

Prevalence of violence in adolescents' relationships

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SUMMARY

The following study sheds light on some important issues concerning young people experience with violence in schools, family and/or romantic relationship. The results of this study, with great implications, yield some significant information about teenagers' gender attitudes and behaviors as well as their experience with violent incidents. The following are the main findings and outcomes of this study.

- Most of the participants from both sex groups reported that they currently live with both of their parents
- For most participants, religion was never important and/or not so important within their family structure
- The vast majority of participants of both sex, reported no negative, hostile or violent experiences with adults in their families. These responses were true for both sex and for different types of violence: physical, emotional/psychological or sexual
- The vast majority of the participants in this study reported a great sense of self-satisfaction
- Young men and young women of this study identified several types of violent incidents occurring within their schools: physical, emotional, psychological and sexual violence.
- In terms of the people involved in school violence, participants identified the following cases: 1. Student to student violence, 2. Teacher violence directed towards students and 3. Students violence directed towards teachers
- School yard, following by hallways, classrooms and toilettes were the most common location for school violence according to the participants of this study.
- Overall, 63.3% of males said they never had an alcoholic drink, while that was true for 74.7% of females. In addition, overall 88.6% of male participants reported no experience with drugs, while for the female participants of this study; this was higher, 95.3%.
- More than half of the participants of this study respondents (52%) have been in a romantic relationship, of which a third (32%) have been in a relationship which involved sexual relationship. Most of the respondents were in a relationship between two months and two years, whereas only a dozen (14%) have had a relationship longer than two



years,

- On the other hand, more than a third (40%) of those who had a sexual relationship used condom as the means for protection during their last sexual intercourse, whereas a relatively concerning percentage (33.3%) used no protection at all. This is particularly true for young men, where, according to this study 28.9% of male participants said that they did not use any protection during their last sexual intercourse within their romantic relationships, while for female participants this was much higher, 40.8%.
- Two thirds of those who are currently in a relationship are fully (31%) or mainly (33%) satisfied with their relationship.
- A large number of males, 46% as well as females, 40% have reported acceptance of violence when a boyfriend hits his girlfriend because she cheated on him.
- Most of the participants, 65% of them, believe that a girl should be virgin during the time she decides to enter in a relationship. Moreover, it seems that social and cultural expectations about female virginity has had more impact on females than males of this study, as more females, 70% of them, than males, 59% believe that this should be true – a girl should be virgin when she enters a romantic relationship.
- More female participants have reported a better understanding of what could be defined as violence – types of violence: physical, emotional, psychological and sexual.
- Less than a third of respondents (27%) do not think that slapping would be defined as an act of violence. This perception, which is more embraced by male than female
- More female (11%) than male (6%) have been hit/hurt physically or have been slapped.
- More females, 10%, than males, 6%, have reported experiences in their romantic relationship when their partner would act violently towards others who might stimulate fear in them
- Female participants have reported more fear of revenge (16.1% for females, 10.3% for males) as also one of the main reasons why people don't report violence, while more males (19.6%) than females (10.1%) have reported a sense of guilt and responsibility for violence as one of the main reasons why violence is not reported

- Most participants of this study believe that violence is present today in romantic relationships and it is a serious concern/problem. Overall, much more females (84.2%) than males (68.3%) have raised this as an alarming issue about today's relationships. In
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- The vast majority of young men and young women reported lack of activities and opportunities within their schools for combating violence and/or for violent prevention strategies in general.

INTRUDUCTION

Despite some of the achievements, problem related to gender inequality still persist at a wide scale in the Kosovo society. One of the most problematic areas pertaining to gender relations is linked to gender based violence, which is evidenced to begin very early in the lives of Kosovo youth.

Until recently, in Kosovo most of the studies on partner violence were focused mainly on married or cohabiting couples, however, with few initial on violence in schools but missing studies including individuals in nonresidential dating relationships, the relationship type that is most common during early adulthood. Given the higher prevalence of partner violence among young adults, adolescents are a crucial group for study and intervention. Patterns of conflict that precipitate domestic violence in the adult years may start in adolescent dating experiences.

