



TVEP

EFFECTIVENESS OF A SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMME IN MUKULA VILLAGE FOUND IN THULAMELA MUNICIPALITY

Impact Report

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Introduction

The intervention in Mukula afforded the residents to proactively look at ways of preventing violence at both family and community levels. This was evidenced by prevention strategies they have started to implement as a result of workshops that were conducted during project implementation. Participants saw the need to change the status quo by initiating things.

Increased focus on gender equality and women empowerment increases access to education, employment and various economic opportunities by women and girls thereby reducing their vulnerability to abuse and unequal treatment in society.

Methodology

TVEP employed two strategies during project implementation that is the use of pre and post evaluation tests for workshops and two focus group discussions (FGD) with selected participants from those who completed four-day workshops on TVEP's four thematic topics, Child abuse, HIV and AIDS, Domestic violence and sexual violence.

The total number of participants who completed pre and post surveys were 236 and 17 discussants for FGDs. One FGD comprised of women alone and the other had mixed gender. Participants for FGDs comprised of both leaders and non-leaders in the community.

The pre and post tests were captured on Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (**SPSS**) that was used for statistical analysis. The data was analysed by M&E Officer by comparing responses from the pre and post

Findings

a) Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)

This section of the report conveys the ideas, concerns and suggestions of the individuals who attended and participated in FGDs.

The past norms are a hindrance to total emancipation of women. However, education and knowledge acquired during workshops and dialogues enlightened them especially women and girls to challenge status quo. The environment prevailing in Mukula is fairly good for women to effect a positive change. Overall the people acquired knowledge regarding rights that is nitty-gritties part of it. It was revealed during focus group discussions that community members did not quite understand the rights.

There was a concern from women that they do not really sleep well because of men who come very late and needs to be served. It really affects them emotionally because their sleep is always disturbed. This is because of traditional norms that women have tolerated for a long time.

Gender equality

People have been made aware of the importance of imparting knowledge to their children both girls and boys regarding gender equality between women and men in order to effect change needed in societies. This will challenge superiority of men over women that have been in existence as this has been realized as effective and potential way of reversing the norms that have been favoring men all along.

Women expect men not to assist at home at all because they feel they cannot carry out household work. Almost all women concurred when one of the participants had this to say "*If the wife is sick, he can get someone who can assist and must be an older woman*". Women have fear of losing a partner and men take advantage of this.

It is this attitude that women have towards their partners and if this is not addressed men will never change. Therefore, equal treatment will never be attained as needed between women and men.

Boys and girls should be treated the same so that there will be no-one superior over the other.

The following were noted as things that make women and men unequal in the village:

- ❖ Few women are breadwinners
- ❖ People have no common understanding of rights
- ❖ Men are still considered head of families alone
- ❖ Women make use of their partners' surnames
- ❖ Men undermine women

Power and control

From the discussions with discussants it was revealed that women have less power in making family decisions. *"a woman does not have a say"*. People say so because women are the ones who move from their own families. Men do undermine their partners. In most families men are breadwinners and therefore, put them on advantage of controlling how the money is spent in the home. Participants indicated that women do request money from their partners and informs them of things that are needed in the household. However, people have shown that they acquired knowledge very well but implementation is still a challenge to many. Interest was shown by both women and men to attain gender equality. In all elected village officials there is equal representation of men and women. Discussants pointed out that women lead well in their positions for which they have been elected to execute their duties.

Women look upon men to be the sole providers in the home because men do not allow their partners to take up employment. Therefore, this makes women to be reluctant to seek employment or talk about it with their partners. Again this is a traditional norm apart from fear that is in most men of ceding power and partner to other men at work.

Reporting of crime

The discussants indicated that they believe in reporting any crime to appropriate law enforcement agency. This will be a deterrent for those who will be offenders because they will know community members report.

Communication

This was identified as key if people would like to prevent violence both at community and family levels. It was also noted that many people lack open discussion of ideas and family values interaction. However, it is lack of respect and regard in most cases towards each other. Participants gave an example, if a child comes home with an item which a parent never bought for him/her, they should ask where s/he got it as opposed to beating.

Changes

General understanding of each other among community members has been enhanced. This has been evidenced by the way people are conducting themselves especially lowering volume of the radios at night. By conducting themselves in this manner enables them to hear things outside for them to respond to any criminal activity that might or could be happening.

