is not legalized so when such things happen to you, you are even afraid in the first place to even go and report and therefore keep it to yourself but through education, we have been made to understand that we have fundamental human rights that when someone mistreats you, you should come out to speak.

FGD2FSW8: They taught us to report such cases at the Drop in Centres (DICs). (Drop in Centres were created as a meeting place, clinic where the sex workers check their HIV status regularly and also treat them when they are infected with STIs). Sometimes we are treated there and there is a referral to other big hospitals when the situation is beyond them.

FGD2FSW3: Men who unleash violence against us in the course of our work, I see that because I do not have support from anybody, be it family member etc. and I have to do this work for survival, the man goes in for one short and will not pay me. Additionally, the policeman knows that I am engaged in illegality, but why is it that the same policeman too do have sexual intercourse with me? The police are supposed to enforce the law, but since they also come to patronize or services, it means both of us are violating the laws of Ghana. So in this case, where do you report?

FGD2FSW4: Sometimes we the prostitutes go to town with the intention of extorting or stealing money from our clients. We send the clients to their homes and steal money from them, it is a squad. Sometimes, the clients report the case to the police station but where the clients send us to somebody's room, it is tit for tat which is justified which means that sometimes we also perpetuate violence against violence. We do that because sometimes when you are picked by a client for services, the men beat us so when we also get the opportunity, we do same.

FGD2FSW8: Even some clients say that both of us enjoyed the act so there is no payment. Some clients beat us a lot. They even tear our dresses, calling us "ashawo" and sometimes come home naked if you are not saved by passers-by. In fact, the clients beat us a lot, slapping, insults and kicking she stressed.

FGD2FSW9: Sometimes when you go out with your clients, they have sex with you and refuse to pay me. When you talk, they will beat and insult you in addition. Sometimes, they even collect your money that you have previously worked for and asked you to go.

Interviewer: *Probe: do you sometimes get afraid of being infected with HIV?*

Respondents: FGD2FSW10: *Yes, when the clients refuse to use condoms. Sometimes you just pray that God should save you.*

FGD2FSW 2: Sometimes when the clients send you inside the room, because you have charged him for the services, it may be that he has no enough money on him, he will strangle you to death. Quite recently, there was a case where an FSW was killed and kept under the bed. Additionally, the clients will steal all your belongings and bolt away.

Interviewer: What type of violence?

Respondent: FGD2FSW1: When you are not paid after you have rendered services after act, which can result to beating. Insults are also violence

Interviewer: Who are the perpetrators of violence?

Respondents: FGD2FSW3: The male clients are those who perpetrate violence against us.

Interviewer: Why do they abuse you?

Respondents: FGD2FSW1: Because we are treated as second class citizens.

Interviewer: *Do rich men also behave the same?*

Respondents: FGD2FSW10: Yes, some our clients are very rich and they can pay you as much money but will steal from you later.

FGD2FSW6: In the course of our work, we have two types of clients. We have the normal (responsible) and the armed robbers. The normal or responsible clients are those whose wives have travelled or not staying with them. Such clients are very safe to be with. But with the clients who are armed robbers, they come with the intention of coming to rob you of your money.

Interviewer: Is it inability to satisfy the clients?

Respondents: FGD2FSW 1: Even some married couples do experience beating if you don't get the right partner because there are some men who take delight in beating their partners so, any little thing, he will like to beat you. With our clients, sometimes when you ask them to use condom, they get infuriated. As we were taking through a programme called "**Love and Trust**" I do tell my clients that if you really love me, then use condom so that we may live long because you may not know who can infect you with HIV or STIs. For me, that is how I educate my clients which it sometimes works for me.

FGD2FSW 4: so said one day when I went out deep in the night with a client and after having sex with me, I was beaten after demanding my money. My face was swollen and when I got to the police station, there was only one policeman at post and instead of him to console me, he rather demanded to have sex with me first before he deals with my problem. The policeman asked “do you think if I don’t have sex with you I will go and arrest your client? What about if I follow you the sex worker and I am also hit with a stick what will be my profit. Let me remove my feelings before dealing with your case”.

I thought the policeman was joking, before I could remove my under pants, the policeman had already removed his trousers and shirts ready to have sex with me.

I then murmured and said it was not useful to come to the police. In fact, the policemen should stop that because it is not good. When you send your case to the police, they complain that we the sex workers do not offer them sex and when we present our case to them, the police usually treat it with contempt but when we offer them sex they may act on it or maybe not.

FGD2FSW 8: respondent said after having sex with us, the policemen will demand money and if you say you do not have the money, they will rather give you the idea that it is not only money that we give out. This statement is a proverb meaning that you should offer sex instead.

FGD2FSW10: Pro-Link educated us that each time these policemen try to have sex with us, we should try and record the police identification number and name so we can report them to their superiors to be punished. The policemen know about this information so anytime they want to perpetrate such acts on us, they

do it under the cover of darkness where we are unable to record their names and numbers to be sent to their superiors.

Interviewer: How long have you been harassed by Police?

Respondents: FGD2FSW 4: On daily basis. We do ran away when we see them although the police claim we are friends, you cannot be sure about that. Sometimes, the patrol is just to come and seek sexual favours from us.

Interviewer Probe: why do FSW smoke marijuana?

Respondents: FGD2FSW 1: We do smoke marijuana to make us more aggressive so that we will be able to satisfy more clients.

Interviewer: Do you say the police respect your rights:

Respondents: FGD2FSW10: Yes, some do respect us but others not at *all*.

Interviewer: Do the police educate you on GBV?

Respondents: FGD2FSW8: Some do educate us when we are arrested and tell us the danger in sex work and how to prevent violence.

Interviewer: How has GBV education changed your life?

Respondents: FGD2FSW7: GBV education has changed my life totally. I can now insist on my rights and also know appropriate place to report any violence perpetrated on me which hitherto, I was ignorant.

Interviewer: How has interaction of SHARPER influenced your understanding of GBV?

Respondents: FGD2FSW1: The education has been positive

Glossary

{....}	Laughter
(xx)	Short pause
(xxxx)	Long pause
[@@@]	Gestures
/////	Stressed and higher pitch statements
!!!!!!	Incomplete statements

Interview begins

Interviewer: How old are you?

Respondents: FGD1MSM1: Am sixteen years

FGD1MSM2: Am twenty years

FGD1MSM3: Am twenty four years

FGD1MSM4: Am thirty two years

FGD1MSM5: Am nineteen years

FGD1MSM6: Am twenty seven years

FGD1MSM7: Am thirty six years

FGD1MSM8: Am Eighteen years

FGD1MSM9: Am thirty six

FGD1MSM10 Am twenty five

Interviewer: Please what is your sexual orientation?

