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Pub. Date: 2014

Product: Sage Reference

DOI: https://doi.org/10.4135/9781446269930

Keywords: self-reports, gender violence, social norms marketing, help-seeking behavior, norms (social),

violence, perpetrators

Disciplines: Psychology, General & Applied Psychology, Gender & Psychology

Access Date: December 13, 2023

Publishing Company: SAGE Publications, Ltd

City: 55 City Road

Online ISBN: 9781446269930

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Reducing Gender-Based Violence

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Introduction

Gender-based violence (GBV) is physical, psychological, or sexual violence perpetrated against anindividual or group on the basis of gender or gender norms. The majority of victims of GBV arewomen, but many victims of GBV are male. Gay, bisexual, and transgendered individuals are oftentargeted due to their perceived failure to conform to societal gender norms (Stemple, 2009). Formsof GBV include, but are not limited to: economic violence (a form of psychological violence);intimate partner violence ('IPV'); sexual abuse; sexual assault and rape; violencearising from traditional practices such as dowries and female genital mutilation; honor killings;trafficking in human beings for purposes of sexual exploitation; forced prostitution; sexualharassment and intimidation; and bullying based on failure to conform to perceived gender roles.

Defining the Scope of the Problem

GBV occurs in every corner of the world. Its manifestations and prevalence rates vary, and robuststatistics are scarce. For example, a report by the UN Secretary-General in 2006 cites in-countrystudies estimating that 10–70% of women have experienced violence (United Nations GeneralAssembly, 2006). GBV targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people is also endemic. Approximately 80 countries criminalize consensual homosexual acts and officials in multiplecountries routinely decline to prosecute crimes committed against those who identify as gay, lesbian, or transgendered. Unable to cover each type of GBV comprehensively, we focus on the social psychological context of GBV and interventions that are informed by and seek to change this context. We connect social psychological perspectives and existing evidence regarding the impact of reductionand mitigation strategies in order to contribute to the broader conversation about reducing allforms of GBV.

To do so, we first explore the causes of GBV using social psychological theory and relevant data, focusing on theories explaining perpetration. Where relevant to preventive efforts, we also examine theories predicting victimization. We then examine primary and secondary interventions, outlining atypology of programs based

on: (1) their timing in the chronology of GBV incidence; (2) assumptions of the underlying theories about the causes of GBV; and(3) their methodology. Our review highlights shortcomings in the literature, which is especially lacking in rigorous empirical evaluations, but also highlights mismatches between outcomes of interest and measures. To fill these and other gaps, we consider the existing studies in light of other evidence on gender and behavioral change and suggest potential mechanisms through which programs to reduce GBV might be most effective. Finally, we offer ideas for future program designand evaluation.

Factors Contributing to Gender-Based Violence

Research has identified factors associated with GBV at the individual, situational, and societallevels. Various academic disciplines and practitioners weight each level differently in theirtheories and the design of interventions. For example, clinical psychologists and legal scholarshave often focused on the individual level, specifically on the pathological personality traits of GBV perpetrators as a means to identify, counsel, or prosecute potential or previous perpetrators (e.g., Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005). Sociological and feminist scholarly perspectivestraditionally focus on situational and societal levels, such as gendered power asymmetries in asociety or an organization (e.g., Brownmiller, 1975; Tangri, Burt, & Johnson, 1982). A social psychological perspective on factors contributing to GBV focuses on the interaction between individual characteristics and the immediate situation in which GBV occurs (e.g., Anderson & Anderson, 2008).

In the following sections, we first highlight societal and situational factors leading to GBV. Second, we consider how these factors may interact with pathological and nonpathological characteristics of GBV perpetrators. Finally, we describe models that predict how individual, situational, and societal factors interact to facilitate GBV. Wherever possible, we cite empirical data to support theoretical predictions about the occurrence of GBV. While the relevant literature large, we attempt to cover the most prominent factors featured in social psychological accounts of GBV.

Societal and Situational Causes of Gender-Based Violence

From a social psychological perspective, societal factors will be most predictive of a GBV eventwhen they are salient in the immediate situation. Such societal factors include power asymmetries; gender norms, roles, and

scripts; societal representations of women; and armed conflict or othercrises, among others. These factors can become salient when physical or social arrangements createthe expectation of such a factor (e.g., the asymmetrical representation of men at a meeting promotesthe idea of male dominance at the organization), when implicit rules that stem from these factors are violated (e.g., a man's behavior that appears to violate a gendered norm causes himstress), or when they are raised in social interactions or media communications (e.g., representations of violence against women are primed by pornography playing on a nearby computer-screen).

Power Asymmetries

Across many different literatures GBV is understood as partially arising from power inequity. Violence is a mechanism for the social control of the less powerful and serves to maintain maledominance and female subordination (e.g., Pratto, 1996). Men enjoy greater economic, political, and social power in the vast majority of human societies, but there also exists variability in these power inequities. Scholars have used this variation to study the circumstances under which power—or motivation to gain power—leads to GBV.

Feminist and evolutionary accounts describe violence as a byproduct of motivation to maintainstatus and control of economic resources. Evolutionary accounts ground this motivation in the desireto attract mates. Males attempt to maintain their advantageous, unequal status and resources by coercing other males and females. Feminist theories ground amotivation to be violent in the desire to maintain power and in the idea that violence is alegitimate means of gaining or maintaining power. Both theories predict that societies with greaterresource disparity by gender have more GBV relative to societies with greater gender parity. Thisprediction has been borne out (Schwendinger & Schwendinger, 1983).

Other resource-based accounts of GBV examine changes in men's and women's relativewages as a measure of relative power. An increase in a woman's wages increases awoman's bargaining power within an intimate relationship by making it easier for her to leave(through bettering her chances of supporting herself on her own or finding another mate), andrendering her more likely to assert herself if she chooses to stay (Tauchen, Witte, & Long,1991). In one sample, an increase in women's wages relative to men's was significantly related to lower incidence of intimate violence leading to hospitalization (Aizer, 2010).