Changes noted by discussants

Before	After
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People were hesitant to report • Did no know about female condoms (FC) • Did not know about sexual rights • Foreign nationals were staying in the open away from houses • People had little knowledge about the context in which violence occur • Women to women violence was happening often especially fighting for men • Child cases were rampant • High verbal abuse among residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People now report • People know FC and use them. They even request them. • They know nitty-gritties of women rights and equality • More women are involved in women’s groups • Foreign nationals are staying in houses with natives • People have much better understanding of the context of violence in which it occurs • People have open minds about rights • Crime has decreased • Reduced cases of domestic violence reported at traditional cases • Beating children is very rare • Child cases have declined • Verbal abuse among community members has decreased • Women are able to engage their partners in matters that affect them without getting emotional • Health seeking behaviour has changed among community members • Both men and women have formed forums. They assist in sharing ideas and give guidance to each other.

Prevention of violence

From the discussants’ point of view, it showed that people in Mukula have been engaging each other at family and community levels. They indicated the following:

Family Level	Community level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to each other and agree to rules • Good communication especially between partners • Talk to each other as partners without children’s involvement or knowledge. • Consult other family members or involve your partner’s close associate • Be exemplary to your children • Use of English words “sweet heart” • Avoid arguments but discuss matters • Ask children of any possession/s you did not buy them • Use of intimidation methods among children • Respect rights of each other • Promoting education among our children • Pre marriage counselling or training on basic marriage management • Avoid myths e.g if the husband does not beat his wife he does not love her. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liquor stores should close early (20H00) or strictly sticking to their operating hours. This should be enforced by government law agencies. • Report crime for people to know that they are being watched • Know your neighbours’ and police contacts • Avoid coming home late • Avoid sending children out late in the evening • Learners walk in groups • Acceptance of LGBTI people • Traditional beer must be regulated by enacting law to that effect • Better understanding of human rights • Engage and/or partner with victim empowerment organisations • To approach drivers of suspicious cars that might be transporting drugs • Avoid lifts and use public transport

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure security measures are put in place in the house/s • Instil good manners among children • Good anger Management 	
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Service providers

Despite other challenges that have been resolved since project inception, community members continue to face some hindrances in accessing services from providers. People indicated their displeasure with police because Police satellite has too many young officers who do not comprehend reported cases of family violence as serious matters. Below were concerns raised by participants.

Police	Clinic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laugh at men if they report violence • Women reporting rape(police officers would normally say “did you not like it”) • Do not allow people to report on behalf of someone • Response time is bad. Usually ask a question when they are called “how many have died or been beaten”. This is so because they are not brave. • Nepotism and favouritism is high especially when woman reports. • There should be a mix of young and old officers at station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients who are very sick are not assisted in time • Staff in the dispensary have no urgency i.e take their time to assist patients • Nurses do not have respect for patients • Patients are turned away even if they arrived well before close of business. • Patients are forced to come as early as 4AM • Lack of confidentiality • Expect patients brought by ambulance to write on the register by themselves.

Quotes:

- ❖ “Women do not sleep because men come home very late. We have stress but we are forced by traditional customs to wake up to serve men”.
- ❖ “Parents must be exemplary to their children”
- ❖ “I sit down with my partner and tell him that your actions are not good”.
- ❖ “They do not have to close clinic when patients are in the queue”
- ❖ “Beaten by a women”
- ❖ “we can now use female condom and teach others”

Key Findings

- Women are undermined a lot because there are the ones who move to the bride’s home. Therefore, men take of this advantage and because of Traditional norms which have gone for years without being challenged.
- Men have more power in decision making although discussants concurred that discussions are conducted with women before a position is taken. This was a positive development that was echoed by majority of the discussants.
- Power imbalances exist between women and men. This has been attributed to traditional norms that people have learned from the past and they still refer to them very often especially women.
- Women are not too involved in making family decisions; they leave it to men because of norms they grew up knowing. However, women have realized this anomaly and have started to be active as opposed to passive in things that involve the family.
- Equality in the village is being practised especially with community office bearers. In any village committee to be elected gender equal of the representatives is guaranteed. This has been a good practice as both men and women are afforded equal opportunities unlike giving priority to men alone.