Respondents: FGD1MSM1: Heterosexual

FGD1MSM2: Heterosexual

FGD1MSM3: Heterosexual

FGD1MSM4: Heterosexual

FGD1MSM5: Heterosexual

FGD1MSM6: Heterosexual

FGD1MSM7: Heterosexual

FGD1MSM8: Heterosexual

FGD1MSM9: Heterosexual

FGD1MSM10: Heterosexual

Interviewer: No. of years in sex work

Respondents: FGD1MSM1:3years

FGD1MSM3:6 years

FGD1MSM4: 2 years

FGD1MSM5:10 years

FGD1MSM6:9 years

FGD1MSM7:5 years

FGD1MSM2:16 years

FGD1MSM1:2 years

Interviewer: Ethnicity

Respondents: FGD1MSM1: Ga

FGD1SM3: Ga

FGD1MSM4: Ga

FGD1MSM6: Ga

FGD1MSM5: Ga

FGD1MSM7: Ewe

FGD1MSM8: Akan

FGD1MSM10: Akan

FGD1MSM9: Ga

M FGD1SM2: Ewe

Interviewer: Residence:

Respondents: FGD1MSM1: James town

FGD1MSM2: James town

FGD1MSM3: James town

FGD1MSM4: James town

FGD1MSM6: James town

FGD1MSM5: James town

FGD1MSM7: James town

FGD1MSM8: James town

FGD1MSM10: James town

FGD1MSM9: James town

Interviewer: Define Gender-based violence

Respondents: FGD1MSM1: GBV is when a man and woman share the same room and out of small misunderstanding, the man beats the wife. This can result into injuries where you can even report to the police.

FGD1MSM2: {...} I think GBV is when my partner beats me or hit me with something, it constitutes GBV.

M FGD1SM3: (xx) GBV can be explained as your partner sexually abusing you when you are not ready for him.

FGD1MSM6: GBV is when your partner refuses to use condom during sex and when you complain, he assaults you. [@@@]

Interviewer: Have you been educated on GBV?

Respondents: FGD1MSM7: /////Yes, I was educated through my colleagues who are peer educators and who had been trained to come and educate us on GBV.

Interviewer: *Probe: what was the content of the education?*

FGD1MSM9: We were told that whenever there is misunderstanding between partners, we should not quarrel outside but settle the matter amicably otherwise, bystanders will start asking whether we are not homosexuals quarreling over anal sex.

Interviewer: Were there film shows on GBV?

Respondents: FGD1MSM8: No films were shown on GBV, rather, they explained and there were role plays to demonstrate what constitute GBV.

FGD1MSM9: Especially here in James Town, any time we go out, members of the community start calling us names like Kojo Besia (homosexual), walk well, they want to have anal sex with you and when you talk back, we are beaten.

FGD1MSM10: Sometimes when we go to the Police station to report, the perpetrators had rather taken the lead to go and report making you the offender, the victim. When that happens, the policemen instead of protecting us, will rather insult us and sometimes put you behind bars for being a homosexual.

Interviewer: Give examples of GBV

Respondents: FGD1MSM2: They hoot at us, call us all sorts of names and when you turn to look at the person talking, they will say, but I have not asked you to come and have anal sex with me. [@@@]

FGD1MSM3: When you talk back, you are slapped and beaten. When the case is sent to the Police, the complainant will tell the police that he the homosexual was soliciting for sex for which he the complainant refused and that is what caused the violence.[@@@],{...}

FGD1MSM4: Because people know that Ghanaian laws frown over homosexuality, they use that as an excuse to perpetrate violence against us. Unfortunately, the police buy into their arguments and refuse to protect us.////[@@@]

Interviewer: Who are the perpetrators of violence against you?

Respondents: FGD1MSM6: The town boys are the perpetrators of GBV after having sexual encounter with us, they turn round and pretend to be clean guys.

M FGD1SM3: As for me, my family members have been insulting me to stop homosexuality.

FGD1MSM8: Because of my sexual orientation, my father is not on talking terms with me. I also do not mind him because I know one day he will change his attitude towards me.

FGD1MSM9: A 14 year old boy said his parents do not know that he is a homosexual.

FGD1MSM5: We experience insults from all categories of people, the wee smokers, and the drunkards among others.

FGD1MSM6: Our partners perpetrates violence against us.////

Interviewer: Is it that you are not able to satisfy your partners sexually?

Respondent: FGD1MSM 3 No, my partner rather asked me whether he is not able to satisfy me sexually and for that matter am seeking to be with another partner.[@@@]{....}

Interviewer: Is it because of money?

FGD1MSM1: My husband gives me money which I am very well pleased, he gives me everything I need.[@@@]{....}

FGD1MSM2: Violence comes as a result of love. One partner is committed to love you whilst the other partner is just interested in t having sex with you.

FGD1MSM3: Others too think you are with him because of money whilst you have given him 100% love. All these factors constitute serious violence.

Interviewer: Why do they abuse you?

Respondents: FGD1MSM4: As for me I am beaten every day because I love my marriage.

The beating and slapping comes as a result of my partner having an affair with someone else and when I talk, am beaten but after that we resolve our differences.

FGD1MSM 3: Sometimes when we go out as a group to weddings, outdoorings we are chased with knives, fire, sachets of pure water, stones and throwing of hot water on us. When we ran away, they trace us to where we have passed and collect our tablets, mobile phones, or jewellery. Some even strip us naked and after that they ask you to go home naked.

FGD1MSM10: Another violence that occur among ourselves is when your partner ask you for sex and you deny him, he beats you which also brings about violence. You know sex is for pleasure and if your partner decides not to have sex at that moment, just control yourself. But to fight and hit your partner, that does not augur well.(xxxx)[@@@]{....}

FGD1MSM5: If you are the female partner, they can even have sex with you in a corner. What they do is that they are the first to go to the police station to report and by the time we the homosexual get there, they have already given their statements to implicate you. The moment you show up at the police station to report, the police will bundle you and put you behind bars.(xxxx){....}

Interviewer: Why do they abuse you?

Respondents: FGD1MSM4: As for me I am beaten every day because I love my marriage.

The beating and slapping comes as a result of my partner having an affair with

someone else and when I talk, am beaten but after that we resolve our differences.

FGD1MSM 3: Sometimes when we go out as a group to weddings, outdoorings we are chased with knives, firewood and sachets of pure water, stones, and hot water to dismiss us. They trace us to where we have passed and chase us to collect our tablets, mobile phones, or jewellery. They go to the extent of stripping us naked and ask us to go home naked.

FGD1MSM10: Another violence that occur among ourselves is when sometimes your partners ask for sex and we refuse them, the male partners do beat us which also brings about violence. You know sex is for pleasure and if your partner decides not to have sex at the time you asked for, just control yourself. But to fight and hit your partner, that does not augur well.
(xxxx)[@@@]{....}

FGD1MSM5: If you are the female homosexual, they can even have sex with you in a corner. What the public do is that they are the first to go to the police station to report and by the time we the homosexuals get there, they have already given their statements to implicate us and as soon as you show up to report, the police bundle us and put us behind bars.(xxxx){....}

Interviewer: Do the police come to harass you when you are meeting?

Respondents: FGD1MSM6: The police sometimes harass us when we are reported but not often.

Mostly is the town boys who start calling us names and when it generates into violence, the police come to harass us. In fact, the police do abuse our rights because they do not see us as normal human beings but abnormality. The ‘ashawo’ ladies are not treated like that. The police sometimes understand the ‘ashawos’ and even arrest those who attack them but as for us they sack us or

even arrest and lock us up if we complain of the abuse which in itself is another form of abuse. People hoot at us, call us all sorts of names and when you turn to look at the person talking, they will say, but I have not asked you to come and have anal sex with me. When you talk back, you are slapped and beaten. When the case is sent to the Police, the complainant will tell the police that it is we homosexual who was soliciting for sex which he the complainant refused and that generated into violence. Because people know that Ghanaians laws frown over homosexuality, they use that as an excuse to perpetrate violence on us. Unfortunately, the police buy into their arguments and refuse to protect us.