The types of power that lead to GBV are not always based in control of economic resources. The American Psychological Association's Task Force on Male Violence Against Women claimed that all violence against

women involves abuse of power, and that it is the types of power thatmay vary (Koss et al., 1993). Power conceived of as greater authority in decision-making, forexample, is a source of sexual harassment in many workplace settings (Fitzgerald, 1993). Because of power differences, the targets of harassment are unlikely to report the harassment, and in some experimental settings participants have reacted to harassment with polite smiles (e.g., LaFrance& Woodzicka, 2005), demonstrating the extent to which power reproduces cycles of harassment.

Gender Roles, Scripts, and Norms

Power and power differences, as described above, translate directly into explicit and implicitexpectations of gendered behavior – called roles, scripts, and norms – which in turnare associated with GBV.

Gender roles are socially shared expectations about behavior that apply to individuals on thebasis of socially identified sex (Eagly, 1987). For any given person, gender roles exist as abstractknowledge structures about groups of people. For instance, as men are more likely to occupy rolesthat wield power, individuals often expect and socialize males to behave in dominant, assertivemanner. As women are more likely to occupy roles as caretakers, individuals often expect andsocialize women to be passive, communal, and responsive (Anderson, John, Keltner, & Kring,2001).

Societal gender roles have been linked directly to GBV, serving to justify behavior or definerelationships. Interview studies have revealed that men who beat their wives justify the violence byciting 'unwifely' behavior (Adams, 1988). Other scholars conclude that masculinegender roles have become defined in part by sexual access to and dominance over women (Koss et al.,1993, pp. 235–236). Indeed, research has shown that 'sex role stress', i.e.,when men feel they are inadequately meeting prescribed masculine gender roles, predicts sexualaggression (Anderson & Anderson, 2008; Bosson, Vandello, & Caswell, Chapter 8 thisvolume).

Closely related to gender roles, gendered scripts are essentially roadmaps for behaviorconsidered appropriate for men and women. In gender-polarized societies, scripts for men and womenrarely overlap (Bem, 1993). Koss et al. (1993) cite studies of sexual scripts among middle schoolthrough college-aged students, showing that, for example, 25% of boys believed that if a man spendsmoney on a woman, then it is acceptable for him to force her to have sex.

Gendered scripts are often reflective of social norms: socially shared perceptions of where asocial group *is* or *ought to be* on some dimension of attitude or behavior. Descriptivenorms (where the group is) imply a perceived consensus about a descriptive pattern of behavior (forexample, 'in our group, men typically hit/do not hit their wives'), whereasinjunctive norms (where the group ought to be) imply a perceived consensus about a prescribed or proscribed behavior (for example, 'in ourgroup, hitting your wife is acceptable/not acceptable'). Research has identified normssupporting the acceptability of GBV across a variety of group settings, including workplaces(Fitzgerald & Ormerod, 1993) and the military.

Social norms influence behavior when they are made salient by situational features, often throughmedia. For example, a television or radio program depicting relationships between spouses canreinforce descriptive norms of spousal abuse by featuring a husband abusing his wife. Exposure tosexual violence in popular movies leads many men to become less bothered by sexual *and*nonsexual violence against women (Mullin & Linz, 1995) and behave more aggressively towardwomen (Donnerstein, 1980). Similarly, exposure to pornographic media is associated with attitudescondoning violence against women (Hald, Malamuth, & Yuen, 2010). Even non-violent pornographytypically portrays women as 'highly sexually promiscuous and frequently as being dominated and "used" by males' (Hald et al., 2010). These portrayals reinforce beliefsthat some women deserve or enjoy being victimized (Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1994). Perceptionsabout what women deserve or want also affect those who respond to gender-based violence: beliefsthat sex workers and women who dress seductively 'deserve' to be raped have alteredcourtroom decisions and treatment of targets by law enforcement agents and others (Ahmed, 2011).

Alcohol Consumption

Alongside media that depicts GBV, alcohol consumption is an example of a societal phenomenon thatinfluences GBV directly. Half of all sexual assaults in the United States and the United Kingdom arecommitted by a perpetrator who has been drinking alcohol (Abbey, Zawacki, Buck, Clinton, &McAuslan, 2004; Bowen, 2011). Even controlling for relationship conflict, intimate partner violence(IPV) is more likely on days when alcohol was consumed than on days when it was not (Bowen, 2011). Alcohol consumption often interacts with other situational and individual factors to facilitate GBV, a phenomenon we will discuss in the next section.

War and Other Humanitarian Crises: Societal Violence

Other settings that may prime individuals to commit GBV include armed conflict and humanitariancrises; societies pervaded by violence and disruption are more conducive to sexual violence (White& Post, 2003). In particular, GBV has been linked to strategies of intergroup competition, such that sexual abuse of an outgroup female is a symbol of colonization (Wood, 2009). A challengefor scholars examining the link between GBV and armed conflict is to understand how conflictelevates the likelihood of GBV. While high rates of GBV are observed in countries experiencing war, it is unclear what proportion of wartime GBV is motivated by the same social and individual factorssalient in peacetime – perhaps given fuller expression by social disorder – and what proportion is due to unique wartime and emergency factors, such as the greater polarization of gender roles and intergroup competition (Cohen, 2010; Wood, 2009).

Individual Causes of Gender-Based Violence

Societal and situational factors alone cannot explain GBV; they likely combine with individualstressors and attributes to fuel GBV. We explore these interactions in this section, beginning with a discussion of the literature's shift from focusing on a pathological model of GBV perpetrators to a non-pathological model. We then focus on qualities deemed to be non-pathological predictors of GBV perpetration, such as narcissism, impulsivity, and sexism, among others. Both thepathological and non-pathological literatures are plagued by the methodological problem that GBV prevalence is often measured through self-report orbiased samples of convicted perpetrators of GBV (thus excluding those who evade conviction ortreatment).

Pathological Personality Traits of Gender-Based Violence Perpetrators

While psychopathology partially explains sexual aggression, many perpetrators exhibit no extremeor abnormal personalities or social profiles (Malamuth, 2003). In samples varying from college-agedmen to juvenile offenders to adult male sexual offenders, men who gain gratification fromcontrolling or dominating women or who are distrustful of women, often display the followingpathological personality traits: callousness, disinhibition, narcissism, and antisocial personalitydisorder colored by impulsivity. Another path to sexual aggression, which can interact withpathological traits, arises from a personal history that includes a lack of emotional

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bonding withsexual partners, familial conflict or abuse, and adolescent delinquency (Malamuth, 2003).

