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## The Role of Education in the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence

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### ABSTRACT

Gender-based violence is across-sectional problem that affects millions of people across the world, there are higher societal, economic, and health risks associated with sexual violence. Education is one of the most effective tools in the fight against Gender Violence as it makes people aware of it, receives other people's treatment, and promotes Gender Violence. Based on the current literature review and the strategies of Educational Interventions in Gender-Based Violence prevention, this study tries to establish the success of those interventions. Some of the educational interventions that the present study has found useful in the prevention of gender-based violence include; One of the approaches to educating the students is the subject of Comprehensive Sexual Education which is implemented as part of the educative curriculum and enables students to understand aspects concerning consent, relationship as well as roles of gender. Not only do these programs increase awareness, but allow youths to find out how to be polite with other people, or tolerate other people. There is a necessity to make sure that Gender-Based Violence prevention is included in the framework of education and effectively implemented since this will help a lot to build less dangerous spaces for personal development. The aspects of Sexual Neutrality are relevant in the Curriculum particularly where rights for all gender should be taught by interacting at such young ages. The teachers who have taken courses

on gender-based violence are in a position to guarantee that schools are secure for victims of gender-based violence and at the same time, ensure that the perpetrators face justice. Besides classroom learning, the parents, leaders, and other stakeholders of the community contribute to educational enlightenment by undertaking or partaking in the fight against Gender-Based Violence by creating awareness through campaigns. Concerning the materials utilized in this study and those related to it, the latter ones contain largely secondary data.

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### **Introduction:**

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains an important problem that is global and this annually impacts millions of people with women and girls being the major victims. Abuse can be categorized into - emotional abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse, or physical abuse. Its continuity leads to the degradation of individuals and society; therefore it opposes any form of liberation and human development. Promoting education is a key tool in combating Gender-based violence since it provides information on human rights as well as gender equality which prepares people to ensure a change of attitude and behaviors that perpetrate violence. School-based curricula with comprehensive modules on consent, healthy relationships, and gender respect can greatly alter perceptions and lower acceptance of violence. Public and social institutions are ideal settings for such changes to occur: schools and educational facilities, in particular, allow educators to be both examples and first responders when it comes to weight-related issues. Education brings improvement in the standard of living of individuals, particularly women, and girls, and their economic status provides them with means to avoid vulnerability to violence and have means to seek assistance. This provides an empowering factor that Echoes beyond the individual, for educated women empowered to grow to be women leaders empowered to champion change. Also, involving communities through education reaches a point where everyone is part of eradicating Gender-based violence not only the students but also the parents, local leaders, and organizations in support of making sure that gender-negative attributes of the society are eliminated.

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of this paper are:

1. To discover the part played by education in combating Gender-based violence.
2. To find out which teaching practices and interventions are helpful when it comes to Gender-based violence prevention.
3. To test the effects of these educational interventions on attitude and behavior changes of Gender-based violence.
4. To provide recommendations that can be made to have gender-based violence prevention as part of the education curriculum.

### **Methodology of the paper:**

In every kind of research work, the method of research cannot be overemphasized. Therefore, the selection of the method to be used in the research is important in the research activity. The proposed study was conducted under the Descriptive method and various information and data have been gathered from books, lectures, internet research articles, etc.

### **Role of education in preventing Gender-Based Violence:**

Education has an important function in eradicating GBV because it raises people's consciousness, advocates equal rights for women and men, and teaches how one can intervene in the process of reinforcing unhealthy patterns of conduct. Some of them are mentioned below-

#### *Raising Awareness and Understanding:*

School education may raise awareness and help in eradicating common myths and misconceptions about Gender Violence, acceptance of fellow human beings, the principle of consent, and human rights by including such discussions in schooling systems to increase learners' knowledge to identify abusive behaviors and their consequences.

#### *Promoting Gender Equality:*

Schools should encourage women to be leaders embrace the change in policies that support both genders, and exercise the equal rights of both the male and female students and later in the future.

#### *Developing Critical Thinking and Empathy:*

Education might help people cultivate orientations that allow them to question the prevailing status quo and understand other people's points of view. SEL promotes safe action to support GBV victims by nurturing the students' understanding of power imbalance and power relations to distinguish between correct and wrong actions.