Interviewer: Are some of the policemen your partners?

Respondents: FGD1MSM1: Yes, some of them are homosexuals and they patronize us.

But when we are in trouble with the police and we call them, the homosexual police will warn us never to call his line again but will turn round and come and have sex with us.////

FGD1MSM2: Am currently dating a soldier man. In fact, some of the police and the soldiers date us. One day a soldier man called me to meet him for a date and when I declined, he said he will beat me the next time he gets hold of me quote: *“I know the soldiers wife and I am also nice with her. When I go to him in the house and the wife comes to see us, how will the wife reacts since she doesn’t know that the husband is a homosexual?”* I rather prefer that he comes to my house since I own a room.

Interviewer: Do the police educate you on GBV?

Respondents: FGD1MSM3: Yes, they do but they will not tell you anything negative since they are also hiding their identity.

Interviewer: Has education of GBV helped you?

Respondents: FGD3MSM2: Yes, it has helped me to some extent.!!!!!!!. Now I know my rights.

If a client comes to me, I insist on wearing condoms to avoid contracting HIV or STIs.

FGD1MSM3: Now I know my rights and if a client comes to me, I insist on wearing condoms to avoid contracting HIV or STIs which hitherto, I did not know.

Suggestions

FGD1MSM1: For those of us who experience beating when we go to the police station to report, the police must have patience with us and listen to our side of the stories rather than putting us behind bars.

FGD1MSM2: Or the police should arbitrate and settle the matters amicably among ourselves.

FGD1MSM3: The education on GBV and human rights issues should be intensified among the police since they do not treat us kindly when our matter gets to the police.

Interviewer: Do you want homosexuality legalized in Ghana?

Respondents: FGD1MSM5: If homosexuality is legalized, we would be killed by our relatives when two males get married.////

FGD1MSM4: They can legalize homosexuality but first of all the police must be talked to.

Interviewer: Do you foresee the reduction of GBV?

Respondents: FGD1MSM6: We hope so. Because of education on GBV by SHARPER, and other NGOs, we are armed with a lot of information and if some policies are put in place, we will be able to react appropriately by reporting the perpetrators to the police. Similarly, the police will also treat us like any other person in society, there should be no discrimination.////[@@@]

FGD1MSM7: When we all access our HR equally GBV would be reduced but if someone offends you, and you go to the police to report and no action is taken or report false allegation for the homosexuals to be arrested, there will be more GBV or violence.

FGD1MSM8: The main perpetrators are the police since they are quick to arrest and put you behind bars without proper interrogation to ascertain the truth.////[@@@]

Glossary

{....}	Laughter
(xx)	Short pause
(xxxx)	Long pause
[@@@]	Gestures
/////	Stressed and higher pitch statements
!!!!!!	Incomplete statements

Interview begins

Interviewer: How old are you?

Respondents: FGD2MSM1: Am twenty eight

FGD2MSM2: Am twenty years

FGD2MSM3: Am twenty eight

FGD2MSM4: Am thirty two years

FGD2MSM5: Am thirty

FGD2MSM6: Am twenty seven years

M FGD2SM7: Am thirty six years

FGD2MSM8: Am Eighteen years

M FGD2SM9: Am thirty six

FGD2MSM10 Am twenty seven

Interviewer: Please what is your sexual orientation?

Respondents: FGD2MSM4: Heterosexual

FGD2MSM3: Heterosexual

FGD2MSM2: Heterosexual

FGD2MSM1: Heterosexual

FGD2MSM5: Heterosexual

FGD2MSM7: Heterosexual

FGD2MSM6: Heterosexual

FGD2MSM8: Heterosexual

FGD2MSM9: Heterosexual

FGD2MSM10: Heterosexual

Interviewer: No. of years in sex work

Respondents: FGD2 MSM1: five years

FGD2MSM3: five years

FGD2MSM4: sixteen years

M FGD2SM5: ten years

FGD2MSM6: nine years

FGD2MSM7: five years

FGD2MSM2: two years

FGD2MSM1: seven years

Interviewer: Ethnicity

Respondents: FGD2MSM1: Ga

FGD2MSM3: Ga

FGD2MSM4: Ga

FGD2MSM6: Ga

FGD2MSM5: Ewe

FGD2MSM7: Ga

FGD2MSM8: Akan

FGD2MSM10: Ga

FGD2MSM9: Ga

FGD2MSM2: Ewe

Interviewer: Residence:

Respondents: FGD2MSM1: James town

FGD2MSM2: James town

FGD2MSM3: James town

FGD2MSM4: James town

FGD2MSM6: James town

FGD2MSM9: James town

FGD2MSM7: James town

FGD2MSM10: James town

FGD2MSM8: James town

FGD2MSM9: James town

Interviewer: Define Gender-based violence

Respondents: FGD2MSM3: GBV can be explained as your partner sexually violating and beating you in the process.

FGD2MSM2: (xxxx) when my partner hits, burn and injures me, it is GBV.

FGD2MSM1: [@@@] GBV can be your partner having sex with you without using a condom.

FGD2MSM9: GBV is when your partner refuses to use condom during sex and when you complain, he assaults you. [@@@]{....}

Interviewer: Have you been educated on GBV?

Respondents: FGD2MSM8: (xx) Yes, I have been educated on GBV by SHARPER project.

FGD2MSM5: For me, SHARPER project did a good thing by educating us on GBV.

FGD2MSM4: (xx) Through our peer educators, we were taken through what constitute GBV and forms of GBV.

Interviewer: Probe: what was the content of the education?

M FGD2SM9: We were taught that whenever your partner beats you, harm you or even steal your money from you, it is violence.

FGD2MSM6: We went through role plays which was very understanding and practical.

FGD2MSM7: Also, flyers were printed depicting what GBV is and how it can affect our person.

Interviewer: Were there film shows on GBV?

Respondents: FGD2MSM8: No films were shown.

Interviewer: Give examples of GBV.

Respondents: FGD2MSM3: Insults, hooting, name calling, no condom use by our partners and slapping. [@@@]

FGD2MSM6: Most people know that homosexuality is not accepted in Ghana that is why they treat us with contempt.

FGD2MSM10: Instead of me going to the police, I will rather send the case to the shrine for the gods to settle the matter for me.

Interviewer: Who have been perpetrating violence?

Respondents: FGD2MSM1: Both males and females in the community perpetrates GBV on our persons.

FGD2MSM3: Spousal quarrel which results into violence.

FGD2MSM4: Sometimes jealousy from our partners results into serious violence when you have one time sex with a partner, they try to stigmatize you but not the case with our serious partners. The one time partners may want to tease or accuse you in front of your friends pretending he has no knowledge of you. But with our serious partners, the violence comes when you are accused of infidelity and this brings about fighting, beating, hitting etc.

FGD2MSM6: Showed the interviewer a scar out of burns on his arm as result of such violence from his partner.

Interviewer: Probe: when it happened, did you report him to the police?

[@@@] (xx) {...} No, because I loved him I couldn't have reported him. I love my husband and even sent me to the hospital and spent money on me. He even asked me, "If you are married and there is no quarrel, how do you enjoy that marriage?" Sometimes you must allow the man to stretch his hands on you for

you to feel loved but if your husband doesn't beat you, it means he does not love you.

Interviewer: Is it that you are not able to satisfy your partners sexually?

