

Skhokho Supporting Success: RCT evaluation of a multi-faceted school- based GBV prevention intervention

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Schools as an intervention platform for VAWG prevention in South Africa

- **Strengths:**
 - Support from Dept of Basic Education
 - National curriculum (Life Orientation) : excellent basic content on gender, violence and relationships
- **Weaknesses:**
 - Poor discipline in schools
 - LO teachers untrained in subject, materials weak
 - Teaching undermined by the school environment –violence in schools



Building Skhokho to surmount nr

Lessons previous
shown that
South Africa
whole school

For LO teachers:
training in LO
teaching

For all teachers:
training in positive
discipline

School clubs:
All students
invited, 10
sessions x 30
mins

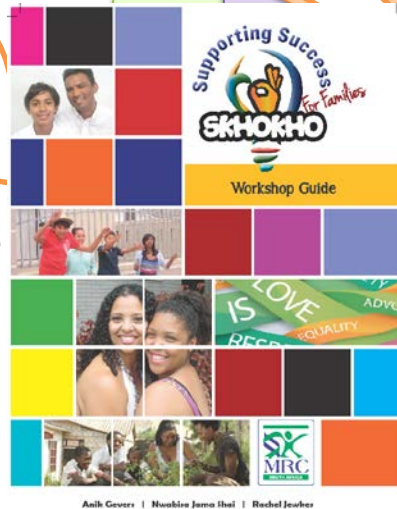
– To provide
– drawing on
theoretical
– Train
– Build
environment
positive
discipline
Engage families

Ecological
change

Classroom - lessons + interactions

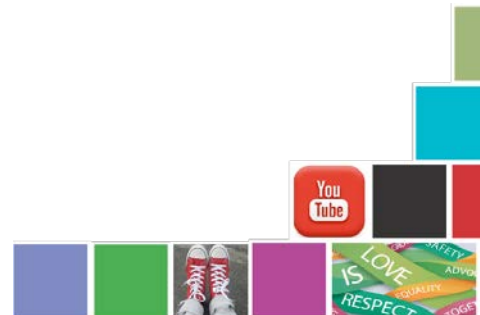
School environment –
policies, culture, discipline

Home and community
attitudes, discipline, etc



Evaluation methods

- RCT : conducted in 24 schools with Grade 8
- Data collection at baseline, 6m, 12m, 18m with learners
- 3756 interviewed at baseline
 - 3034 had ever dated and
 - 1113 had ever had sex by endline
- Interviews with teachers at baseline, 12m, 18m
- Interviews with parents doing parenting workshops
- **Sample size assumptions:**
- 133 students per school followed up at 18 months
- 250 students per grade enrolling in the study (6000 total)
- 50% reduction in incidence IPV
- 10% IPV incidence



THREE ARMS

Arm 1:

School
Strengthening

Arm 2:

School
Strengthening
+
For Families

Arm 3:

Control



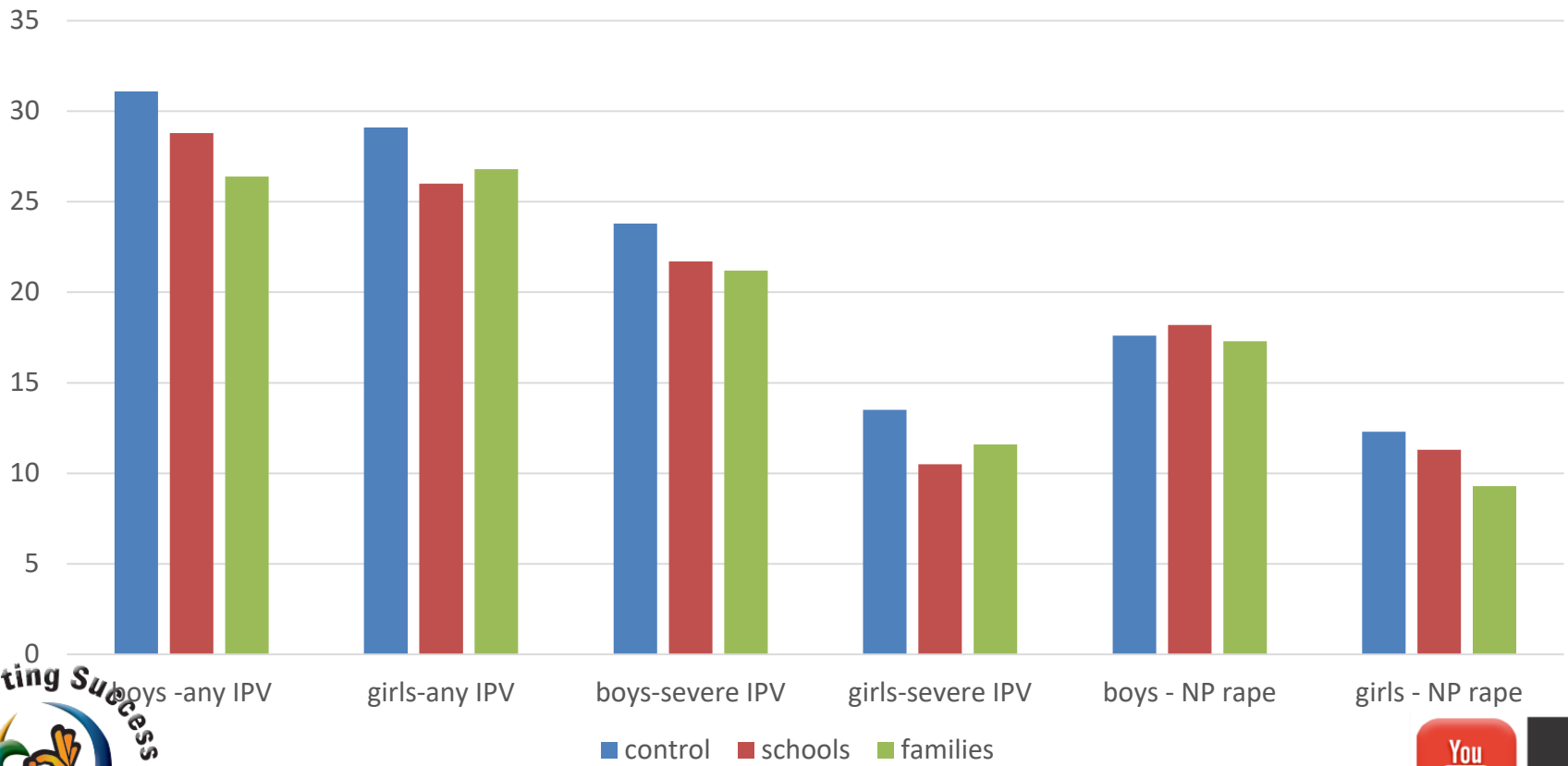
Response to interventions

- ✓ All 16 intervention schools received and used LO workbooks
- ✓ 49% of parents of learners in Families schools attended the first workshop,
 - ✓ 70% of these completed 4 workshops
- ✓ 40% of learners in Families schools attended
 - ✓ 83% completed all workshops
- School clubs were not very successful – generally less than 40 learners /school attended



Impact on GBV n=3411 provided 12/18m data (91% of baseline enrolees)

Incidence rate ratio per 100 person years



Primary outcomes: effect measures

		Study arm	Adjusted incidence rate ratio	p value			Study arm	Adjusted incidence rate ratio	p value	
Physical or sexual IPV	Boys	Control	ref		Non-partner rape	Boys	Control	ref		
		School	0.94	0.682			School	1.02	0.849	
		Families	0.93	0.644			Families	1.00	0.992	
	Girls	Control	ref			Girls	Control	ref		
		School	0.94	0.610			School	0.98	0.870	
		Families	0.93	0.607			Families	0.86	0.307	
>1 episode physical or sexual IPV	Boys	Control	ref							
		School	0.91	0.556						
		Families	1.01	0.960						
	Girls	Control	ref							
		School	0.76	0.169						
		Families	0.96	0.856						



Key secondary outcomes (with some evidence of desired change)

		Study arm	Effect measure (Coeff/aOR)	p value	Direction of effect
Depression	Girls	Control	ref		
		School	-0.72	0.03	↓
		Families	-0.58	0.082	↓
Bullying	Girls	Control	ref		
		School	-0.50	0.195	↓
		Families	-0.60	0.191	↓
Gender attitudes	Boys	Control	ref		
		School	0.57	0.019	↑
		Families	0.20	0.41	↑
Bullying	Boys	Control	ref		
		School	-0.28	0.113	↓
		Families	-0.04	0.805	↔



Sexual health outcomes					
	Study Arm	N	Adjusted OR	P value	Direction of effect
Condom use					
Boys	Control	199			
	School	278	1.35	0.107	↑
	Families	305	0.98	0.894	↔
Girls	Control	91			
	School	136	1.61	0.087	↑
	Families	104	1.39	0.26	↑
Contraceptive use					
Boys	Control	199			
	School	278	1.28	0.209	↑
	Families	305	0.88	0.485	↔
Girls	Control	91			
	School	136	1.64	0.079	↑
	Families	104	1.48	0.184	↑
Transactional Sex					
Boys	Control	199			
	School	278	0.82	0.54	↓
	Families	305	0.74	0.362	↓
Girls	Control	91			
	School	136	0.79	0.596	↓
	Families	104	0.79	0.626	↓

Among girls attending the families workshops: there was no reported transactional sex and many fewer pregnancies 0.7% v. 2.4% in control arm (aIRR 0.42)



Teachers' views on schools

Teacher's perception of school environment (high=good)	Control	
	School	↑
	Families	↑
Bullying in school(high=more bullying)	Control	
	School	↓
	Families	↓
Work Stress(high=more stress)	Control	
	School	↓
	Families	↓
Perpetrated corporal punishment	Control	
	School	↓
	Families	↓



Was there evidence of effect on IPV among learners?

- Trends suggest that there may have been, but aIRR show inconsistencies
- Study was greatly underpowered
- If it was an effect it was small
- More promise seen in impact of Schools on girls' severe IPV and Families on girls' NP rape exposure – is that real?
- Short follow up :at most, 18m post baseline and only 12m post intervention?
- Boys and reporting – honesty adjusting showed social desirability bias towards reporting MORE violence



What else do we have?

- Impact on bullying (girls and boys), depression (girls) and gender attitudes (boys) is promising
- These are key drivers of IPV and we have consistent findings
- Positive impact on sexual health outcomes – condom use, contraception, transactional sex and pregnancy among families intervention attendees
- Supportive evidence of impact from teachers and from parents



Cautionary lessons for research with South African Grade 8s

- Use of self-completion with ACASI is very attractive for grade 8s and we found it unreliable, especially for boys
- Parental consent is very hard to achieve (reduced sample by 40%), anticipated intervention impact was too large, resulting in us needing 2x the sample
- Longer follow up is needed – should have been done over 3+ years
- The above → need for much larger budget
- Methods: Families were very strongly supported and is highly feasible, as is the main Schools intervention, the clubs were not practical

• This intervention deserves more research



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