*Empowering Individuals:*

Education is truly liberating be it women and girls this is due to enhanced autonomy, decision making, and awareness of rights. It also offers economic opportunities which in turn makes women less vulnerable to gender-based violence as it fades them away from dependent relationships.

*Creating Safe Spaces:*

Schools may also help to create a safe and sound atmosphere for students through policy that relates to bullying, molestation, or violence. They can also teach employees how to politely react to issues to do with gender violence.

*Engaging Men and Boys:*

Hence, education on gender-based violence becomes so paramount to that extent that every man and boy must attain it in order not to perpetrate the vice. Interventions such as toxic masculinity, relationships, and male-friendly programs can change the unhealthy paradigms of the male culture and embrace others. Education has the potential to decrease gender-based violence in cases where it leads to awareness, gender mainstreaming, critical thinking aspects, community and individual power, available and safe spaces for learning, and male and female participation. Finance for these areas is very important in nurturing a society that does not allow for such violence.

**Effective initiatives and techniques for education that support the prevention of gender-based violence include:**

To eradicate gender-based violence is not an easy process since it calls for multiple approaches in the social transformation of the society in all their doings. These also aim at altering perceptions, and attitudes and promote approaches to preventing the use of violence against women and girls. Here are some effective approaches:

*Comprehensive Sex Education:*

Let us discuss the key elements of CSE where students are taught about ways of safeguarding, and what consent, relationships, and gender roles are, how to recognize abusive behaviors and ask for help. It also promotes consent and respect for one another as well as organizations put in place to check instances of gender-based violence.

*Bystander Intervention Training:*

Bystander intervention training is a program that aims at training people to identify cases that cause gender-based violence, making it compulsory and not optional to get involved in preventing such incidences and finally creating a proactive engagement culture.

*Empowerment Programs for Women and Girls:*

By thus engaging in business, independent and self-directed initiatives such as self-defense classes, leadership training, and economic initiatives for women and girls, their vulnerability and Likelihood of being victims of GBV will be lowered, and the ability to come up with assertiveness and resist negative social encroachments will be attained.

*Gender Norms Education:*

Only through programs focused on changing gender stereotypes between children and youth, discussing topical issues such as masculinity or femininity, fighting for gender equality, and eradicating the roots of violence in the cultural context of gender, it is possible to effect long-term changes in people's attitudes and behaviors.

*Men and Boys as Allies Programs:*

Within this framework, “HeForShe” and “MenEngage” help campaigns for a new kind of masculinity and suggest that men and boys hear themselves wonder about toxic masculinity, experience the effects of gender violence, and hold the ideals of non-violent attributes for the creation of safe and sound societies.

*School-based Programs:*

Some strategies can be employed in school curricula; gender-based violence prevention programs of skills in handling emotions, conflict, and relationships can be taught, Schools can adopt and also come up with policies to give training to both the teaching staff and students.

*Community Awareness Campaigns:*

School programs and media campaigns are used to change the social perception and culture, emphasize consent, respect, and equality, encourage conversations, and encourage survivors.

*Access to Support Services:*

Affected individuals and the general public should have access to counseling services, legal services, and shelters among other services in a bid to ensure they are aware of the available assistance as well as the public demand for an end to the vice.

For instance, schools, communities, policymakers, and NGOs should join hands in coming up with strategies that would meet basic respect and equality hence reducing cases of gender-based violence.

**Impact of educational interventions on attitudes and behaviors related to Gender-based violence:**

Educational interventions can go a long way in helping attitudes and behaviors perceived in gender-based violence. Here are several key impacts observed through various studies and programs:

### 1. Attitude Change:

Educational interventions have been shown to cause permanent shifts in attitudes towards GBV because where interventions related to gender roles, gender power, and communication address healthy relationships instead of accepting violent justifications.

### 2. Behavioral Change:

Intervention strategies in education can effectively address violent behavior; the samples showed less violent behavior, the likelihood of preventing a violent act, and supporting a survivor of gender violence.

### 3. Knowledge Increase:

Awareness interventions, on the other hand, provide people with information regarding what constitutes gender-based violence, why it is rampant or occurs, and what the possible effects are. People get to know when and where to seek assistance and when to turn to legal remedies. It enables people to seek assistance and assist other people in the same way too.