Respondent: FGD2MSM2: I am able to satisfy my partner well but sometimes they take delight in beating.

Interviewer: Is it because of money?

Respondents: (xxxx) FGD2MSM2: Money is no problem but sometimes we want to have an affair with unknown partner.

FGD2MSM4: It is due to infidelity and mistrust for each other.

FGD2MSM6: Some of us because we have been deserted by our parents, even if you are in trouble, you are afraid to report to the police or our family members which makes us stranded.

Interviewer: Does that mean that you do not have any education from the police?

Respondents: (xxxx) FGD2MSM7: The policemen still have negative attitudes towards us. They see us as not part of the citizenry. In fact, we are stigmatized. ////

FGD2MSM 8: Yes, it is true, the police see us as demons and not part of the normal society.

Interviewer: Do the police come to harass you when you are meeting?

FGD2MSM9: They sometimes harass us when we are reported by the community.

Interviewer: Are the policemen your partners?

Respondents: FGD2MSM10: Definitely. Some of them are homosexual and they patronize us.

Interviewer: Do the police educate you on GBV?

Respondent: FGD2MSM6: Yes, they do but not very often.

Interviewer: Has education of GBV helped you?

Respondents: FGD2MSM2: Ninety percent because it has helped me to some extent. Now I know my rights and if a client comes to me, I insist on wearing condoms to avoid contracting HIV or STIs which hitherto, I did not know.

Suggestions

The police should treat us fairly when we go to report cases at the police station or when we report serious violation of our human rights.

FGDMSM1: GBV and human rights education should be intensified among the police since they do not treat us kindly when our matter gets to the police. {...}

Interviewer: Do you want homosexuality legalized in Ghana?

Respondents: FGD2MSM3: Not at all otherwise we will be stigmatized more by the public.

FGD2MSM5: We may experience disaffection from our own relatives.

Interviewer: Do you foresee the reduction of GBV?

Respondents: FGD2MSM7. In the near future but not immediately. Until the people appreciate and accept the way we are, it will be difficult to reduce GBV completely.

FGD2MSM6: FGDMSM6 agrees with FGDMSM7 assertions.

Glossary

{...}	Laughter
(xx)	Short pause
(xxxx)	Long pause
[@@@]	Gestures
/////	Stressed and higher pitch statements
!!!!!!	Incomplete statements

Interview begins

Interviewer: How old are you?

Respondents: FGD3MSM1: Am twenty eight

FGD3MSM2: Am twenty years

FGD3MSM3: Am twenty eight

M FGD3SM4: Am thirty two years

FGD3MSM5: Am thirty

FGD3MSM6: Am twenty seven years

FGD3MSM7: Am thirty six years

FGD3MSM8: Am Eighteen years

FGD3MSM9: Am thirty six

M FGD3SM10 Am twenty seven

Interviewer: Please what is your sexual orientation?

Respondents: FGD3MSM4: Heterosexual

M FGD3SM3: Heterosexual

M FGD3SM2: Heterosexual

FGD3MSM1: Heterosexual

FGD3MSM5: Heterosexual

FGD3MSM7: Heterosexual

M FGD3SM6: Heterosexual

FGD3MSM8: Heterosexual

FGD3MSM9: Heterosexual

FGD3MSM10: Heterosexual

Interviewer: No. of years in sex work

Respondents: FGD3MSM1: five years

FGD3MSM3: five years

FGD3MSM4: sixteen years

FGD3MSM5: ten years

FGD3MSM6: nine years

FGD3MSM7: five years

FGD3MSM2: two years

FGD3MSM1: seven years

Interviewer: Ethnicity

Respondents: FGD3MSM1: Ga

FGD3MSM3: Ga

FGD3MSM4: Ga

FGD3MSM6: Ga

FGD3MSM5: Ewe

FGD3MSM7: Ga

FGD3MSM8: Akan

FGD3MSM10: Ga

FGD3MSM9: Ga

FGD3MSM2: Ewe

Interviewer: Residence:

Respondents: FGD3MSM1: James town

FGD3MSM2: James town

FGD3MSM3: James town

FGD3MSM4: James town

FGD3MSM6: James town

FGD3MSM9: James town

FGD3MSM7: James town

FGD3MSM10: James town

FGD3MSM8: James town

FGD3MSM9: James town

Interviewer: Define Gender-based violence

Respondents: FGD3MSM3: GBV can be explained as your partner sexually violating and beating you in the process.

FGD3MSM2: (xxxx) when my partner hits, burn and injures me, it is GBV.

FGD3MSM1: [@@@] GBV can be said that when your partner have sex with
without a condom it is violence.

FGD3MSM9: GBV is when your partner refuses to use condom during sex and
when you complain, he assaults you. @@@]{....}

Interviewer: Have you been educated on GBV?

Respondents: FGD3MSM8: (xx) Yes, SHARPER project educated us through our peer
educators on GBV.

Interviewer: Probe: what was the content of the education?

FGD3MSM9: We taught that whenever your partner beats you, harm you or
even steal your money from you, it is violence.

MSM6: We went through role plays which was very understanding and
practical.

Interviewer: Were there film shows on GBV?

Respondents: FGD3MSM8: There were no film shows.

Interviewer: Give examples of GBV

Respondents: FGD3MSM3: We experience insults from all categories of people, beating,
hitting, and throwing of sachet water and false accusations.

FGD3MSM10: Instead of me going to the police, I rather retaliate with violence
too.

Interviewer: Who have been perpetrating violence against you?

Respondents: FGD3MSM1: All manner of people in the community perpetrates GBV on our persons.

FGD3MSM3: When there is quarrel between partners it can result into violence is GBV.

FGD3MSM4: Sometimes jealousy from our partners results into serious violence.

Interviewer: Is it that you are not able to satisfy your partners sexually?

Respondent: FGD3MSM2: I am able to satisfy my partner well but sometimes they take delight in beating.

Interviewer: Is it because of money?

Respondents: (xxxx) FGD3MSM2: Sometimes we just want to explore with other partners.

FGD3MSM4: Is due to infidelity and mistrust for each other.

Interviewer: Does that means that you do not have any education from the police?

Respondents: (xxxx) FGD3MSM7: The policemen still have negative attitudes towards us. They see us as not part of the citizenry. In fact, we are stigmatized.

FGD3MSM 8: Yes, it is true, the police see us as demons and not part of the normal society.

Interviewer: Do the police come to harass you when you are meeting?

FGD3MSM9: They do harass us sometimes.

Interviewer: Are the policemen your partners?

Respondents: FGD3MSM10: Some policemen are homosexuals and they do patronize us.

Interviewer: Do the police educate you on GBV?

Respondent: FGD3MSM6: Yes, they do but they do but not very often.

Interviewer: Has education of GBV helped you?

Respondents: FGD3MSM2: It has helped me a lot. I know my rights in dealing with my clients.

Interviewer: Do you want homosexuality legalized in Ghana?

Respondents: FGD3MSM3: I am not in favour of that.

FGD3MSM5: We may experience disaffection from our own relatives.

Interviewer: Do you foresee the reduction of GBV?

Respondents: FGD3MSM7. GBV can be reduced if education is intensified

Glossary

{....}	Laughter
(xx)	Short pause
(xxxx)	Long pause
[@@@]	Gestures
/////	Stressed and higher pitch statements
!!!!!!	Incomplete statements

Interview begins

Interviewer: How old are you?