Aiming to address the lack of studies and knowledge on the issues of gender based violence amongst youngsters, more specifically the prevalence of violence in adolescent's relationships, KGSC –Kosovo Gender Studies Center initiated a research at Kosovo level. With this research "Prevalence of violence in adolescent's relationships" KGSC wants to provide the first estimates, based on a nationally representative sample, of the prevalence of psychological and physical violence victimization in adolescent romantic relationships.

This report presents the results of more extensive research patterns, recognition and understanding of gender-based violence in adolescent relationships in Kosovo. The aim of the survey was to gain insight into the frequency, types, motivations, causes and consequences of violence in adolescent relationships, documenting the meaning of youngsters attributed to violence in relationships. In addition the purpose of the survey was to better



understand the needs and problems of youth violence-related issues in relationships, creation of better educational programs and use the results when designing campaigns for the prevention of gender-based violence.

The objectives of the campaign are awareness of the need to eliminate gender stereotypes and other causes of gender-based violence amongst youngsters, developing awareness of the responsibilities to actively participate in social decision making in the area of gender equality and the promotion of gender equality as part of the values and attitudes behavior of young people. In addition to research, the campaign includes the following activities:

- Media campaign - TV documentaries, The popular song/hit, newspaper ads
- Youth work on issues of gender-based violence using creative techniques such as paintings, essays, murals graffiti, animated films;
- Social theatre performances
- Public discussions and debates with young people;
- Advocacy and lobbying

The achievement of this project will be to introduce gender-sensitive content to popular/mainstream culture through pop and/or hip-hop singers, to raise awareness of young adults on negative consequences of violence, and finally to make gender equality present in most popular forms of arts and socio-cultural events.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The research *“Prevalence of violence in adolescent’s relationships”* was an initiative of Kosovo Center for Gender Studies. I would firstly like to express acknowledgment and gratitude to European Commission for making this research possible.

Moreover I wish to thank Ministry of Education in Kosovo, secondary schools and various respondents for their valuable support given and their will to share their time and participate in our research. Their readiness for cooperation and support made it possible for us to have the needed data to analyze the issues addressed by this research.

In addition our team would like to thank IQ Consulting Company for their professional contribution and their cooperation during research implementation.

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Luljeta Vuniqi

Project Manager





METHODOLOGY

Instruments used for the implementation of the research “Prevalence of violence in adolescent relationships” include: qualitative and quantitative instruments. On the qualitative side secondary research data and focus group discussions were used. On the other hand, a questionnaire was designed targeting three groups of population and including 600 respondents in 54 schools (a sample that provided relevant statistical information) in entire Kosovo.

There were 42 questions in the questionnaire, including dy open-ended questions and forty questions designed as nominal and ordinal levels. The questionnaire that was completed by upper secondary school students included the following topics:

- Personal characteristics;
- Experiences of domestic violence;
- Experiences in relations;
- Experiences of violence in relations;
- Attitudes towards gender roles and violence;
- Getting familiar with modes of violence and indications of violence in relations (couples);
- Experiences of violence in schools, settlements/neighbourhoods;
- Age-groups and violence;
- Role and influence of media;
- Education and prevention of violence in schools;

Language and understanding of content and sufficiency of the measuring instrument was further validated and adapted after the piloting with the group of secondary school students.

Prior to distribution and administration of questionnaires in schools the project requested and received permission from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for free access to all selected schools.

The sample was determined as a randomly selected and stratified sample based on gender structure of the student population in secondary schools, type of schools within the system of secondary education (gymnasium, vocational technical, economic, agriculture and mixed schools), size and geographic distribution of settlements, ethnic affiliation, gender and age of ⁹



respondents in all municipalities where schools have been selected. Implementation of the questionnaire was carried out by professional interviewers trained specifically for topic of this research. Before starting their work on the questionnaires, researchers presented the theme and objectives of the research and briefly introduced guidelines for completing the questionnaires. Quantitative data were analyzed by using the SPSS 16 program for statistical processing of data. On the other hand, respondents' comments, "living words" and illustrations were used as qualitative data and sources of information to explain numeric results. All information collected with the help of questionnaires were treated as anonymous and very confidential with only the group of researchers having any access to them. After the processing of data and after completion of the data base, two focus group discussions were organized (with the first group consisting of a representative sample of students), where data and results from the survey were analyzed. The second focus groups was implemented with key stakeholders in the fields of education and gender in order to inform the conclusions and recommendations.