Non-pathological Traits of Gender-Based Violence Perpetrators

Studies have generally not found many personality differences between perpetrators and non-perpetrators of sexual assault, although there are some differences between perpetrators of specifically, and those who have not committed rape (Voller & Long, 2010). In terms of the 'Big Five' broad domains of personality, rape perpetrators score lower onagreeableness and conscientiousness compared to sexual assault perpetrators and non-perpetrators, and are lower in extraversion than non-perpetrators.

One important predictor of GBV perpetration is social dominance orientation (SDO): anindividual's degree of preference for one's own group to dominate other groups(Pratto, Sidanius, & Stallworth, 1994). High levels of SDO are negatively related to supportfor women's rights and LGBT rights, and men are significantly higher in SDO compared to womenin male-dominated societies, where GBV prevalence is highest.

Relatedly, the need to dominate was the most common reported motive in a study of convictedrapists (Groth, 1979), and the concepts of dominance and power are linked to sex more strongly inmen who report sexually harassing women than others (e.g., Pryor & Stoller, 1994). Whileabused wives often report that their husbands have more power than they do (Babcock, Waltz, Jacobson, & Gottman, 1993), their abusive husbands simultaneously report feeling lesspowerful than their wives (Johnson, 1995). These studies underline the importance of carefullymonitoring interventions designed to empower women who are at risk for abuse in theirrelationships.

A perceived need to dominate may arise from a perceived violation of the gender roles, scripts, and norms. For example, men who have lower economic, educational, or occupational status than theirwives and men who perceive themselves to have less decision-making power than their wives are morelikely to use violence (Babcock et al., 1993). Power and sex can even be linked at a non-consciouslevel for men who are likely to sexually aggress or harass (Bargh, Raymond, Pryor, & Strack, 1995). That is, power can 'prime' thoughts of sex unconsciously, due to the strongconnection forged between power and sex through individual traits and socialization. Regardless ofwhether this causes or is symptomatic of a predisposition to harass, individuals with a strongimplicit connection between power and sex can be cued to aggress even when they are not aware ofthis influence. This finding previews the importance of understanding the interaction betweenperson-

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al risk factors and societal and situational influences.

Risk Factors for Gender-Based Violence Events

Targets of violence may be at elevated risk for GBV in certain situations, such as during andimmediately after pregnancy, when a woman tries to leave a violent relationship, or when there are drastic changes in power dynamics, such as relative income (Nasier & Hyder, 2003; O'Reilly, Beale, & Gillies, 2010). We now explorehow theories of societal, situational, and individual factors interact to predict GBV in these and other scenarios.

Person X Situation Interaction Model of Gender-Based Violence

The social psychological perspective posits that GBV occurs as a result of the interaction ofindividual, situational, and societal factors (e.g., Anderson & Carnagey, 2004; Malamuth,2003). Within a given society, many individuals exhibit personality traits or are exposed to normsthat promote or condone GBV. Individuals might be high in social dominance orientation; perceivethat spousal abuse is common; or be exposed to polarized scripts for gendered behavior, societalviolence, or media promoting violence against women. Yet, not every individual facing any or all ofthese factors will engage in GBV. Many empirical studies have tested whether the interaction ofindividual, situational and societal factors that are salient in the moment are more predictive of GBV than the factors alone or cumulatively.

For example, alcohol consumption alone can increase aggression and inhibit higher-level cognitive processing (e.g., Lisak & Roth, 1988), but when *paired with* an individual's preexisting hostility toward women, it significantly increases feelings of justification of forceagainst an intimate partner (Abbey, Parkhill, Jaques-Tiura, & Saenz, 2009). Alcohol's effects on sexual aggression depend on both an individual's pathology and expectations (Abbey& Thomson, 1992; Klosterman & Fals-Stewart, 2006). Alcohol consumption also makes itmore difficult to evaluate complex stimuli, increasing one's likelihood of ignoring subtlecues (Steele & Josephs, 1990), and it can alter the interpretation of another individual's behavior, leading intoxicated men to conclude friendly statements indicates exual interest (Abbey, Zwacki, & McAuslan, 2000). Alcohol also increases ag-

gressiveresponses (Taylor & Chermack, 1993), which is especially concerning because alcohol is oftenconsumed in settings in which male dominance or sexualized cues are emphasized. These settings, already having primed potential perpetrators for violent reactions, are especially fertile groundsfor GBV.

Other studies have explored how individual characteristics reinforce the societal link betweenpower and sexual violence. In a series of experiments (Bargh et al., 1995), investigators subconsciously primed male participants with the concept of power (words relating to both authority, like 'boss' and 'influence', and to physical power, like'tough' and 'strong'), and then introduced the participants to a femaleconfederate. When primed with power, males who scored highly on the Attractiveness of Sexual Aggression scale (Malamuth, 1986) reported being more attracted to the female confederate than menwho scored low on this scale. Interestingly, when not primed with power, men reported significantly less attraction to the female relative to low-scoring males. This is strong evidence that the activation of the concept of power directly activates the concept of sexuality, but the extent towhich it has an effect depends on an individual's level of attraction to sexual aggression.

The interaction between social models of behavior in a particular situation and individual characteristics can predict the likelihood of sexual harassment. Men who were either high or low inself-rated likelihood to sexually harass (compiled from a survey assessing responses to various situations where the subject envisions having power over a woman) were asked to teach and then gradean attractive female confederate on an office task (Pryor, LaVite, & Stoller, 1993). Half of the participants worked with a male authority figure who touched the female confederate sexually andmade sexually suggestive comments; with the other half of participants, the same male authority figure treated the female confederate professionally. Men high in likelihood to sexually harass were more likely to engage in touching and suggestive talkafter working with the harassing authority figure than when they worked with the non-harassing authority figure. Men who were low in likelihood to sexually harass treated the female professionally regardless of the behavior of the authority figure.