Respondent: LEA1 Forty two years

Interviewer: How long have you been in the police service?

Respondent: Ten years

Location: Police Training School, Accra.

Interviewer: Definition of GBV

Respondent: LEA1: GBV is defined as a kind of violence that is perpetrated due to the fact the female or male is vulnerable.

Interviewer: Have you been educated on GBV in the past 2 years? {....}

Respondent: LEA1: Yes, your programme (SHARPER Project) about two years ago and I also read a lot on gender issues. I also do research since I am very interested in gender issues.

Interviewer: What was the mode of education?

Respondent: LEA1: Role plays, presentations, brainstorming, group work and film shows.

Interviewer: Who are the likely perpetrators of GBV?

Respondent: LEA1: The police arrest the FSW, beat them and even have sex with them sometimes in their patrol cars and also the society. I think as one indicated in the film showed during the training, one sex worker went to the Police Station to report an abuse by a Police officer, the police officer at the station rather

disgraced her. So that is what the sex workers go through. For the MSM, because I don't interact with them, I do not know what they go through.

The perpetrators are the police, the clients, and the society at large because they are sex workers. Why they abuse them, because being a sex worker is not accepted in Ghanaian society especially because of how we are socialized. *(vuuuuuuuh, a sound of a car and siren blowing)*". The police see sex as illegal trade which our laws are not very clear, and with the society because of our religious beliefs, it is an abomination to involve yourself in commercial sex work.

Interviewer: Can you give examples of GBV

Respondent: LEA1 FSWs do get physical abuse like bruises on their bodies, mental (they become depressed, they also are abused sexually like rape, gang rape and sometimes try to use unaccepted gadgets to insert into their private parts.

What is the relationship between enhanced understanding of GBV and GBV-related experiences?

Interviewer: Since the education project, has your attitude change towards victims of GBV?

Respondent: LEA1 Yes, my attitude has changed towards victims of GBV especially the FSW since I am also a woman. I now appreciate them and try to understand their circumstances. I now understand that their rights has been abused although they are into illegal trade. Since they are citizens of Ghana, they are entitled to rights as human beings.

To score myself on the scale of 0-5, I think I can score myself 5 since GBV education has not been new to me before SHARPER initiative or education.

Interviewer: How has your interaction with SHARPER Initiative influenced your understanding of GBV?

Respondent: LEA1 My interaction with SHARPER has been positive and it has enhanced my understanding of GBV and human rights violation. It has also better informed me about domestic violence as well which is very positive.

Interviewer: How has the intervention by SHARPER initiative effective?

Respondent: LEA1 The objectives of SHARPER initiative is to make the Police service or personnel appreciate and understand the sex workers because they are vulnerable in society for which they need protection from the police. The objectives of the SHARPER project also coincided with the objectives of the police service since in the past years there has been increase of HIV positive police personnel who hitherto were having sex with these FSWs without using condoms.

Interviewer: Do you foresee the reduction or elimination of GBV against sex workers?

Respondent: LEA1 I do not foresee total elimination of GBV since we are dealing with humans because of our religious background and individual perception of sex work and MSM activities in Ghana. Simply put “people frown on these activities in our society but I believe there is some amount of reduction of GBV against sex workers.

Interviewer: What are the implications of the interventions?

Respondent: LEA1 In the police training school, although a manual has been put together for teaching new recruits, it has not been implemented yet but they do allocate sometime to talk about GBV when teaching human rights but not taught as a stand-alone subject. I do not foresee teaching GBV on regular basis but most probably allocating some credit hours for GBV in all the training schools.

Suggestions:

LEA1: I suggest that the HIV focal person for Ghana Police Service, the IGP should quickly complete the manual so they can start full implementation as soon as possible so that the new recruits will have knowledge of GBV before going to the field since they are going to work the people and the vulnerable groups like the FSWs and MSM. Also, in rolling up, teaching of GBV should start in all Police training schools at a goal. At the moment they do organize workshops on GBV for police recruits and those already in the service.

Law Enforcement 2**36 years****9yrs. In Police Service****What knowledge do FSW, MSM and Law enforcement officials have of GBV?****Interviewer: Please define GBV?**

Respondent: LEA2 GBV can be said to be unjust act perpetrated to a group of people basically because of the social roles society assign to them. For example, with women because society expects women to be subordinate to men, society place them in subordinate position. In marital relationship, the woman is expected to be subordinate to the man. So if the woman seem not to be doing that, the man becomes violent because he thinks he has authority over the woman.

Interviewer: Have you been educated on GBV?

Respondent: LEA2 Yes, I have been educated on GBV. It was a workshop that was held in Kumasi. Different models were used in teaching GBV. There were role plays, brainstorming and there was also peer tutoring. After the workshop, participants were made to pick a topic for them to teach their colleagues for easy understanding of the whole concept.

Interviewer: Can you give examples of GBV against FSW and MSM?

Respondent: LEA2 Sex workers are raped, hmmm, again, they are harassed by the law enforcement officers. For MSM, I do not know whether I will classify them as GBV, but I am sure it is about society expectations and so because of that, they are stigmatized. People think they should not been doing what they are doing, also reports in the media have shown that sometimes they are assaulted when they are identified.

Interviewer: Probe: Do MSM perpetrate violence among each other?

Respondent: LEA2: I have not had any such experience, but what I foresee again is when roles are allocated. When they are in a relationship, one is supposed to be a man and one a woman. That is where the man will be domineering as he expects the female to play a subordinate role.

What about FSW?

Among FSWs, it will be of a general nature. I don't think it will be because of the gender of the person, it will be because of struggle for clients which may end up assaulting each other.

Interviewer: Who are the most perpetrators of GBV?

Respondent: LEA2 They have pimps, people they work for and their clients. They expose themselves to great risks; where some clients use them for ritual purposes. And again, with the security services, interactions have shown that there are instances where they rape the FSW. Secondly, their rights have been abused, some can be arrested just because they have condoms in their bags so you can have their pimps abusing them, their colleagues, their clients, the people they work for and security services.

Interviewer: Why do they abuse them?

Respondent: LEA2 It depends on who is abusing FSW. With the pimps, it could be basically because their conditions are not being met by the FSW. With the clients, they may have pre-meditated agenda before they even come to pick the FSW. FOR Some of them, it could be because of their past experiences with other women and they just want to get a woman and molest them. May be they have been disappointed by a woman in the past and they want to unleash their anger on any woman they get.

Interviewer: Probe: Can it be because of reduced agreed upon rate?

Respondent: LEA2 Yes, especially when the FSW is demanding that she should be paid and the man does not have the money; the next thing is to assault the FSW and possibly push out the FSW from his premises which can lead to assault. What I also foresee is that because the man has paid, and he wants to engage in certain acts with the woman, and if the sex worker refuses, it can result into violence.

Interviewer: What are likely effects on FSW/MSM?

Respondent: LEA2 They are traumatized, some of them suffer physical harm, and some of them even lose their lives. They also suffer sexual abuse and because the man has paid, he thinks the woman belongs to him, they can even **tier** her up and have sex with her or gang rape her.

Interviewer: Since the education project, has your attitude changed on victims of GBV?

Respondent: LEA2 Yes, my opinion about them has changed. For the attitude, because I am in the training school, I don't have the chance to interact with them. But my opinion about them and the work they do has changed. At the scale of 0-5, I will score 4.

