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Violence against Women and children VAW in the Arab world

What is violence against women?

"Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life"

*UN Declaration on the Elimination
of Violence against Women
(1993) definition*



Includes :

spousal violence :
 physical abuse
 sexual abuse
 psychological violence
non-spousal violence
sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere

VAW Globally

Violence against women is the first cause of death and injury world wide.
UNICEF believes that the reason behind the absence of 60 million women from the world is violence.
Native American women are raped at a rate more than double that of rapes reported by all races on an annual average. (All races: 2 per 1000; Native Americans: 7 per 1000)
It is estimated that 82 million girls marry before they reach the age of 18*.
It is estimated that one woman in five in Europe has been subjected to some form of violence.
It is estimated that between 20 to 30 percent of women treated in emergency rooms are there because of physical abuse by a partner.
The estimated cost of intimate partner violence is US\$ 5.8 billion per year in the United States of America

Arab world

The Status of Women in the Arab Region

- Status of women in the Region differs from country to country but commonly controlled by the Sharia Law (except Tunisia).
- Currently 17 out of 22 Arab nations ratified the CEDAW.
- Has an extensive geographic area and a population of 321 million and 22 countries.
- The Arab world cannot be viewed as a single monolithic community in terms of endowment or human development .

Political atmosphere.
(Iraq war, Palestine occupation, Sudan /Somalia conflict,

**UN decision for the advancement of women, 2005*

Lebanon political crisis)
 Economic Atmosphere
 (Privatization in most of Arab countries, Free market)
 Social
 Globalization
 Culture

**Some VAW features in the Arab world:
 Early marriage ⁽¹⁾**



TABLE 1: Percentage and number of women married by ages 15 and 18

Country	Year	Proportion of women married by exact age of 15							Proportion of women married by exact age of 18					
		Aged 15-19	Aged 20-24	Aged 25-29	Aged 30-34	Aged 35-39	Aged 40-44	Aged 45-49	Aged 20-24	Aged 25-29	Aged 30-34	Aged 35-39	Aged 40-44	Aged 45-49
Yemen	1997	6.2	14	23.9	29.5	29.8	30.8	33.7	48.4	64.3	71	75.1	74.8	77.7
Egypt	2000	1.3	3.9	8.2	10.1	12.2	12.2	16.7	19.5	25	34.6	41.4	43	48.7

- It is estimated that about 1.6 million girls are married before the age of 20 in this region, and every year about 900,000 babies are born to adolescent mothers.⁽²⁾
- In two villages of Upper Egypt, 44% of girls were married before the legal age of 68.16% before the age of 18 and 81% before the age of 20.⁽³⁾

Honor crime:

These murders are usually perpetrated by male relatives acting to restore “family honor”
 One form of gender-based violence that has increased dramatically in Iraq since the US invasion is “honor killing.”

A study conducted in the year 2001 in Egypt, showed that doubting women’s behavior constituted 79% of honor crimes, while admitting misconduct constituted 90% The study also showed that 41% of honor crimes were committed against the wife, 34% against the daughter, 18% against the sister and 7% against a female relative.⁽⁴⁾

1- EARLY MARRIAGE, A HARMFUL TRADITIONAL PRACTICE, A STATISTICAL EXPLORATIO, The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), 2005

2- Gihan A. Zeid Arab youth strategizing , UNDP, 2006

3- Al Riyami A, Afifi M, Mabrey R.

Women’s autonomy, education and employment in Oman and their influence on contraceptives. Reproductive Health Matters 2004;

4- “Violence Against Women: Aspects and Consequences”, Conference in Cairo, Egypt, 12- 13 May 2003, available online at: www.peacewomen.org/newx/mayper cent 2003/newsindex.html



Female circumcision FGM:

(FGM) has been a tradition in some Arab countries like Egypt, Sudan, Yemen...

WHO estimates between 100 and 140 million girls and women in the world have undergone some form of FGM in more than 28 countries in Africa and some countries in Asia and the Middle East.