The main purpose of the focus groups was to validate results of the surveys in efforts to obtain answers to questions of 'Why' and 'How' of the themes that were addressed in the survey and to summaries conclusions and recommendations.

CONCEPTS

For clear and comprehensive understanding of the findings of this study it is important to describe several concepts used throughout this report as they were present in the instrument used to collect data and/or derived from the participants of this study. The operational definition is as follows:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence—also known as "interpersonal violence," "battering" and "family violence"—is a widespread and serious public health problem, in the United States and internationally. The United Nations Development Fund for Women estimates that one in three women around the world will **10** be beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her own lifetime. This



entry looks at definitions of domestic violence, historical perspectives, domestic violence statistics, causes of batter, and effects of domestic violence, children of battered women, and response and prevention. The notion of a “battered woman” derives from the criminal violation known as “battery” or the willful or intentional touching of a person against that person’s will by another person, or by an object or substance put in motion by that other person. The notion of “battered women,” with its emphasis on physical violence, fails to entirely capture the various ways in which intimate partners of either gender can be manipulated and abused and as a consequence, the term has been largely replaced by domestic violence (DV), intimate partner violence (IPV), and the more generic family violence. During the past 15 years, there has been a growing recognition that IPV is a highly prevalent public health problem with devastating effects on individuals, families, and communities. The term family violence has been used to describe acts of violence between family members, including adult and adolescent partners, between a parent and a child (including adult children), between caretakers or partners against elders, and between siblings. Although sometimes used interchangeably, the term domestic violence is generally seen as a subset of family violence between intimates so that the term intimate partner violence appears to be replacing domestic violence for the sake of definitional clarity

Teenager/Young Men and Young Women – high school students from secondary schools of Kosova where the sample was drawn from. A specific criterion of this notion’s definition is the age range of the participants, 16 – 19 years old, as defined by the scope and purpose of this study.¹

Self-Perception – from the psychological point of view ones “self”/“self image” results from three important processes: 1. The view that s/he has about him/herself, 2. The view that others have about him/her, and 3. The views that s/he has about how others perceive him/her. This study asked from its participants to also reflected on their values, behaviors and the notion of self-worth. Reflections of the participants about their perception of their values, abilities, sense of worth, pride, etc were categorized and interpreted within this notion

School Violence – different types² of violent incidents occurring within school building, school yard as well as its vicinity. Experiences of violence involving several agents were presented: student to student violence, student violence towards teachers and teachers’ violence towards students.

¹ Please see the section SAMPLE OF THE STUDY of this report for detail information about the sample.

² Please see the section SCHOOL VIOLENCE for description and definition of: physical violence, psychological violence, emotional violence, and sexual violence in relation to the violent incidents’ reported by the participants of this study. .



Adolescence Romantic Relationship – an emotional attraction and attachment between two people that may or may not involve sexual relations. For the purpose of this study, the participants, adolescents, were asked to report whether they 1. Have been in a relationship before and 2. Are in a romantic relationship with someone during the time of data collection for this study. The participants also had the option of reporting the length of their romantic relationships as well as information about sexual relations with their romantic partner.

Sexual protection and sexual active – sexual active are those who have had and/or are currently having sexual intercourse³ with their romantic partner. Sexual protection refers to different types of measurement for what is considered as a safe sex – sex that doesn't yield unwanted pregnancy and/or infect with different sexually transmitted diseases.

Gender Role Attitudes – attitudes about a person, object and/or phenomenon are shaped by our experience, input and feedback. Attitudes are opinions with a variety dose of emotions that we have towards something/ someone. For the purpose of this study, participants were asked to report their attitudes about certain values as well as behavioral expectations for males and females in our society.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

The sample of this study was quite diverse in terms of sex of the participants, their age, educational level and type, their academic achievement as well as ethnic affiliation.