Interviewer: How has your interaction with SHARPER Initiative influenced your understanding of GBV?

Respondent: LEA2 My interaction with SHARPER has been positive. Before the project, much of our influence about these people was based on religious beliefs, but with SHARPER initiative, it has given me the understanding of what they do and how we should relate to them. Again, SHARPER project taught me that although the work they are doing is not legal but they should be treated as citizen of this country just like anybody else. But formally, once the sex worker comes to the police station abused, the reaction is: *"but you are selling yourself"*

forgetting that the person has been abused. It doesn't matter whether she was involved in illegal action but once she has been abused and she reports, she should be treated as any other person. Is not as if we are condoning to the act but they must be protected.

Interviewer: **How has the intervention by SHARPER effective?**

Respondent: **LEA2** The objectives of SHARPER coincides with our objectives because we are law enforcement agency and we are supposed to protect the rights of the people, especially vulnerable people. So getting the understanding or appreciating some of the challenges sex workers go through, and being vulnerable in society, teaching the recruits some of these things will give them a better insight or understanding of the operations of sex workers so that their rights will be protected. The implications, if they are looked down upon by the whole society, so it is our own good that we try and protect the rights of those people.

Interviewer: **How do you foresee the reduction or elimination of GBV among sex workers in Ghana?**

Respondent: **LEA2** From the law enforcement perspectives, if we role this program up fully, the kind of violence perpetrated against these vulnerable groups like FSW and MSM will be minimized. When we take the recruits through GBV as outlined in the manual, I think the violence perpetrated by the police will be minimized but as to the whole Ghanaian society, I think that one is up to FHI360 and the rest of NGOs to intensify the education. I can talk for the police.

Interviewer: *Probe: have you started the education with the new recruits?*

Respondent: **LEA2** *Not on the full scale. Basically what we do is, some of our subjects interact and so when you are teaching something like criminal law, constitution, and the law that bares prostitution, we bring the recruits into discussions, and teach*

them about the way to do the operation. I remember the last training, we tried to get focal person in the Police Service to come and show some of the CDs on Police and the sex workers. We are hoping that in our next training with the new recruits even if we do not take them through the manual, some of these sessions would be held.

Interviewer: Are you sure whether GBV training is being implemented in all the training schools?

Respondent: LEA2 Yes, because the manual has not been brought for official training, I cannot be sure what goes on in the other training schools. I only hope that other training schools are broadening their perspectives.

Interviewer: So what is delaying the printing of the training manual?

Respondent: LEA2 According to our boss i.e. the HIV Focal Person in the Police Service, they met with the IGP in connection with the manual which was developed by SHARPER project in collaboration with the Police Service on how to factor GBV into their time table. Even if it is not full time they can synchronize with other courses. Once they say okay, GBV would be included in the curriculum.

Interviewer: Do you have any monitoring systems on GBV education?

Respondent: This is outside the police service, thus CHRAAJ, HRAC and FIDA does the monitoring. Within the Police service, it is the Police Intelligence and Standard Bureau (PIPS) who are responsible for monitoring but this will come from the IGP, Human Resource and HIV Focal person.

As to how they can manage these abuses, it depends on their perspectives on what the FSW are doing, if they have the right perspectives, any policeman can go and report to PIPS, and action will be taken against that person. It is therefore the responsibility of FSWs to report to the police officer's supervisor

for immediate for action to be taken. But this will depend on their superior's perspectives of sex work. Sometimes their decisions are influenced by religious beliefs and the laws. Sometimes if the superior does not have the right perspectives, that police officer can dismiss the prostitute by calling her "ashawo" (prostitute).

Suggestions

LEA2 Within the Ghana Police Service, FHI360 has taken the right initiative, what is left is for the authority to ensure that we start teaching GBV in the various training schools as soon as possible. Again, with the police who are already in the field, the suggestion was that during in-service training we take them through GBV because it is very important not only because of sex workers but because of the risky factors involved. The risks that the police officers exposed themselves into and also health wise. Also, as part of our in-service training, personnel of the service training schools are taught how to handle GBV cases. Generally, in terms of the Ghanaian society, it rests in the hands of FHI360 and other NGOs to intensify the education.

Police as an institution, can't you get the media to do free advocacy on GBV?

With the police, it will be misinterpreted. If any policeman goes on air talking about vulnerability of FSW and MSM and the rights they have, it may sound strange but you are as advocacy groups, when you go on air, people will receive it more than the police talking about it.

Law Enforcement Agency 3**30yrs old****4yrs in Police Service.****Interviewer: What is GBV?**

Respondent: LEA3 Gender based violence is mainly the abuse of females, girls and women basically because they are supposed to be subordinates to the males. They tend to abuse them because they feel they are men.

Interviewer: How long have you been educated on GBV?

Respondent: LEA3 On several occasions by SHARPER project, UNFPA and other organizations.

Respondent: Can you give examples of GBV?

Respondent: LEA3 Spousal beating, insults and forcefully having sex with a partner without her consent.

Interviewer: Who are the most perpetrators of GBV?

Respondent: LEA 3 For FSW/MSM, we could look at physical abuse being the top most and then in terms of emotional abuse as a result of how much stigmatized against them. Society, both the police stigmatize against them therefore causing them emotional abuse, psychological abuse.

Probe: what types of physical?

We are talking about assault here. Assault in battering if we want to look at it in the police perspectives. That is where they come and you see scars on their bodies either from hitting by the arms or some gadgets used.

Interviewer: Why do they abuse them?

Respondent: LEA3 I think it cuts across. From their partners who are usually called the Non Paying Partners (NPP), uniform officers, who clearly think that they are doing sex work against the law but never take the sex workers to the police station,

but just abuse them and let them go. Secondly, the society as a whole because you know the country we live is religious inclined. They frown upon some of these things and we take advantage to abuse them which is not right.

Interviewer: Is it inability to pay for the service?

Respondent: LEA3 Some clients can pay, others just refuse to pay. “Laughter” as somebody will say, “**using counterfeit to buy cocaine**”. I know if I don’t pay you, you cannot report me because what you are doing is illegal service and I have also come for illegal service. So if you go report me, you will also culpable and so people do not report. Some clients are just mischievous and we have drug users who abuse the sex workers. Others do not have the money but they want the services. So it could be one of the two. For example, the FSW might equally think she is being used more than she charged the client the client may also think that he has over paid for the services that have been rendered by the sex worker. So in that case, there was no satisfaction. It can also be power play.

Interviewer: Since the education project, has your attitude changed towards FSWs/MSM?

Respondent: LEA3 Yes, it has changed for the better. I personally never had anything against the FSWs or MSM. But with the training, my scope has been broadened and I tend to understand their angle of their life and where they are coming from, not to look at their way of life from my lens but look at it from their lens as well. It has made me a better person. I am able to relate and interact with the sex workers better.

Interviewer: How has your interaction with SHARPER influences your understanding of GBV?

Respondent: LEA3 Yes, it has been positive for my M-friends meeting or training where I was first introduced to MSM and perhaps FSW issues. It has been good. It has

made my understanding broader, I am able to speak to any issues concerning FSW and MSM concerning their health better. I am able to explain to my colleagues and other people better. It has been very helpful.

Probe: what is M-Friend?

