

# Discourses constructing IPV in Soweto, South Africa

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# Outline

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- Methodology
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## Background



- Culture of violence
- GBV- violence against a person due to their gender
- Violence against women is gendered based
  - Roles
- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) accompanied by physical, emotional abuse and controlling behaviour

# Background Cont.

- Refers to **abuse and violence by an intimate partner** (i.e. husbands and or boyfriend)
- IPV leads to health problem
- Research<Dunkle et al., 2004; Dietrich et al., 2013; Otworld et al., 2015
- Limited qualitative data on IPV

# Study Aim and Objectives

- Exploring discourses around young people's constructions of IPV
  - To understand discourses influencing the constructions and maintenance of IPV by young people

# Methodology



- Qualitative, exploratory research design
- Convenience sampling
  - Thirteen participants who either witnessed or experienced IPV
- Semi-structured interview guide
  - Audio-recorder was utilised
  - Participants home languages were used
- Discourse analysis was utilised

# A summary of the findings

The study found the following discourses:

- Patriarchy
- Respect
- Chastisement



# Discourse of Patriarchy

- Discipline was necessary for “inappropriate” behaviour
  - love-protecting and guiding (Research)
- Discipline become intense young women seek intervention

Thando (Female 15)...*one of my friends used to date this boy...he beat her and she fell down on her knees. Yoh it was bad and we were just watching her...he was pulling her by the hair and making her roll on the ground...and that is when we started making some calls...*



# Discourse of Respect

- Due to his young age, Mpho couldn't intervene
  - Respect-those seen older than you
  - Respect-intervene in people's stories

*Mpho (Male 15) ...I could have fought for my mom I could have done whatever it takes because it was not good to see my mother being beaten. It used to hurt me...he used to beat my mother when he is drunk...It made me learn that things like that are not supposed to happen...*



# Discourse of Respect

Matshidiso (18 female)...*there was this boy and this girl at our school, I do not know what they were fighting for there was violence and he really beat her badly. And some teacher came to stop the fight...*

- Onlookers distanced herself from intervening
  - Gender-Femininity (vulnerable)

# Discourse of Chastisement

- IPV is used to resolve conflicts, punish and asserting a position of power
  - Discourse condoned use of violence when the partner behaved “inappropriately”

*Mpho (15) “...a girl accepted a proposal from one boy and accepted another boy’s proposal; the first boyfriend found out about the other boyfriend through message chatting. The first boy beat the other boy...the girl was also beaten...”*

# Recommendation

- Better intervention strategies that do not maintain the education of young women on GBV for example:
  - Exploring what the participants would understand as interventions to GBV

# Conclusion

- Patriarchal upbringing perpetuate IPV
  - Unequal power between men and women
- Intervention or lack thereof dependent on the age, who the victim was and victim's relationships with onlookers

# References

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