An interactive understanding of factors facilitating GBV can inform interventions such that programs hone their targeting strategy by considering situations likely to promote GBV, and thenormative perceptions or stable individual characteristics of likely perpetrators within those situations. However, as the next section demonstrates, interventions with such a carefully crafted targeting strategy are rare and rigorously evaluated interventions even rarer still.

Interventions

Though many interventions have been designed to combat and reduce GBV, we focus on programs thathave been empirically evaluated with clearly delineated methodology. The set of inadequately detailed evaluations of interventions is large, leaving methodological and theoretical gaps. To compensate for the empirical short-comings, we rely on psychological models of behavior change to hypothesize potential mechanisms through which interventions may be effective.

We divide our discussion of interventions by timing. Primary interventions seek to preventviolence before it has begun by targeting social norms or through educational outreach. Theseprograms focus on societal and situational factors. Secondary interventions address or treat violence once it has occurred, often at the situational or individual level. Secondary interventions include batterer intervention programs, couples therapy, programs to increase help-seeking behavior by targets, civil protective orders, and criminal sanctions, amongothers. Many interventions include both primary and secondary elements, an overlap we note when present. We also classify interventions based on whether they target individual, situational, and societal factors, or an interaction of these factors.

Primary Interventions

Educational Interventions

The main difficulty in assessing educational interventions is that most empirical studies omitcurricular details, making it difficult to place the program in the social psychological context of GBV. We focus on a few studies offering program details in order to examine the potential mechanisms for behavior change and explain uncertainty in results.

Preventing Dating Violence

The exaggeration of gender roles by youth and adolescents is hypothesized to increase the risk ofdating violence and therefore should inform the design of primary interventions in schools (Black& Weisz, 2008). One school-based intervention program targeting early adolescents is the Safe Dates Project'. Investigators ran-

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domly assigned 14 schools to the Safe DatesProject or to a control (Cornelius & Resseguie, 2007). The control schools were informed oflocal services available to adolescents in violent relationships. The Safe Dates schools received this information in addition to a 10-session course, a theater production on dating violence, and aposter contest. Service providers in all communities were given special training.

One month after the intervention, students who received the Safe Dates intervention reportedstronger perceived norms against dating violence, less gender stereotyping, and greater awareness of available services (Foshee et al., 2000). Reported rates of all types of violence also decreased in the treatment schools, but it is not clear whether this is a decrease in self-reported violent behavior, self-reported victimization, or both. One year later, there were no statistically significant differences in reported behaviors between the two groups, although self-reported acceptance of dating violence decreased and awareness of negative consequences of dating violence increased in both the treatment and control groups.

Other curricula target adolescents' attitudes, specifically those that may 'justifythe use of dating aggression' (Avery-Leaf, Cascadi, O'Leary, & Cano, 1997, p.13). In one study, pre- and post-tests showed that adolescents of both genders in a treatment groupexpressed significantly different attitudes about dating violence following the curriculum'simplementation compared to a no-treatment group. These results are consistent with other studiesthat find self-reported positive attitudinal changes but do not measure subsequent behavior orperceived social norms (e.g., Black & Weisz, 2008).

Interventions Outside of School for Adolescents and Young Adults

Other primary intervention programs target adolescents and young adults through community centersor other gathering places. One such intervention, Program H, targets participants' perceptions of social norms regarding masculinity. The program began in Latin America and the Caribbean; it has since been implemented in other countries (Barker, 2007).

By changing perceptions of norms of masculinity, Program H hopes to encourage more genderequitable behaviors and attitudes among participants. Program H uses social modeling techniques to communicate gender equitable social norms and to transfer relationship skills in peer-to-peereducational sessions. Male facilitators attempt to communicate that gender equitable behaviors are typical and desirable (i.e., normative) through the

use of role-plays, videos (including somefeaturing undesirable behavior to provoke discussion), group discussions, 'brainstorming', and reflection. Sessions cover sexual health, violence and violenceprevention (including GBV), substance abuse, and fatherhood, among others.

In some settings, Program H also targets men outside of these small group sessions using mediacampaigns such as radio transmissions and billboards. Male participants in peer-to-peer workshopsdevelop the media campaigns in order to ensure that the norms communicated originate within theaudience's own social group. For example, one Brazilian Program H campaign targeteddescriptive norms of support for gender equity by promoting the message, 'In this community,men support gender-equity'. In an attempt to increase the like-lihood that this norm would beactivated in situations where GBV might take place, the campaign used the slogan 'In the heatof the moment' to evoke the moment before a man hits his partner or insists on sex without acondom. This strategy is an excellent example of the person and situation interactive approach, which posits that social norms must be activated in situations where the targeted behaviors mighttake place.

Comparisons of Program H interventions (with heterogeneous implementation) indicate that asignificantly smaller proportion of participants in intervention sites report supporting traditionalgender norms as compared to control sites (Barker, Nascimento, Pulerwitz, & Segundo, 2006). However, evaluations of Program H rely on participants' self-report and focus more onpersonal attitudes than on social norms, which are a primary target of the program, and aretherefore imperfect.

Programs Directed toward Likely Targets of GBV

Some programs focus on potential targets of violence, seeking to help them avoid future violence. The design and implementation of target-oriented programs can be controversial in the context of GBV, because targets of violence are blamed frequently for their suffering based on their failure toconform to societal norms. We discuss two types of preventive interventions that aim to reduce the prevalence or severity of GBV by reaching potential targets prior to victimization.

Anti-Trafficking Interventions

Trafficking in persons, particularly sex trafficking, is an understudied topic and programs meantto prevent

trafficking are sparsely evaluated. The United States Department of State issues annualreports highlighting efforts by individual countries to reduce trafficking, but has not, to ourknowledge, provided evidence of the success of such programs in reducing trafficking (US Departmentof State, n.d.). Programs in source countries have sought to inform at-risk communities of possibletrafficking using community theater, and training workshops have been used for likely consumers of trafficked persons, including government and international agencies. Interventions aimed at the general public often seek to raise 'awareness ... throughinformation dissemination to potential victims of trafficking' (Amenuvor, 2010). Correlational studies suggest that programs raise awareness of definitions of trafficking, and ofknowledge of home country trafficking laws and of international trafficking regulations (Sainsbury, 2006; Amenuvor, 2010), but do not measure an effect on trafficking prevalence.