Every year, approximately 3 million girls and women are subjected to FGM.*

Domestic Violence:

DV in the Arab world

- Domestic and intimate partner violence includes physical and sexual attacks against women in the home, within the family or within an intimate relationship.

- At poor Palestinian refugee communities in Lebanon, 29.5% of husbands compared with 22% of their wives reported that wife beating occurred at least once during their married life.⁽¹⁾

- **In Tunisia**, a survey carried out among 500 women consulting a primary care unit in 1997 showed that 33.8% of them reported having been beaten by their husbands or another family member.

- 61.7% of ever married women in the Palestinian Territory were exposed to psychological violence, 23.3% exposed to physical violence, and 10.9% exposed to sexual violence at least once by husband during the year 2005.⁽²⁾

- In the emergency unit of Ibn Rushd Hospital of Casablanca (Morocco), 1,506 cases of violence against women were registered, indicating a mean occurrence of 4 cases per day (Kadiri and Moussaoui, 2001). Most of these acts of aggression were committed by a family member, especially the husband. The same surveys indicate that all women are at risk regardless of age, education, level of income, area of residence, size of families, or stage of marriage (Haj Yahia, 2001).⁽³⁾

- **In Syria:** Physical abuse was found in 23.1% of the investigated and in 26.2% of married women. The prevalence of physical abuse among country residents was 44.3% compared with 18.8% among city residents ($p < 0.001$). In most of the cases (87.4) the abuse was inflicted by the husband and in (9.5%) of cases, the abuse was inflicted by more than one person.

- A sample of 411 women was recruited from 8 randomly selected primary care centers in Aleppo. Overall (mean age 8 ± 28 yrs., minimum 13 yrs. and maximum 61 yrs.).⁽⁴⁾

Almost 14% of families identified the future husband of their daughters.

*Gihan A.Zeid, *Arab youth strategizing*, UNDP, 2006

DV in the Arab world

1- Agreement between husband and wife reports of domestic violence: evidence from poor refugee communities in Lebanon
Marwan Khawaja 1.2 and Mylene Tewtel-Salem 20 - 2005.

2- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

3- Violence against women in Arab and Islamic countries, Faculty of Medicine of Tunis, 2003.

4- Wasim Maziak, Taghrid Asfar, Syrian Center for Tobacco Studies, *PHYSICAL ABUSE IN LOW INCOME WOMEN IN ALEPO, SYRIA*, Health Care for women International, 2003 Taylor & Francis

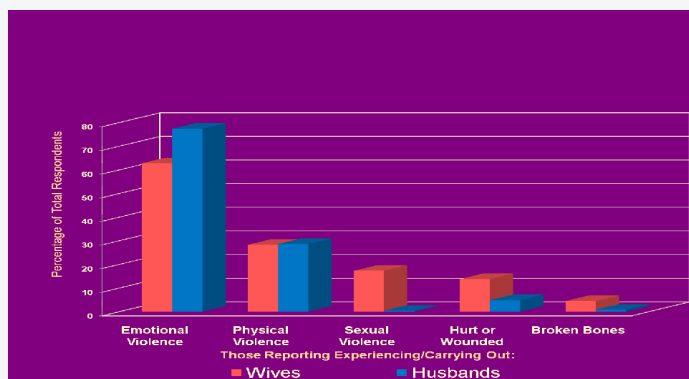
In Egypt: The unpublished findings of Violence Against Women study/USAID

Table (2.1)

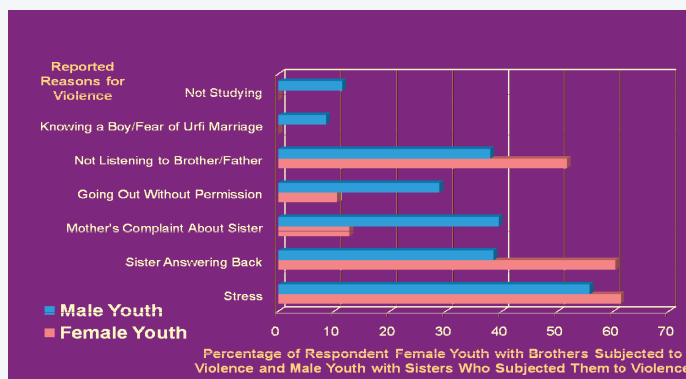
Respondent Married Women Victims of Violence and Married Men Perpetrators of Violence by Type of Violence