### 4. Empowerment and Agency:

Empowerment activities can be integrated into educational programs that will improve the agency of females. Apart from increasing their rights consciousness, they get the chance to stand up for themselves in interpersonal relationships and other related community issues that may assist in combating gender-based violence.

### 5. Community Norms and Cultural Shifts:

Gender equality and putting an end to violence can be seen to promote change at the cultural as well as at the community level through long-term educational reforms. This increases the chances of the survivors seeking justice as well as decreasing the acceptable level of Gender-based violence

## 6. Skill Development:

Participants can build interpersonal, negotiation, and critical thinking skills. It is the kind of skill that would help one to prevent the development of incidences that end up being violent and safe relationships to be observed.

## 7. Support Systems:

Some educational programs result in the improvement of such support systems. Holders are likely to engage fellow participants in talking about gender-based violence and seek help from loved ones and other resources. With such sharing of awareness and support, gender-based violence might be prevented and responded to.

### **Suggestions for integrating Gender-based violence prevention into educational curricula:**

The following recommendations can be distinguished to implement gender-based violence prevention into educational curricula.

#### *1. Incorporate Comprehensive Curriculum:*

The curriculum should be extensive and should depend on the age of the learners; issues to do with gender, power relations, consent, and relationship and intervention should be taught to the learners. It should also include measures for preventing gender-based violence in respective subjects such as literature, history, social studies as well as health education.

#### *2. Engage All Stakeholders:*

This requires raising awareness of aspects such as gender-based violence and providing training to the teachers, holding workshops and information sessions for the parents, and implementing cooperation and collaboration with local organizations, NGOs, and experts in fields related to the issue which will enhance support to all the actors involved.

#### *3. Create a Safe and Inclusive Environment:*

To create safe schools without aggression targeting students of a particular gender, schools should set measures on how to handle cases of GBV in schools and provide consolation for the affected students while at the same time eradicating any case of discrimination, violence, or prejudice against the students' gender.

#### 4. *Use Participatory Teaching Methods:*

Inductive and emancipative methods including interactive learning undertaking thoughts, power sharing, and delegation use of paper and pen or other teaching aids in contracting modeling, group, and peer education, in ways that assist them to consider and comment on matters of gender-related prejudice and bias.

#### 5. *Evaluate and Adapt Programs:*

The program focuses on the assessment of the curriculum and implementation of changes via surveys feedback, and studies as well as the provision of necessary changes to enhance the curriculum effectiveness and the methods of teaching and learning used in the classrooms.

#### 6. *Promote Positive Role Models:*

Teachers should incorporate positive and non-stereotyped modeling such as having different characters other than the traditional male and female roles and should encourage talking to different strangers, inviting professionals who can tell of their experience.

#### 7. *Integrate Technology and Media:*

Educational films and documentaries should be used in teaching students about gender-based violence prevention measures as well as teaching them safety measures and the effects of cyber bullying.

#### 8. *Focus on Inclusivity:*

The design of the curriculum should take into account gender diversity stating the clients as not only male and female students but rather gender nonconforming or transgender students as well as the culture of the community.

#### 9. *Promote Peer Support Networks:*

Promote ‘buddy’ systems through offering educational, support-orientated sessions and any other related issues to gender-based violence.

#### 10. *Policy Advocacy:*

Regarding curriculum implementation, the head of any school should appeal to educators and work towards integrating prevention of GBV into the curriculum while as a policy it should involve collaborating with the educational organs to ensure that gender-based violence must be taught in schools is one of the policies.

### **Conclusion:**

Education plays a very pivotal role as it is used as a tool to fight the eradication of gender-based violence through the promotion of respect, equality as well as empathy. Through curriculum integration,



preparing teachers, engaging communities, and advocating, educational institutions can provide guidelines to change the negative perception of women as well as provide hope to survivors as learning institutions hold the key to changing society. When addressing education as the key part of primary prevention, we not only increase people's safety from violence but also build societies that are tolerant and where everyone can live without fear and prejudices. Together we must use the light of education to change our world eradicate Gender Violence and promote the worth of persons.

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