Rape and Assault Prevention Interventions

The primary preventive strategy to reduce rape and sexual assault among adults in the UnitedStates is self-defense instruction (Brecklin, 2008). Empirical studies of self-defense programs show range of effects on women's 'rape avoidance' in the event of assault(Brescoll & Ullman, 2008). Although studies also examine attitudinal outcomes, including assertiveness and self-esteem, such effects typically disappear within six months of the program's conclusion (Brecklin, 2008).

Media and Social Norms Marketing Campaigns

As we noted at the outset, the perception of community disapproval may affect behavior, despitepersonal attitudes and beliefs to the contrary. Because of the theorized relationships between manytypes of GBV and perceived norms regarding violence and gender, social norms marketing (includingthe Program H campaign described above) is a promising primary intervention to reduce GBV. Socialnorms marketing includes marketing techniques, such as mass media and face-to-face campaigns, thatare designed to alter individuals' perceptions of social norms, specifically perceptions ofattitudes and behaviors that are typical or desirable in their community.

Rather than directly targeting personal attitudes or beliefs, social norms marketing targets perceptions of the

prevalence of certain attitudes or beliefs in the community. Social normsinterventions are supported by research showing that social norms affect behavior change moredramatically than personal attitudes (Paluck, 2009). Social norms can sustain GBV rooted incommunity customs, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (a custom in which girls' sexualorgans are cut as a rite of passage, see Grabe, Chapter 25 this volume). Even when families opposeFGM, they may have their daughters cut because they perceive that other community members view it asnormal or desirable, or they believe their daughter's chances of marrying will be reduced byforegoing FGM. Personal disagreement with a norm alone does not change behavior; even when a largepercentage of a group no longer personally supports the behavior, it may persist due to the beliefthat other members of their group subscribe to the norm (known as 'conservative lag'; Prentice, 2012).

Successful efforts at the end of the nineteenth century to abolish footbinding of girls in Chinaweakened a negative descriptive norm and propagated a prosocial injunctive social norm('girls in this community should not have their feet bound'). The efforts pairedcampaigns advertising that the rest of the world did not engage in footbinding, broadcasting thehealth effects of footbinding, having parents of girls pledge publicly that they would not bindtheir daughters' feet, and, crucially, having parents of boys pledge that they would notallow their sons to marry girls with bound feet. This example provides insight as to how social norms interventions can facilitate behavior change in a waythat attitudinal change alone may not (Mackie, 1996).

The media's power to influence perceived gender norms has been demonstrated in studiesexamining instances in which media depicted widespread adoption of different gender roles andresponses to GBV. For example, viewing television programs that depict neighbors and family membersrejecting domestic violence was correlated with a decreased likelihood that survey respondents defend or approve of domestic abuse (Scheepers, 2001). Likewise, access to cable television inIndia, including international programming where women are more outspoken, was associated with asignificant decrease in the reported acceptability of domestic abuse (Jensen & Oster, 2009).

Edutainment (the integration of educational messaging with popular entertainment) is a commonform of social norms marketing. Initially popular as a public health intervention, edutainment nowincludes programming seeking to reduce GBV. Two edutainment programs addressing GBV have been rigorously studied: Soul City (South Africa) and 'We are Different, We are Equal'(Nicaragua).

Soul City, a weekly television and radio edutainment program broadcast throughout SouthAfrica, targets injunctive norms by aiming to perpetuate the norm that 'people in SouthAfrican communities disapprove of

GBV'. For example, one episode portrays people beating potsand pans to voice their disapproval when they overhear their neighbor beating his wife. The showuses characters with respected roles in society speaking out against GBV in order to weakenperceptions of existing norms that imply domestic violence is common to the point of acceptance ortrivial (Soul City Institute, n.d.). South Africa's racial, tribal, and socio-economic versity poses a challenge for social norms marketing, as heterogeneous groups may struggle toidentify with diverse characters. It is challenging to make a norm relevant to an undefined andbroad community.

Despite that challenge, one study found that people who chose to listen to the *Soul City*radio drama were more likely than non-viewers to believe that women in their community should nottolerate abuse and that the community does not approve of domestic abuse. The study showed no effectof choosing to watch *Soul City* on other types of norms regarding domestic violence and sexualharassment. Anecdotal reports also indicated some communities adopted the pot-banging responseindicating disapproval of domestic violence in their own communities (Scheepers, 2001).

The 'We are Different, We are Equal' (SDSI) campaign is another edutainment initiative targeting norms surrounding GBV. For the SDSI program, Puntos de Encuentro, a Nicaraguannon-governmental organization, launched a weekly edutainment television show, a call-in radio show, and a women's magazine (Bank et al., 2008).

From 2002 to 2005, Puntos de Encuentro featured the slogan 'We need to be able totalk'. The goals of the media programs were to encourage discussion of taboo topics and encourage help-seeking behavior by promoting an injunctive norm that people in the community should address difficult topics like GBV. Along with radio, television, and magazine campaigns, billboards advertised the 'need to talk' slogan in 17 cities in Nicaraguaand identified health service providers in each locality so as to channel individuals into places where they could act on new norms about addressing GBV (Bank et al., 2008).

Higher exposure to the television or radio campaigns correlated with higher scores on agender-equity scale across three surveys. However, SDSI highlights one frequent tension withinawareness-raising campaigns: campaigns may emphasize the widespread nature of a taboo topic toencourage survivors to discuss the problem, but advertising the behavior's prevalence canincrease its perceived *normalcy*. A descriptive norm underlining the commonality of a negative behavior that is not accompanied by an injunctive norm emphasizing the disapproval of the community can license future violence. Thus, primary interventions an be a double-edged

sword: they offer the potential to stop GBV before it occurs but also riskperpetuating negative descriptive norms.

Other programs use social norms messaging without the tools of mass media. For example, the WhiteRibbon Campaign encourages men to wear ribbons symbolic of a 'pledge to never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women' (United Nations, n.d.). Although ithas not been rigorously evaluated, this campaign is promising because it raises awareness bypromoting the positive descriptive norm that men in the community do not support violence against women rather than by emphasizing the negative descriptive norm that violence against women ispervasive in the community.