- People showed much better understanding of the context in which violence occurs in their society.
- Income is controlled by men in most cases.
- Boys and girls should be treated the same way in the home so that there is no one superior over the other.
- Majority of people did not know about female condoms (FC) as they testified that they saw FC for the first time when TVEP started the project in their area.
- The knowledge acquired thus far made people to realize more about the specifics of women and sexual rights. They gained knowledge about the nitty-gritties of violence perpetrated against women and girls as opposed to broad aspects.
- People have developed a proactive approach in preventing violence from occurring at family and community levels.
- Tarvens and bottle stores do not stick to their closing times and were identified as source of violence.

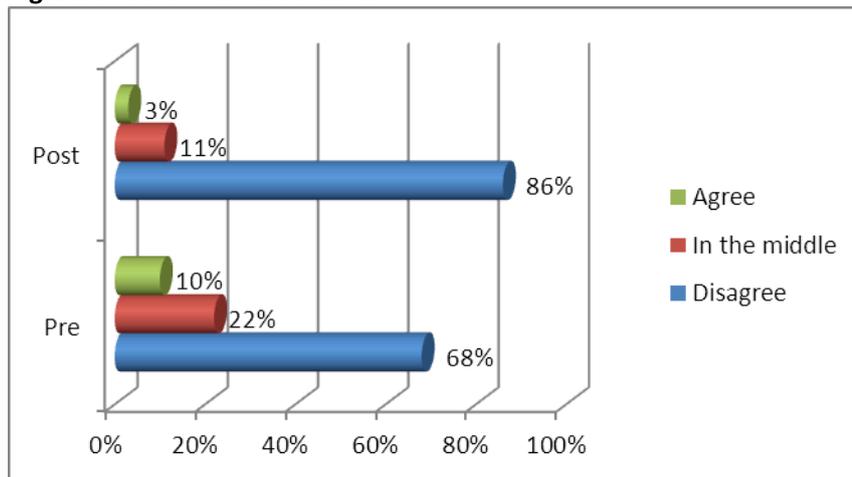
b) Pre and Post Surveys

ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEXUAL GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The findings shows that there was a significant positive change on attitudes towards violence that can be directly attributed to the project conducted in Mukula Village.

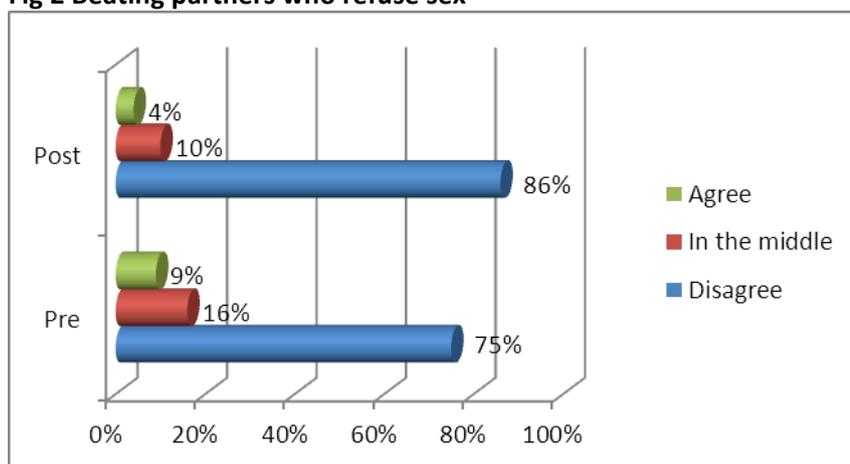
Responses towards the statement “A man who has paid lobola/lumalo is entitled to have sex with his wife even if she doesn’t want to” when the pre and the post responses are compared have shown that there is a significant increase in those who disagree (18%). See fig 1.

Fig 1 Lobola as sex entitlement



Responses towards the statement “A man can beat his partner if she refuses him sex” when the pre and the post responses are compared have shown that respondents has much knowledge that it is very unacceptable. This was indicated by most respondents in both pre and post workshops. However, there was an increase of 11%. See fig 2.