	Married Women Victims of Violence		Married Men Perpetrators of Violence	
Total N	1276	1276	1044	1044
Experienced/Inflicted Any Violence %	63.2	50.2	78.1	63.7
Physical Violence	%	%	%	%
Kicked or dragged	24.8	13.7	27.9	11.1
Wounded/Injured	13.8	8	4.9	2.3
Attempt to choke or burn	3.5	1.7	0.2	0.1
Attacked with a weapon	2.4	1.3	0.2	0
Broke bones	4.5	2.5	0.8	0.6
At least one type of Physical	28.3	16.1	28.6	11.5
Two - three types of Physical	10.1	6.1	4.4	11.1
Sexual Violence	%	%	%	%
Forced into sexual relations	17.3	13.8	0.4	0.3

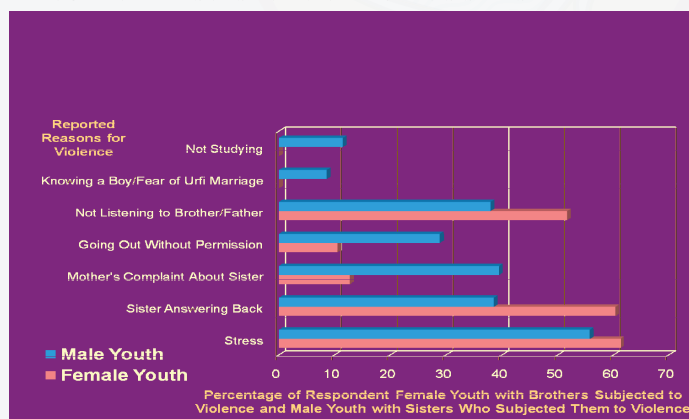
COMPARISON BETWEEN RESPONDENT HUSBANDS AND WIVES REPORTS OF PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE



COMPARISON BETWEEN RESPONDENT MALE AND FEMALE YOUTH ON REASONS FOR VIOLENCE TO SISTERS



COMPARISON BETWEEN RESPONDENT MALE AND FEMALE YOUTH ON REASONS FOR VIOLENCE TO SISTERS



Political situation

On 8 March, the UN special representative for Iraq said: 70,000 had been widowed in the past 4 - 5 years. In the south, over 100 women had been killed. In the north, at least 300 women and girls were victims of "honor crimes" last year.

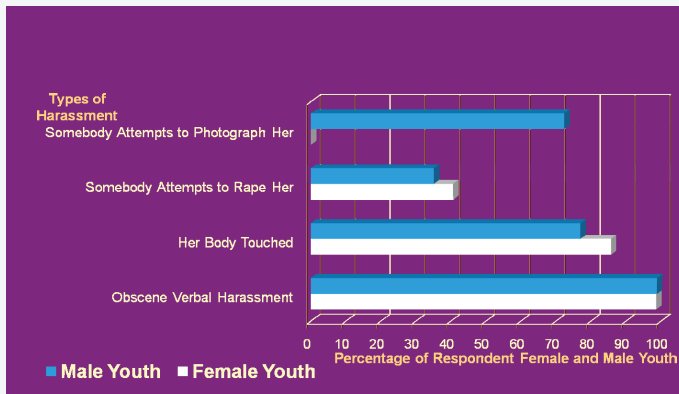
Community Violence

- Sexual harassment
- Harassment at work place
- Harassment in the street
- Harassment in the transportations