Secondary Interventions

Media Campaigns Targeting Individuals Suffering GBV

Secondary interventions to mitigate GBV or reduce its prevalence often promote help-seekingbehavior. Paradoxically, campaigns that encourage help-seeking by making targets feel they are notalone may promote the negative descriptive norm that GBV is common or even normal. These descriptivenorms, as described in a previous section, may even increase the frequency of GBV. Where GBV ishighly prevalent and services are available but underutilized due to lack of awareness orstigmatization of GBV, awareness or stigma-breaking campaigns may be critical. However, based onexisting studies demonstrating the probable negative effects of such undesirable descriptive normsin other contexts, such as interventions to reduce alcohol abuse, such campaigns should be limited to the early stage of information dissemination and breaking down stigma; years later, the risks ofperpetuating a negative descriptive norm may outweigh the benefits of a message emphasizing thattargets are not alone.

Soul City provides a positive example of a media intervention encouraging help-seeking behaviorby channeling individuals into services rather than promoting a negative descriptive norm. Soul Citycollaborated with the South African National Network on Violence Against Women to establish and promote a hotline for targets of IPV. The hotline offered crisis counseling and referrals tocommunity-based service providers (Scheepers, 2001). The number of the hotline was displayed duringeach episode of the *Soul City* TV program for a year; one episode also featured the maincharacter calling for help after being abused. This depiction may weaken

an existing injunctive normthat women should keep IPV private and can channel targets of IPV into services. Strong behavioralevidence of the program's effect came from the number of hotline calls, which wasdramatically higher on the day the show aired than on other days.

The 'It Gets Better' campaign is another promising effort to raise consciousnesswhile minimizing the promulgation of destructive descriptive norms. The online activism program usesvideo messages uploaded to the Internet to tell LGBT teenagers who are bullied on account of theirsexual orientation that they are not alone in their plight but that, per the campaign's name, life will get better (It Gets Better Project, 2010). The campaign began in September 2010, and there are no impact assessments available. However, the program's message implies that the negativedescriptive norm ('bullying of LGBT youth is common') is temporary and will improve, thereby modeling an intervention seeking to reduce stigma and encourage help-seeking behavior (suchas calling suicide hotlines), while limiting its reinforcement of the negative descriptive norm. Public health interventions also provide models that can be adapted to address GBV. Specifically, these models undermine negative injunctive and descriptive norms while promulgating positivemessages that resonate with all members of a community (e.g., Wechsler et al., 2003).

Group Interventions to Change Violent Behavior or Reduce Repeat Violence

While social norms marketing campaigns seek to reach a broad audience that includes actual andpotential perpetrators and targets of violence, other secondary interventions focus on actualoffenders and aim to reduce repeat GBV. Many states in the United States mandate specificinterventions for various perpetrators of GBV, such as those convicted of IPV or sex offenses. Moststates mandate group interventions known as Batterer Intervention Programs (BIPs) to preventrecidivist IPV (Rosenbaum & Kunkel, 2009).

There are two primary models of BIPs – the psychoeducational, often explicitly feministmodels, and the therapeutic cognitive behavioral approach (Jackson et al., 2003; Rosenbaum &Kunkel, 2009). Many BIPs blend elements of both models, leading to the increasingly populargender-based, cognitive behavioral model (Rosenbaum & Kunkel, 2009). Although BIPs have beenrepeatedly studied over the 40 years they have been implemented in the United States, such studies are often of limited utility due to the studies' dearth of program details. It is often impossible to determine what the program involves and how loyally it implements the model,

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evenwhere a study identifies a given BIP as following a particular intervention model. We have gleanedavailable details regarding each of these models and discuss them below.

Psychoeducational Model

The psychoeducational model theorizes violence as a result of primarily situational and societalfactors, and seeks to reduce violent behavior by changing batterers' experiences and internalization of 'patriarchal ideology' (Jackson et al., 2003). The most well-knownpsychoeducational model is the feminist Duluth Model, which states its goals as 'help[ing]men change from using the behaviors on the Power and Control Wheel, which result in authoritarian destructive relationships, to using the behaviors on the Equality Wheel, which form the basisfor egalitarian relationships' (Babcock, Green, & Robie, 2004, p. 1026; Pence & Paymar, 1993). The Power and Control Wheel is a circle with eight segments, each describing commonIPV events, such as threatening one's partner. The Equality Wheel contains opposite behaviors.

Duluth Model programs last approximately six months and often follow substance abuse treatment. Program participants are introduced to the Power and Control and Equality Wheels early in theintervention (Pence & Paymar, 1993). The curriculum addresses eight themes related to thewheels' eight segments, including non-violence and negotiation. Each topic is covered in twoto four sessions, with the first sessions involving video vignettes exemplifying the violent behavior, followed by participant logging of their own violent behavior, and group discussion of that behavior and non-violent alternatives (Bowen, 2011; Parker, 2007).

At least 35 studies have examined psychoeducational programs similar to the Duluth Model. A fewof those studies have used an experimental or quasi-experimental approach, typically comparing afeminist BIP model to a probation-only control group. In one such study, IPV perpetrators were randomly assigned to a one-year term of probation or to probation plus 26 weeks of mandatoryparticipation in a feminist model BIP. The base-line study found no significant differences between the two groups in terms of their self-reported behavior and attitudes or police records prior totreatment. However, those in the BIP group were less likely to be re-arrested after intervention than those in the probation-only group (Davis, Maxwell, & Taylor, 2003; Jackson et al., 2003).

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Cognitive Behavioral Model

The cognitive behavioral model 'views battering as a result of errors in thinking andfocuses on skills training and anger management', which are generally individual and situational causes of GBV (Jackson et al., 2003, p. 1). Because violence is theorized as learnedbehavior, the programs are built on the idea that non-violent behavior can likewise be learned (Babcock et al., 2004). Most programs include angermanagement techniques, such as using timeouts to de-escalate conflict and exercises to improve communication skills and to minimize aggression (Kelly & Johnson, 2008). In these ways, the model is similar to couples counseling, although cognitive behavioral BIPs do not include the targets of violence.