Fig 2 Beating partners who refuse sex



ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEXUAL GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

When the pre and the post responses for statements under the theme of “attitudes towards sexual gender based violence” were compared, there is a significant increase in those who disagree. There is a significant decline in those who are in the middle as well as in those who agree. See table 1 below for a representation of the above mentioned changes.

The responses for statements under this theme show significant positive changes in the attitudes of participants.

Table 1: Indictors for the theme on attitudes towards sexual gender based violence

Indicator	Survey Type	Disagree	In the Middle	Agree
If a girl engages in kissing and touching, it is her own fault if sex is forced on her.	Pre	46%	44%	10%
	Post	69%	29%	2%
Women who get raped while at a shebeen get what they deserve.	Pre	52%	41%	7%
	Post	72%	23%	5%
An unfaithful woman deserves to be beaten.	Pre	61%	34%	5%
	Post	79%	18%	3%
A woman should tolerate violence from her partner to keep her family together.	Pre	55%	37%	8%
	Post	72%	24%	4%
An unfaithful man deserves to be beaten.	Pre	64%	26%	10%
	Post	82%	15%	3%

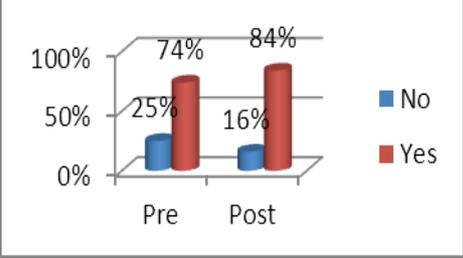
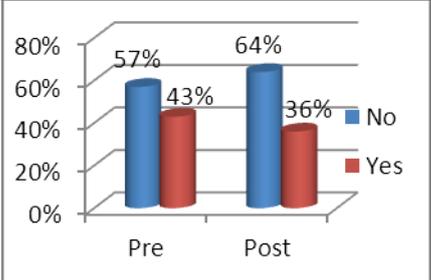
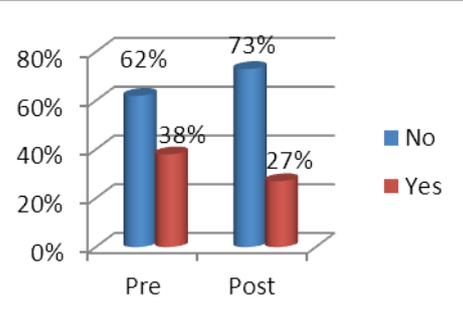
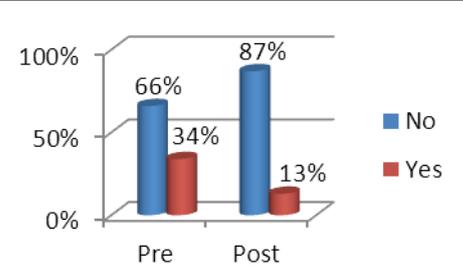
It is very interesting to note that respondents were consistent in answering the following “An unfaithful woman deserves to be beaten” and “An unfaithful man deserves to be beaten” for both men and women. Therefore, it shows that both men and women require fair and equal treatment.

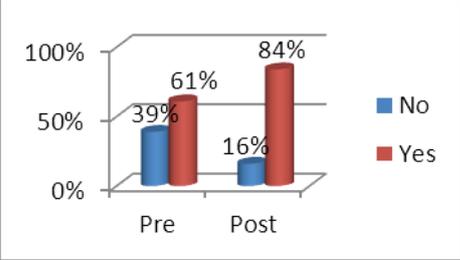
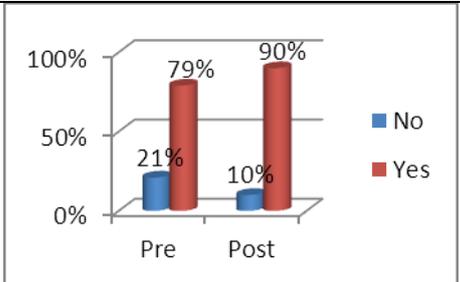
HIV/AIDS KNOWLEDGE

There was a significant improvement in awareness and enhanced knowledge about HIV/AIDS related matters. However, discrimination of PLHA in the community is there because overall 36% of participants indicated that they are unwilling to associate or be friends with them. In most cases people do not know that PLHA are emotionally affected when they are discriminated in their societies they live especially at family level. The discrimination is normally done tactfully in the community. This causes PLHA to feel uncomfortable in disclosing their status because of fear of discrimination mostly by community members.