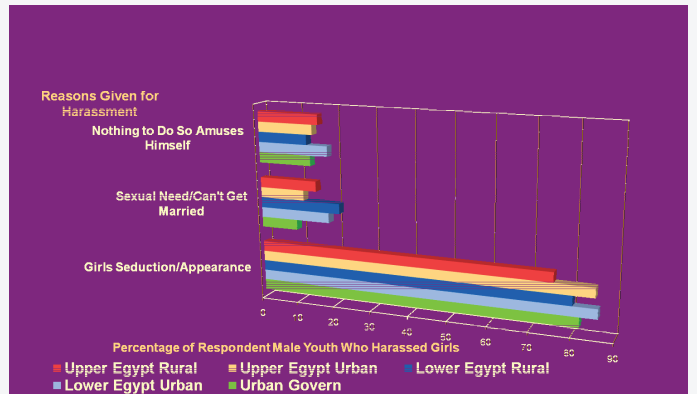


Impact of violence against women on the family

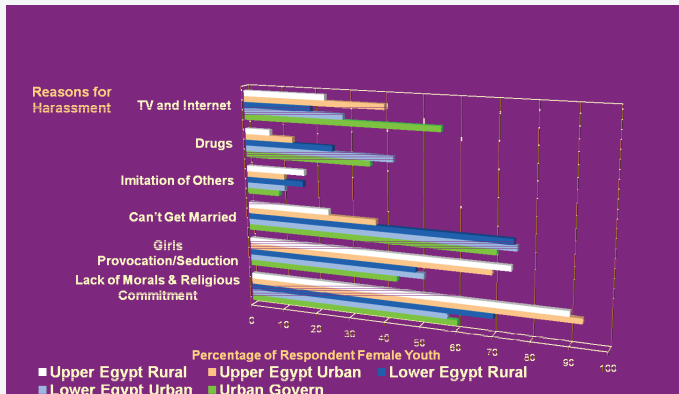
TYPES OF HARASMENT BY RESPONDENT MALE YOUTH WHO HARASSED GIRLS IN THE STREET BY REGION



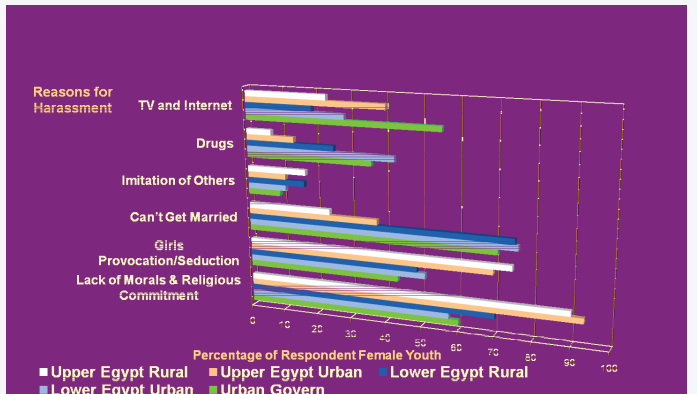
REASONS GIVEN FOR HARASMENT BY RESPONDENT MALE YOUTH WHO HARASSED GIRLS IN THE STREET BY REGION