Evaluations of explicitly cognitive behavioral models are rare. One experimental study conducted with approximately 150 US Navy personnel compared a 36-week cognitive behavioral group, a 26-week couples therapy group, a group subjected to rigorous monitoring, and a no-treatment control group (Dunford, 2000, cited in Babcock et al., 2004). Results were gauged by differences inpartner-reported violence and police records after one year. There were no statistically significant differences among the intervention groups, although the unique features of a military community (characterized by a high stake in social conformity) may mean the majority of an intervention's effect could be traced to the arrest itself.

Gender-Based Cognitive Behavioral Approaches

BIPs that combine the psychoeducational feminist model and the cognitive behavioral model follows gender-based cognitive behavioral model (Gondolf & Jones, 2001; Vaddiparti & Varma, 2009). Interventions based on this model range from an educational or instructional format to afree-flowing group discussion model (Gondolf, 2004).

One meta-analysis compared three gender-based cognitive behavioral programs indifferent cities using instrumental variable analysis to correct for endogeneity in studiescomparing program completers with program dropouts and to account for contextual differences betweenprogram sites (Gondolf & Jones, 2001). Although each program was labeled 'cognitive behavioral' and met certain criteria such as meeting individual state standards (in three different states), descriptions of the precise program models and implementation

were not provided the analysis. Using perpetrator and target surveys and police records, the study revealed that41% of the men re-assaulted their initial partner or a subsequent partner over a 30-month period, and half of those men re-assaulted their partners repeatedly. The analysis concluded that programlength is not significantly associated with program completion or differences between re-assaultrates, but that program completion is a statistically significant predictor of lower re-assaultrates – the study found program completion led to a 44–64% reduction in likelihood of re-assault, even controlling for some endogeneity. This study offers some support for three-monthcognitive behavioral programs because there were no significant advantages to longer, costlierprograms, although the study notes the identified effects qualify only as moderate. The analysis isof limited utility because it does not provide details regarding the curricula of any of the programs and because the number of programs included was small (three). Further, while the analysis provides moderate support for three-month cognitive behavioral interventions, it does not providemore specific guidance for programs.

Restorative Justice Models

One feature BIPs share, regardless of their model, is a narrow focus on the batterer. Restorativejustice models generally focus on the interaction of individual needs and societal factors likecommunity support and integration. One such model is Arizona's 'Circles ofPeace' group intervention, which includes only one batterer along with various members of hiscommunity, including, where the target chooses to participate, the target of past violence (Mills,Maley, & Shy, 2009). An evaluation of this program is ongoing but not yet available; we note,however, that the intervention escapes one potential pitfall of BIPs, which is that groups ofbatterers may enforce negative descriptive norms by making batterers acutely aware of how many otherindividuals perpetrate similar violence within their owncommunities. By surrounding the batterer with individuals who will not tolerate continued violence,models such as Circles of Peace may be able to reinforce a community injunctive norm that batteringshould not occur in a given community.

Individual Interventions to Reduce Gender-Based Violence

Therapeutic Interventions

Couples counseling, typically cognitive behavioral therapy, is an alternative to groupinterventions for perpetrators of IPV. Counseling at the couple level generally seeks to developanger-management techniques (Maiuro, 1991). Such counseling frequently attempts to assist an abusive individual in distinguishing between negative (permissible) emotional responses and aggressive (impermissible, violent) behavioral responses. Couples counseling also focuses on specific toolslike taking a 'time out' when the individual recognizes signs of anger or arousal tode-escalate conflict. This intervention thus focuses on the individual factors leading to abuse, butalso points out situational triggers of those individual factors.

Couples counseling has been criticized for 'encouraging the underlying inequity of powerbetween the partners', and perhaps pressuring the target of abuse to remain in therelationship (Lawson, 2003, p. 26). Some studies, albeit generally those with small sample sizes, have concluded that couples counseling, particularly when paired with individual counseling, 'may be safe and beneficial' (Klein, 2008, p. 46, citing Johannson & Tutty,1998). However, one meta-analysis found that while all forms of group interventions have somenon-zero effect as compared to mere arrest, cognitive behavioral therapy has no effect (Babcock etal., 2004). In addition, another study concluded that men who violated protective orders but wereassigned to anger-management interventions had higher re-offense rates than those assigned to BIPs, despite having lesser criminal histories (Klein, 2008).

Legal Responses to GBV

Because GBV is regulated by the law, it is also important to examine the psychological rationaleunderpinning various legal interventions that respond to GBV. Some legal interventions targetindividual and situational factors facilitating GBV, while others potentially influence societaldrivers of GBV. An important function of all legal remedies is their expressive value: the criminalization of all forms of GBV – including everything from the violation of a protective order to rape as a weapon of war – constitutes official condemnation of GBV and a powerfulindicator of the injunctive norm that individuals within the community (defined by the jurisdictional reach of the law) should not perpetrate or tolerate GBV.

Law enforcement interventions are perhaps the easiest to implement, but many legal interventions are also known to exacerbate tense situations. Mandatory arrest (laws requiring an arrest in anydomestic disturbance call) allows for a period of relative calm in which the abuser and victim areseparated, decreasing recidivism compared to law enforcement inaction or spontaneous counseling(Wanless, 1996). However, one study found the effect of mandatory arrest transitory (Tauchen& Witte, 1995), and another showed mandatory arrest laws correlated with an increase inintimate homicide due to decreased reporting and increased reprisal (lyengar, 2009). Mandatoryarrest policies, developed in large part to improve inadequate police responses to IPV reports, respond to the situational risk presented by reporting, known to be a heightened period of risk for IPV incidents, but may function solely to shift the high risk period to the time the accused is released from custody rather than the time immediately following the police report.