Below table illustrates shift in knowledge questions in this theme. Such a significant change is that of a 21% increase of participants who believe that ARVs do not cure HIV completely. It is also worth noting that 10% of participants got encouraged to test for HIV as a result of information they received on the importance of knowing one’s status during workshops and dialogues. Furthermore, there is 23% decline in those that said Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is not medication that prevents HIV infection.

Table 2: Indictors for the theme on HIV/AIDS

Indicator	GRAPH									
Do you know your HIV status?	 <table border="1"> <caption>Do you know your HIV status?</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Time</th> <th>No (%)</th> <th>Yes (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pre</td> <td>25%</td> <td>74%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Post</td> <td>16%</td> <td>84%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Time	No (%)	Yes (%)	Pre	25%	74%	Post	16%	84%
Time	No (%)	Yes (%)								
Pre	25%	74%								
Post	16%	84%								
Do you feel like you don't want to be friends with or associate with people who have HIV/AIDS?	 <table border="1"> <caption>Do you feel like you don't want to be friends with or associate with people who have HIV/AIDS?</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Time</th> <th>No (%)</th> <th>Yes (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pre</td> <td>57%</td> <td>43%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Post</td> <td>64%</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Time	No (%)	Yes (%)	Pre	57%	43%	Post	64%	36%
Time	No (%)	Yes (%)								
Pre	57%	43%								
Post	64%	36%								
Do you believe that people with HIV/AIDS should not be allowed to have sex?	 <table border="1"> <caption>Do you believe that people with HIV/AIDS should not be allowed to have sex?</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Time</th> <th>No (%)</th> <th>Yes (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pre</td> <td>62%</td> <td>38%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Post</td> <td>73%</td> <td>27%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Time	No (%)	Yes (%)	Pre	62%	38%	Post	73%	27%
Time	No (%)	Yes (%)								
Pre	62%	38%								
Post	73%	27%								
Do you believe that ARVs cure HIV completely?	 <table border="1"> <caption>Do you believe that ARVs cure HIV completely?</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Time</th> <th>No (%)</th> <th>Yes (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pre</td> <td>66%</td> <td>34%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Post</td> <td>87%</td> <td>13%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Time	No (%)	Yes (%)	Pre	66%	34%	Post	87%	13%
Time	No (%)	Yes (%)								
Pre	66%	34%								
Post	87%	13%								

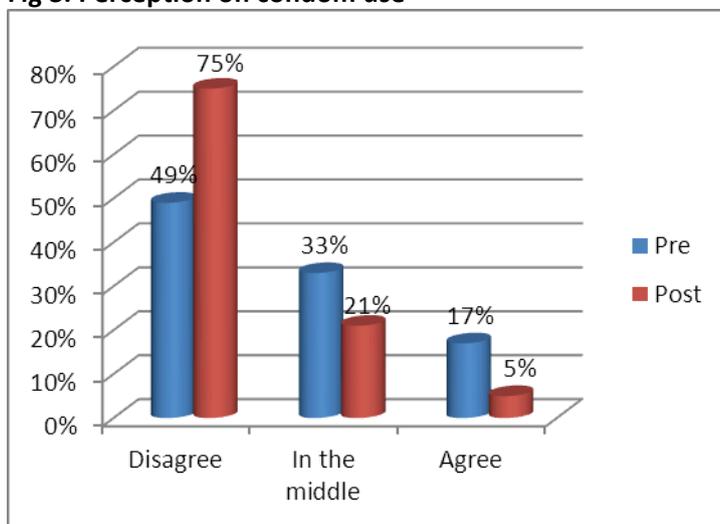
<p>Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is medication that prevents HIV infection.</p>	
<p>PEP is given to any child, woman or man who has been raped.</p>	

CONDOM USE

The findings show that it has had a positive effect on the participants’ attitudes towards condom use. Participants showed a significant change in attitude on the theme.