Respondent: *M-Friends are actually people who are in good positions in society, examples are: police officers, health personnel, nurses, doctors, lawyers who understand issues concerning MSM and FSWs or people we tend the key population or vulnerable group whereby when they need support services, they can call on them and stand in to solicit help whereby stigmatization is reduced. M-Friends actually mean “they can actually come to you”.*

Interviewer: **How has the intervention by SHARPER initiative effective?**

Respondent: LEA3 SHARPER initiative has been very effective in the sense that SHARPER looked at helping FSWs and MSM in the direction of helping to reduce HIV prevalence in the country. As police, once we swear to protect life and property we all look at how to prevent HIV and help people to have long life. Coming together, we have been able to do a lot by training other police personnel on GBV who also go round training others. We training is done for both top officers and the subordinates to trickle down the information.

Interviewer: **How do you foresee the reduction or elimination of GBV in Ghana?**

Respondent: LEA 3 Reduction or elimination of GBV will take time, but we are working hard. The FSWs have to build capacity, they have to work hard themselves, educate themselves on basic or fundamental human rights. The sex workers have to know what their rights are. One person shared his story where he was in court and they asked “*are you guilty or not guilty?*” But because he did not

know what the word guilty or not guilty meant, he responded guilty and he was put in remand for 9 months. Yeah, very bad situation just because he didn't have the knowledge. What I know from the law is that you should be spoken to in a language you understand but if the person did not understand the language, why should you sentence the person? So the FSWs and MSM have to build capacity and we the policemen can help them.

We talk to health workers, people in civil society, but it will not take a day to do it but with time we believe it will get better and it is already getting better.

Interviewer: What has been put in place for people who have experienced GBV in the past are less likely to experience GBV in the future?

Respondent: LEA3 From the police end, we have developed a training manual. A curriculum for in-service training and pre-training. With the pre-training, 21 police officers have been trained who are actually trainers at the police training schools so they can lecture our new recruits on GBV, HR and other courses which will be examinable. At least before every police man passes out, he should have gone through these courses before he passes out as a police officer. And for those who are already in the service, we organizing in-service training using the police training manual. In 2014, we travelled to seven different regions to train police officers and we are getting results. For instance, some police officers went to make a swoop and one of our newly trained police who had passed out tried to explain to them that it was not right and explained to them the way to go. At least they benefitted from the GBV education and we encouraged them to tell other colleagues.

Interviewer: What is the official response to GBV?

Respondent: LEA3 I think everyone has a response. GBV for instance sometimes could be a little part of domestic violence as well. The government wouldn't come in to

solve GBV so I think everyone should try and understand the issues of gender. Anytime we even talk to our police officers, we tell them that everywhere they find themselves, either church or communities, they should try and mention GBV and under no circumstances should GBV be encouraged. We should all be models of hope.

HIV Focal Person**50yrs****26rs in the service****Interviewer: Define GBV?**

Respondent: LEA 4 GBV is the violence that society met out to certain group of people based on the roles that society has assigned them to.

Interviewer: Have you been educated on GBV?

Respondent: LEA4 Oh yes, GBV training have been to is mostly on FSWs. The way law enforcement officers abuse them because of the nature of their work.

Apart from SHARPER project, I have been to other trainings on GBV and the contents are the same. GBV is a universal issue so there hasn't been any difference between what I learnt and what the SHARPER project has instituted because we are looking at the Police point of view. GBV is perpetuated by law enforcement officers towards these vulnerable groups so that is what we are looking at.

Normally, in the case of law enforcement agency, we are looking at the law and how is being implemented. We realized that in the implementation process of the law, especially the laws of sexual offences, the police tend to abuse the rights of these target population mostly FSWs. The police overlook their fundamental human rights of the sex workers which sometimes is not intentional so during the training we point out to the police and they become conscious of what they should do in their course of work.

Probe: Mode of education:

First, there was this issue on a documentary about the abuses, police abuses of sex workers which created a forum for discussions. Before the video, their perceptions about sex workers or key population is different and when you listen

Interviewer: What is the motive of the arrest?

Respondent: LEA4 Sex work is prohibitive under our laws so police as law enforcement agency will like to enforce the laws of the land and most importantly, our religious issues also play very important role in dealing with sex workers. Religion in Ghana frowns on some of these activities. Whether you are a Christian, Moslem and all the religions frown on sex worker activities or MSM activities, therefore, most policemen who carry the moral cup into the policing function and their religious background has effect on the way they interact with the society. If you are branded as a key population, it impacts negatively on how the police would behave towards you normally.

Interviewer: *Do you have sex workers complain about maltreatment by their own partners, rich in society etc.*

Respondent: LEA4 Oh yes. Sex workers themselves face a lot of challenges. First, among they themselves, there is some power play within the sex worker community and within the MSM community and those who are domineering will like to abuse the rights of others especially when they are chasing clients. Second, is from the police and third from their non-paying partners (NPP) who will like to abuse them. When monies are taken from FSWs and because some of the NPPs provides them with security they abuse their rights. Their clients also abuse their rights sometimes during negotiations which results into violence in fact, the sex workers suffer violence a lot.

Interviewer: Can it be inability to pay for the service or what?

Respondent: LEA 4 According to these sex workers, they rather take care of their partners (NPP) and rather pay them. Assuming that a sex worker goes to work was not able to pay the partner, it can result in an abuse because the partner thinks that it is his right to demand from the woman, or if the woman is not able to provide

some of the social amenities that they want like food etc. they tend to abuse them.

Interviewer: That about drug use?

Respondent: LEA4 Yes, no normal human being will like that my partner will go out and sell herself and come and feed me? So normally most of them engage in drug and alcohol abuse and is also a major factor in letting them do what they are not supposed to do.

Interviewer: Is it disagreement on agreed upon rates?

Respondent: LEA4 Yes, it happens a lot when they don't agree on the rates, they end up abusing or with the MSM, what happens, it that if the agreed upon rate is not given out, they end up taking mobile phones, or other valuables items of their partners, they do that a lot especially with MSM community including blackmailing. The other partner will say well, if you report to the police, I will tell the police what we do and it is a form of violence because you are depriving the person's property.

There are also times that clients will say okay, I have paid you this amount for two hours, and after one hour the sex worker decides to break the contract. The client will like to insist that you have to spend the rest of the one hour with him. If that doesn't happen, it may result in an abuse.

Interviewer: What are likely effects on FSW /MSM?

Respondent: LEA4 The likely effect is that, they are not able to control themselves, their self-esteem is lowered and say well, this is the job I am doing, therefore I am at risk and even when somebody abuses their rights, they are not confident enough to go and report because they think it is hazard that is associated with whatever they are doing which is not good. With the MSM, especially those who are the

recipients, they also fall into the same category that when their partners abuse them, they are not able to report because they think that what they are engaging in is even an illegality in the first place. So they cannot confidently go out to the police and report any abuse if it happens. A lot of them go through mental torture, and become drug addicts as a way of dealing with their conditions they find themselves. They actually beat them which results to bruises both in MSM and FSWs.

Interviewer: Since the education project, has your attitude towards victims of GBV changed?

Respondent: LEA4. You know, I train policemen a lot and after their trainings you realize that attitudes towards these vulnerable population change so you will see there is a reduced police raids, there is reduced abuse and the police are now open to listen to the complains of these people when they come to the police station. They offer them protection, and shelter. There is drastic change in their behavior from their outlook, their perception about these key population changes a lot and even when we follow up we see from written reports that they ender about how they have been able to help these key population. You could see that there is improvement in complains.