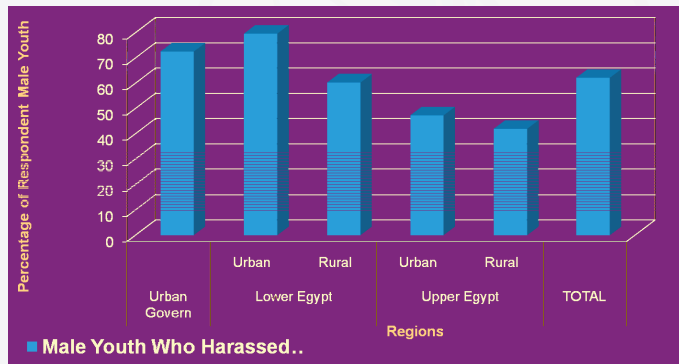
REASONS GIVEN FOR HARASMENT IN THE STREET BY RESPONDENT FEMALE YOUTH BY REGION



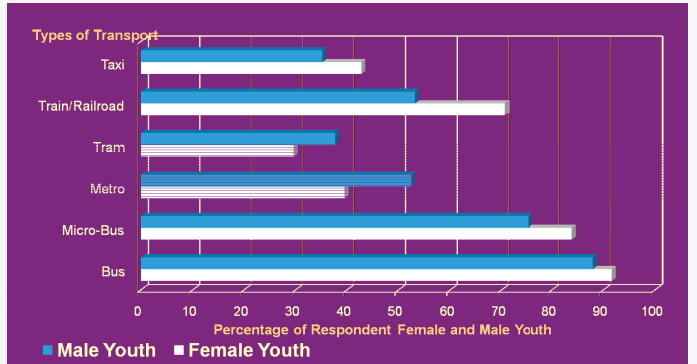
COMPARISON BETWEEN RESPONDENT MALE AND FEMALE YOUTHS' VIEWS ON TYPES OF TRANSPORT MORE LIABLE TO FEMALES' HARASMENT



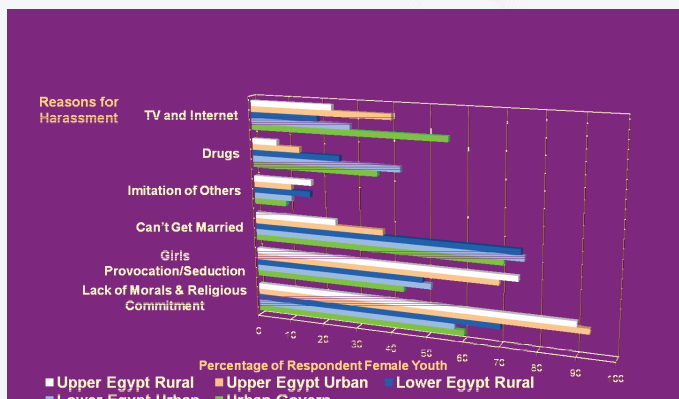
RESPONDENT MALE YOUTH WHO HARASSED GIRLS IN THE STREET BY REGION



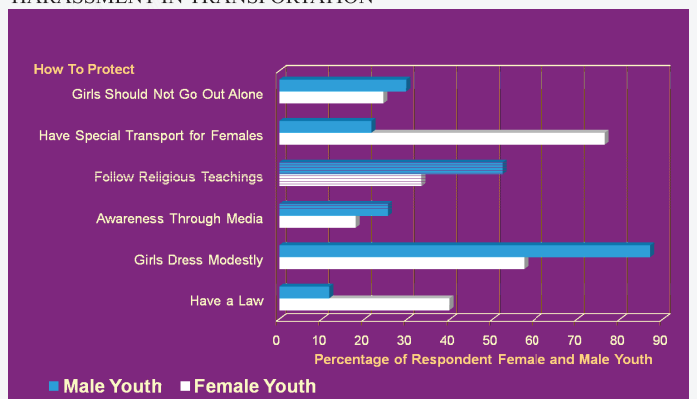
REASONS GIVEN FOR HARASMENT IN THE STREET BY RESPONDENT FEMALE YOUTH BY REGION

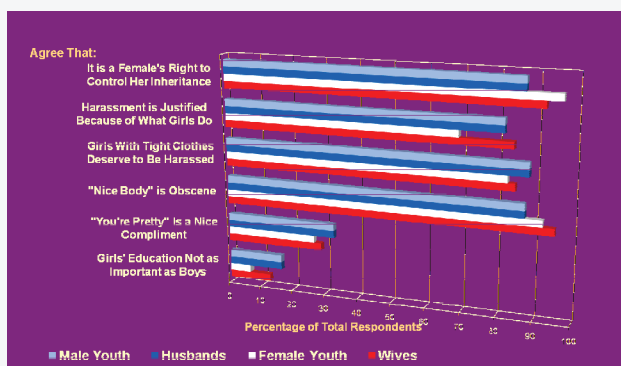


COMPARISON BETWEEN RESPONDENT MALE AND FEMALE YOUTH REGARDING HOW TO PROTECT FEMALES IN THE STREET



COMPARISON BETWEEN RESPONDENT MALE AND FEMALE YOUTHS' VIEWS ON HOW TO PROTECT FEMALES FROM HARASMENT IN TRANSPORTATION





How best to address the complexity of VAW ?