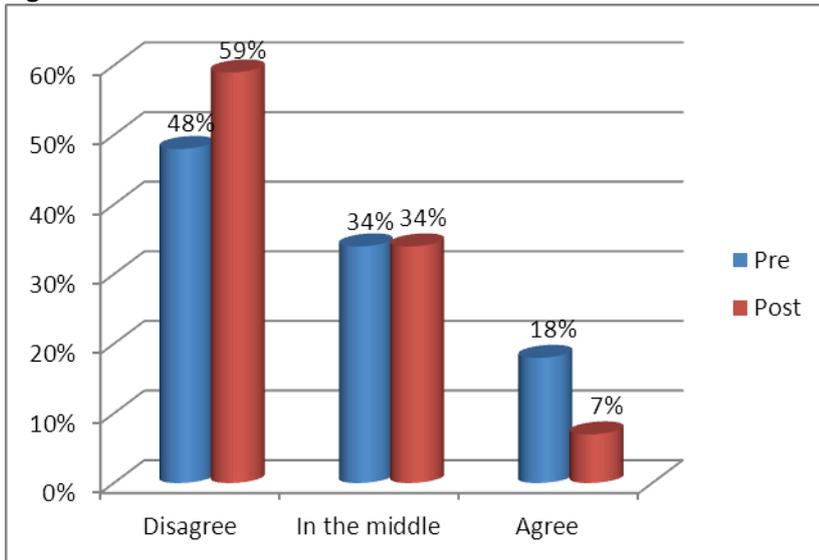
The above is evident in responses towards the statement “*If I used a condom, sex would not feel as good*” when the pre and the post responses are compared have shown that there is a major 26% increase in those who disagree. See fig 3. There is a 12% decline in those who are in the middle and this supports 51% of respondents who indicated that they sometimes make use of condoms (female/male) when they indulge in sexual activity with their partners. However, people usually use condoms with their concubines.

Fig 3. Perception on condom use



Responses towards the statement “*Condoms are not encouraged in my culture*” when the pre and the post responses are compared have shown that there is 11% increase in those who disagree. However, 34% of participants do not know whether culture prohibits use of condoms or not. See fig 4. This alone tells that they do not have knowledge of what culture says about condoms in their society.

Fig 4. Culture and condoms

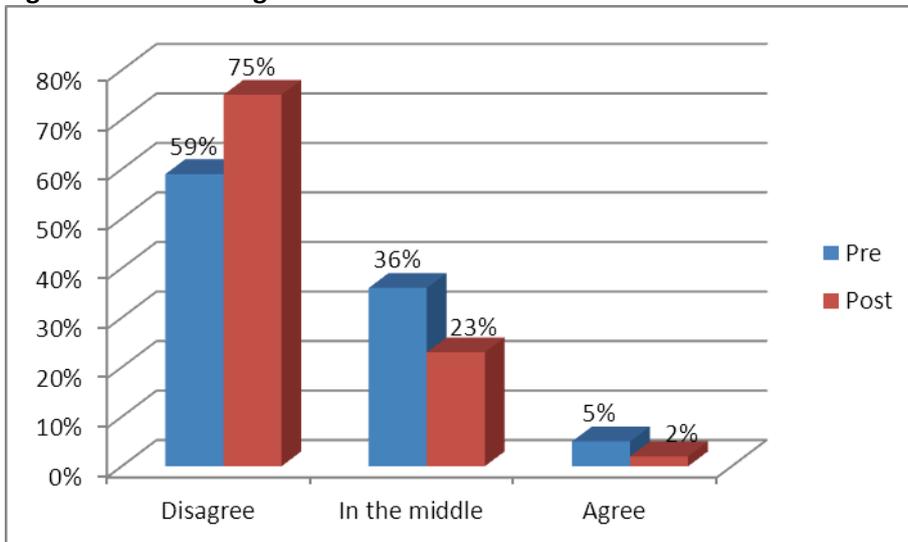


CHILD ABUSE

The findings show that it has had a positive effect on the participants' relating to child abuse matters. Participants showed improved knowledge on the theme.