Specialized law enforcement units for IPV or other forms of GBV, such as women's policestations, are another global trend. Specialized stations recognize that reporting GBV is oftenstigmatizing and may require the target to step outside of gender scripts and assert power against the perpetrator. These stations seek to createnew standards in which reporting is encouraged and responsiveness prioritized. In some countries, women's police stations seek to reduce revictimization of those reporting rape by assigningonly female law enforcement personnel to such stations. In various United States locales, studieshave indicated that assigning severe IPV incidents to a specialized police force may decreaserecidivism despite the high risk of repeat violence in severe IPV cases (Klein, 2008). Specializeddomestic violence courts are another mechanism through which to facilitate delivery of targetservices, batterer intervention, and criminal punishment (Gover et al., 2004). Studies indicate that specialized domestic violence courts increase target court appearances (Hartley & Frohmann, 2003).

The United States and many other countries seek to reduce harm to targets partially by addressingpower asymmetries in violent relationships through civil remedies known as protective orders. Protective orders may require that the perpetrator maintain distance from the target and include no contact provisions (Logan, Shannon, Walker, & Faragher, 2006), thus discouraging the abuser from exerting physical or emotional control over the target andestablishing, at least in theory, that the target is protected by the law. However, one literaturereview identifies an average violation rate of 40% in the United States (Logan et al., 2006). Reported violations may lead to police intervention preventing a violent occurrence, but may alsoincite anger in the person served the order. As there are likely significant differences betweenindividuals who obtain a protective order and those who do not, conclusions about the effectivenessof protective orders are difficult to discern.

Conclusion

Various theories of gender-based violence, and thus theories of how to reduce GBV, placedifferent weights on individual, situational, and societal factors that drive GBV. Rigorousevaluations of GBV interventions are infrequent, and those that are conducted are often limited byshortcomings in their methodology and measurement, and their lack of detailed interventiondescription. By placing interventions in the context of social psychological theory and evidence, weaim to identify the driving factors of GBV and the most useful ways to measure interventionoutcomes.

Throughout this chapter, we have signaled which interventions employ a social psychological approach to reducing GBV by examining the interaction of individual, situational, and societal factors. Interventions' targeting, and their ultimate efficacy, is improved when they beginwith analysis of which individuals will perpetrate or seek help for GBV, given situational circumstances and societal conditions. Many educational interventions, such as Program H, combine attempts to change individual perceptions of social norms or individual knowledge about GBV withmedia interventions that target particular situations where GBV transpires most frequently. Likewise, Soul City takes a social psychological approach by targeting perceived social norms about domestic violence with media and makes available information to ameliorate or address violence, such as posting a help hotline number. BIP combines both situational and individual levels of intervention. We recommend more analysis and design of GBV interventions that use this social psychological interaction ist approach.

We have also reviewed many interventions that target primarily individual variables, such asattitudes, skills, or knowledge. Although evaluations of these programs do not show that they areless effective than interventions taking multiple factors into account, this lack of evidence isprimarily due to the paucity of evaluation. In addition, many interventions claim to target onefactor, like societal gender norms, but measure another, such as individual attitudes. As discussed in this chapter, strong evidence supports the hypothesis that behavior change is more stronglyconnected with social norms than personal attitudes, and as a result programs seeking to inspire behavior change would do well to focus on social norms than, or at least in addition to, individual attitudes.

We conclude that interventions, once designed to address the interaction of individual and societal factors, must be evaluated in a way that demonstrates their causal effect and measures that effect appropriately. Many scholars agree with this assessment, including the American Psychological Association (2011), which has provided recommendations similar to our own regarding programs concerned with violence against women.

Methods of data collection and evaluation are critically important. While we review a number of evaluations that should be lauded for their attempts at experimental or quasi-experimental analysis, many are incomplete and unable to draw causal links between interventions and outcomes. Researchers, as they develop the theory that drives their studies, should allocate resources to data collection methods such as randomization of subjects, comprehensive baseline studies, assessment of possible backlash, establishment of appropriate control groups and, where possible, reducing survey attrition by following respondents across time and space. Some of these data shortcomings can be ameliorated with statistical tools such as matching or regression discontinuity designs, but causal links will be more easily supported if data collection and survey design adhere to an experimental framework.

Based on the research available at this time, we recommend that individuals designing GBVreduction programs conscientiously develop a theory of the specific form of violence they aim toreduce and intervene by examining the individual, situational, and societal factors that support themost frequent instances of that violence. For example, a program to address power asymmetry withinan ongoing relationship should be conceptualized differently than a program to encouragehelp-seeking behavior. We also advise avoidance, particularly in awareness-building campaigns, ofperpetuating negative descriptive norms, which may undermine program goals.

The vast literature on GBV is indicative of the broad-based and constructive community ofscholars and practitioners dedicated to the reduction of various forms of gender-based violence. Ourreview of this wide and deep body of work suggests at least two general directions for futureresearch and intervention. First, we suggest a definition of GBV that is inclusive of all violenceperpetrated based on perceived failure to conform to societal gender norms (including violence basedon sexual identity or orientation) and all sex-specific harms (such as rape). Second, we encourageresearchers and practitioners to continue to develop interactionist theories about the causes of GBV; that is, GBV as caused by the interaction of individual, societal, and situational factors. Byapplying this interactionist social psychological perspective to GBV interventions, and byunderstanding GBV as violence perpetrated on perceived failures to conform to gender norms, webelieve this literature – and more importantly, efforts to reduce GBV – will moveforward even further.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank Ani Momjian for help with the literature review, LéaSteinacker and the editors

for comments on the draft, and Izzy Gainsburg for assistance preparing the manuscript. All views expressed and any errors are the authors' own.

Notes

1 Although the term 'injunctive' may mostquickly bring to mind norms regarding what should *not* be done, injunctive norms include bothprescribed and proscribed behavior, encompassing also that which *should* be done.

2Somos Diferentes, Somos Iguales in Spanish ('SDSI').

3 The study initially included four programs, but one program was dropped due to unusually high court involvement, leading to unusually high completion rates among court-mandated participants relative to other cognitive behavioral programs studied. The three studies included were in Denver (lasting 3 months), in Dallas (lasting 9 months), and in Houston (lasting 5.5 months).

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- · self-reports
- · gender violence
- · social norms marketing
- · help-seeking behavior
- · norms (social)
- violence
- · perpetrators

https://doi.org/10.4135/9781446269930