Since the causes of VAW are intricate and interwoven, The solutions need to be multi-dimensional. GBV cannot be addressed through the requirement of services within a single sector. Thus we need to work through a holistic efforts, across the health, social services, legal , security sectors Relevant actors from each of the sectors may include:

Intervention’s approaches

What type of intervention do women need:
 A-Short term interventions. — Preventative effort
 B-Long term interventions. — Protective effort

Egyptian VAW ‘s Study showed that :

Table (2.2)

Respondent Married Women Subjected to Violence and Married Men Perpetrators of Violence in the Last 12 Months by Type of Violence Region and Socio-Economic Variables

	Married Women Victims of Violence in the Past Year					Married Men Perpetrators of Violence in the Past Year			
	N	Psycho-logical	Physical	Sexual	Any	N	Psycho-logical	Physical	Any
Total N	1276	631	206	176	640	1044	662	120	665
Regions	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Urban Governorates	506	53.8	16.6	17.2	54.5	414	58.9	9.9	58.9
Urban Lower Egypt	132	52.3	15.2	23.5	53.8	108	59.3	18.5	60.2
Rural Lower Egypt	264	56.4	24.2	18.9	56.8	216	66.2	14.8	66.2
Urban Upper Egypt	88	42	13.6	3.4	42	72	63.9	8.3	65.3
Rural Upper Egypt	286	36.4	9.1	1.7	37.1	234	70.5	9	70.9
Education	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Illiterate/read and write Primary or preparatory certificate	478	49.4	17.4	10.9	50	286	67.1	12.2	67.5
Secondary general/vocational	213	55.9	18.3	13.1	55.9	185	68.1	16.8	68.6
Above secondary	342	48.5	17.5	17	50	353	64.9	11	65.2
Economic Status	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Lower level income	327	50.8	17.4	12.5	50.8	303	70.6	13.9	70.6
Lower middle level income	312	49.7	14.4	9.6	50.3	252	65.1	12.3	65.5
Upper middle level income	295	48.5	19.7	13.9	49.2	207	64.7	8.7	65.7
Upper level income	342	48.8	13.5	18.7	50.3	282	53.2	10.3	53.2

Table (2.4)
RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE OF RESPONDENT MARRIED WOMEN WHO SUFFERED
VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY TYPE OF VIOLENCE

	Any	Psycho-logical Only	Physical/ Sexual
N Women Who Suffered Violence in Past Year	640	328	312
RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE*	%	%	%
Do nothing	5.0	8.2	1.6
Get upset and cry	87.8	85.4	90.4
Silently curse him	26.6	20.7	32.7
Curse him aloud	19.8	14.9	25.0
Complain to his relatives	7.5	5.8	9.3
Complain to her relatives	11.6	8.5	14.7
Deprive him of marital relations	11.1	7.6	14.7
Leave the house and goes to her family	19.4	13.7	25.3
Hit the children	5.0	5.2	4.8

*More than one answer so percentages do not add up to 100%.

Empowerment:

Kabeer (2000) defines empowerment as “the expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them.”

Domains of Empowerment

- The domestic level within the family/household refers to gender-biased division of resources and labor;
- Community level refers to class biases that are particularly oppressive to women; social beliefs, norms, and practices that are biased against women's reproductive and sexual autonomy.
- Market level is segmented and gender-discriminatory for land, labor, credit, technology and other resources.
- The state level relates to the institutional and legal systems or practices on the state level, poorly funded or poor quality government programs and health services.
- These levels do not function independently; they are actually closely interrelated.

Challenges :

Change the community attitude – How ?

Challenge the beliefs, values and discourses which support violence;

Challenge the patriarchal power relations which sustain and are sustained by violence.

Aims to lessen the likelihood that men and boys will use violence

Promote alternative constructions of masculinity, gender and identity which foster non-violence and gender justice.

Change the state policies

Challenge all type of discrimination against weak group.

- The aim of “our Mission” is to better understand the pre-conditions for successful strategies for women’s empowerment that can be sensitive to differences in cultural, political and policy context.