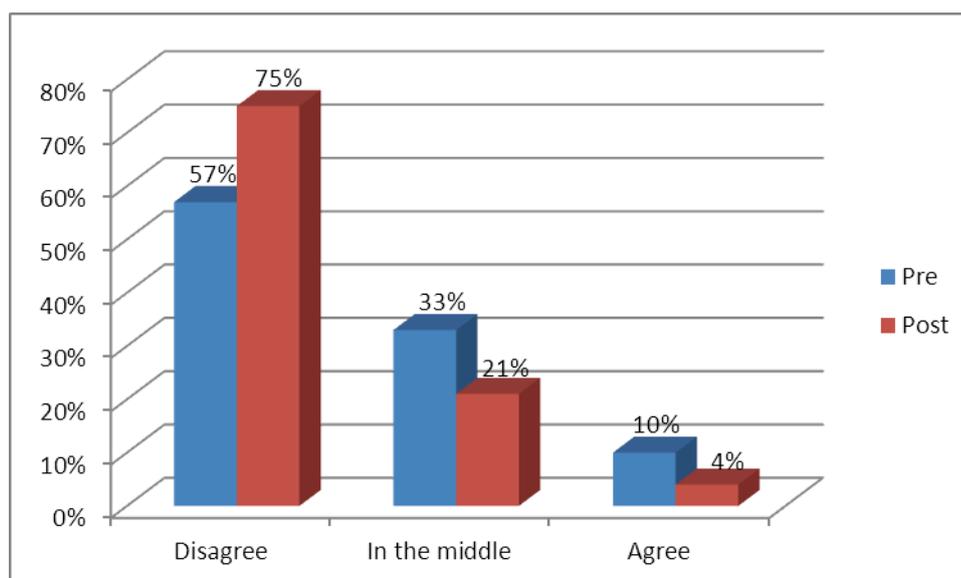
The above is evident in responses towards the statement *"Parents have the right to beat their children if and when they feel it right"* when the pre and the post responses are compared have shown that there is a major 16% increase in those who disagree. See fig 5.

Figure 5 child beating



The participants' responses towards the statement *"Children must not tell their parents or elders about how they feel when decisions that concern them are made"* when the pre and the post responses are compared have shown that there is 18% increase in those who disagree. See fig 6. This indicates better understanding among participants that children should be consulted in any decision that affects them as this hurts them emotionally and parents do not either bother or realise it. It is children's right to be heard by their parents.

Figure 6 Children's involvement in decision making



Key Findings

- There was a significant positive change on attitudes towards sexual gender based violence that can be directly attributed to the intervention in Mukula Village. This was concluded from the responses analysed on theme of attitudes towards sexual gender based violence.
- Participants indicated that there was a significant improvement in awareness about HIV/AIDS related matters.
- The results from pre and post surveys also showed that the intervention had a positive effect on the participants' relating to child abuse matters. Participants showed improved knowledge and better understanding on the theme.

Conclusion

Participants' knowledge was enhanced significantly on the themes focused during dialogues and workshops. The dialogues enabled issues like inequality and abuse against women and girls to be discussed in depth and the main hindrance to emancipation of women and girls was noted as the status quo (accepted traditional norms). Live discussions enlightened participants to propose effective ways in which their community can prevent violence and proactively use the strategies.

Dialogues made it possible for participants to know and better understand the netty-gretties of SGBV prevention strategies to avoid violence from occurring in their village. Further they were able to articulate issues affecting them and best ways of resolving without resorting to violence. Therefore, it gave them any opportunity to effectively discuss matters that would make them live harmoniously in the community. Education and better communication were cited as main factors that could immensely enable change in attitudes, practice and knowledge among people.

Although the intervention in Mukula Village was highly effective in positively changing participants' attitudes towards sexual gender based violence. Service providers especially Health care centre and Police need to be engaged fully by community leaders because there were many concerns raised by participants during dialogues that need to be addressed. By engaging them it will provide an enabling environment for people to seek assistance without hurdles because service providers are hostile to their clients currently. These two service providers are the key role players in assisting survivors of violence therefore they have to execute their duties diligently and effectively to restore lost confidence among people.

Recommendations

1. Marketing and distribution of female condoms should continue because not all people were reached during implementation.
2. Roll out the model to other areas because it brings about positive change among people regarding SGBV.
3. Dialogues should be conducted with selected workshop participants of each group to elaborate more on TVEP's four thematic areas. This will provide participants with better understanding of the need to exercise and to proactively take part in effecting change in the community especially inequality between men and women as well as boys and girls.
4. Service providers need to be engaged thoroughly by community leaders to address people's reservations and concerns.