Scale of 0-5, I may not say it is perfect but a scale of 0-5, I will give between 3 and 4 because moral issues still play a part in human beings and it will take time before somebody will change his moral beliefs. Behavioral changes is a long process. We are getting there.

Interviewer: How has your interaction with SHARPER initiative influenced your understanding of GBV?

Respondent: LEA4 Eeei, you know when you educate, people are bold enough to come out and tell us their problems. Before then, they were in their closet, they could not even come out, but with these trainings, when you are able to interact with them, they come out with their problems and we can see the magnitude of their problems and faction out the way to solve them.

In fact, the interaction with SHARPER has been positive and spreading fast.

Interviewer: How has the intervention by SHARPER effective?

Respondent: LEA4 Interaction with SHARPER has been very effective. At least it is changing people's mindset, their relationship with key population is actually changing. Also, the objectives set came out positively. We do before and after evaluations and we see that there is improvement in knowledge base and once people are equipped with knowledge, then they can actually go ahead and affect their behaviour.

Interviewer: How do you foresee the reduction or elimination of GBV?

Respondent: LEA4 Elimination, I may say no, I cannot promise that they will be any elimination but there is drastic reduction. Even the sex workers have been empowered to report any GBV to either their immediate supervisors, focal persons. So it is having a positive effect hitherto, they cannot report. There are other NGOs too that are actually monitoring GBV education so it serves as a check on the police so that when you don't take action, you can be reported to civil society that can take police on. The NGOs are CHRAAJ, HRAC and FIDA, Ghana.

Interviewer: What has been put in place for people who have experienced GBV in the past are less likely to experience GBV in the future?

Respondent: LEA4 We have put mechanisms in place that anybody who suffers violence can report to the police at DOVSUU who have also been trained to take action. In fact, it is positive.

Interviewer: What is the official response to GBV?

Respondent: LEA4 The officialdom has accepted that it is a challenge in the police service and that is why we have been given opportunity to train on GBV. They are also happy about the feedback given in connection with the training. It is enhancing the phase of police service. There is also a living document (curriculum) in training policemen and the training is in two stages: Pre-service training curriculum are those who are entering the police service like the recruits. It is being taught in the police training schools all over the country. Then those who are in the system already, there is continuous in-service training.

Suggestions

Like I said, as GBV has been accepted into the training curriculum, police has accepted the problem and they are working on it. Our goal is to make sure that we reach as many policemen as possible so that it will cover a wider geographical and numerical areas.

Probe: Do you go to all the regions to train the policemen?

Yes, especially there are DOVSUU personnel in all the regions and the districts and these officers have received a lot of training on GBV and so they serve as focal points in all the communities they live in.

LEA5 (Police Hospital)

30yrs old

4yrs in Police Service.

Interviewer: What is GBV?

Respondent: LEA5 Gender based violence is the abuse of women or girls.

Interviewer: How have you been educated on GBV?

Respondent: LEA5 I was trained by SHARPER project using models, film shows and role plays to highlight GBV.

Interviewer: Examples of GBV

Respondent: LEA 5. Beating, insults and forcefully having sex with a partner without her consent or not wearing condoms during sex are some examples of GBV.

Interviewer: Why do they abuse the sex workers?

Respondent: LEA5 Basically is the type of work they are involved in because it is illegal and not accepted by Ghanaian society.

Interviewer: Is it inability to pay for the service?

Respondent: LEA Some clients deliberately refuse to for the service rendered them. Others genuinely do not have the money but wants the service which results into violence. Drug users also take advantage of the sex workers and forcefully have sex with FSWs.

Interviewer: Since the education project, has your attitude changed towards FSWs/MSM?

Respondent: LEA5 I now appreciate the sex workers and change of attitude after going through GBV training.

Interviewer: How has your interaction with SHARPER influences your understanding of GBV?

Respondent: LEA5 Interaction with SHARPER has been very positive. I have come to appreciate what constitutes GBV even in dealing with my wife which hitherto I did not know. It is a useful exercise.

Interviewer: How has the intervention by SHARPER initiative effective?

Respondent: LEA5 SHARPER initiative has been very effective as the goal of the project is to reduce HIV prevalence in the country and as law enforcement agency, we are poised to help protect life and property to achieve that goal.

Interviewer: How do you foresee the reduction or elimination of GBV in Ghana?

Respondent: LEA 5 The reduction will not be immediate but as we keep on with the education GBV will be reduced but not eliminated totally. In doing this, we will also need support from the sex workers and the public at large.

Interviewer: What has been put in place for people who have experienced GBV in the past are less likely to experience GBV in the future?

Respondent: LEA5 The police service is currently working very hard to start teaching GBV in their training schools using the manual that has been developed by SHARPER in collaboration with Ghana Police Service.

LEA 6

46years old

8years in Police Service.

Interviewer: What is GBV?

Respondent: LEA6 Gender based violence is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women which is likely to result to physical, sexual and psychological or economic harm.

Interviewer: How have you been educated on GBV?

Respondent: LEA6 Through training programmes organized by SHARPER project. The training was done through role plays, film shows, definitions and discussions which covered entire scope of GBV.

Respondent: Can you give examples of GBV?

Respondent: LEA6 Battering of women or partners, physical harm, sexual abuse among others.

Interviewer: Who are the most perpetrators of GBV?

Respondent: LEA 6 For FSW/MSM, their partners are the most perpetrators of GBV followed by LEA who do not understand the sex workers about the work they do. The whole society stigmatizes the sin emotional and psychological abuse.

Probe: Give examples of physical abuse?

Swollen face, arm or whole body, scars as a result of using harmful gadgets in beating.

Interviewer: Why do they abuse them?

Respondent: LEA6 The abuse comes as a result of religion. In Ghana, all religions frown on prostitution and MSM activities so people see these sex workers as demons. Secondly, the non-paying partners do unleash abuse on their partners because they believe it is the responsibilities of their partners to feed and clothe them.

The third point is inability of the clients to pay for services rendered by the sex workers.

Interviewer: Since the education project, has your attitude changed towards FSWs/MSM?

Respondent: LEA6 My attitude has changed drastically towards sex workers and the MSM after the education on GBV. I now understand their world view and able to relate to them even better. Most of them are now my friends and they feel comfortable talking to me and return advice and educate them more on GBV related issues.

Interviewer: How has your interaction with SHARPER influences your understanding of GBV?

Respondent: LEA6 The interaction with SHARPER project has been very positive in the course of my work. The education on GBV has broaden my scope and sex and applying the education in my home too.

Interviewer: How do you foresee the reduction or elimination of GBV in Ghana?

Respondent: LEA 6 There is not going to be total elimination of GBV because of our religious backgrounds. With the reduction, it may take time as we are now sensitizing the police officers on GBV. We are hoping that the trained recruits will apply the education effectively during their course of duty so that we stop abusing the fundamental human rights of the sex workers.

Interviewer: What has been put in place for people who have experienced GBV in the past are less likely to experience GBV in the future?

Respondent: LEA6 In the police perspective, a training manual on GBV has been compiled to add it to our curriculum in the police training schools in Ghana which will be examinable like other courses being offered. There has been TOT for 21 police officers who are tutors in the training schools. For the police officers who are already in service, they are having in-service training using the GBV manual

that has been developed. We encourage the beneficiaries of the training to also educate their colleagues. There are some feedback which indicates that the GBV awareness is going on well.