Sex:

MALE	FEMALE
281	316
TOTAL: 597	

Age and Education⁴

	MALE	FEMALE
- AGE -		
16	15.7	17.7
17	47.7	45.3
18	25.6	27.8
19	11.0	9.2
- GRADE -		
11	17.1	21.5
12	63.3	64.2
13	19.6	14.2
- SCHOOL TYPE -		
Gymnasium	71.5	74.1
Vocational	28.5	25.9
- ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT-		
Excellent	39.1	52.2
Very Good	37.7	33.9
Good	17.8	11.1
Satisfactory	4.6	1.9
Failing	0.7	0.9

Ethnicity

Albanian Kosovar	520
Non-Albanian Kosovar minorities	80

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

FAMILY, RELIGION AND EXPERIENCES WITH ADULTS

Most of the participants from both sex groups, overall 87.8% of them, reported that they currently live with both of their parents. Few of them, overall 5.9%, said that they live only with their mother. Living only with the mother was, also, a common response for both sex, for 6% females and 5.7% males.

When asked about religious principles, beliefs and practices in their household, participants of both sex showed not much difference in their responses. **13**

⁴ Responses are reported based on percentages of the overall sample.



Overall, 46.7% of the participants reported that religion was not part of their family; out of which this was a bit higher among male (51.6%) than female's (42.4%) responses.

	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE	MINORITIES
NO, religion was never important in my family.	46.7%	51.6%	42.4%	35.8%
Religion was important in my family, but not so much.	36.2%	31.3%	40.5%	34.6%
YES, my family functions in line with religious principles.	17.1%	17.1%	17.1%	29.6 %

TABLE 1.0. Did you grow in a family where religion is important?

In this study, teenagers also reported about their experiences with adult figures within their families. The vast majority of participants of both sex, reported no negative, hostile or violent experiences with adults in their families. These responses were true for both sex and for different types of violence: physical, emotional/psychological or sexual. Overall, lack of physical violence in relations to adults in the family, such as beating, grabbing, or slapping, respectively, resolution of conflicts by physical force, were reported by overall 94.3% of all participants (91.1% of female participants and 97.2% of male participants); respectively, 95% of the overall number of participants from both sex (96.5% of female participants and 93.2% of male participants)

The vast majority of teenagers that participated in this study also reported lack of great psychological/emotional violent experiences with adults in their families. More specifically, overall 86.3% of all participants (88.3% of females and 84.4% of males) said that they have not experienced insults or humiliations by the adults in their families. Moreover, once again, the vast majority of participants from both sex groups, 91.3%, said that adults in their family do not threaten or frighten them. No big difference in terms of sex either for this type of violence, 88.3% of females and 84% of males.

According to the participants of this study, the vast majority of teenagers surveyed, 93.3%, reported no experiences of sexual violence with adults. More specifically, 94.3% of all female participants and 92.2% of all male participants said that they have never experiences adults forcing them into unwanted sexual behavior.

	OVERALL YES	MALE YES	FEMALE YES
Adults are often shouting.	30.2%	27.8%	16.2%
Adults often insult you and call you humiliating names	13.7%	16.0%	11.7%
Adults discipline you by locking you in or by not giving you food.	3.4%	3.9%	2.8%
Adults punish you by not allowing you to use the telephone or by grounding you.	17.6%	12.1%	22.5%
Adults beat you, grab your hair or slap you.	5.7%	8.9%	2.8%
Adults threaten and frighten you	8.7%	8.5%	8.9%
Adults take your things away from you or destroy them deliberately.	6.9%	5.3%	8.2%
Conflicts are settled by use of physical force.	5.0%	6.8%	3.5%
Adults are violent under the influence of alcohol or drugs	16.8%	21.7%	12.3%
Adults force you into unwanted sexual behaviour.	6.7%	7.8%	5.7%

TABLE 2.0. Experiences with adults in the family

SELF-PERCEPTION AND SATISFACTION

The vast majority of the participants in this study reported a sense of self-satisfaction. When asked how satisfy they are with themselves, overall 56.3% of the participants reported positive responses (11.4% said Somewhat True and 44.9% said Completely True). There were no much difference between sex of the participants regarding this; overall, 80% of females (30.7% Somewhat True and 57.3% Completely True) and 89.4% of males (36.7% Somewhat True and 52.7% Completely True). On the other hand, when asked if they have a lot to be proud of themselves, most of participants, from both sexes were unsure or said no. Overall, 57.5% reported uncertainty and disagreement with pride for who they are and what they have (10.9% I am Not Sure, 11.6% Somewhat Untrue, 35% Completely Untrue). Once again, responses in terms of participants' sex were similar 58.5% for females and 56.3% for males.

Interestingly enough, when asked if they are capable of completing any work/task just like other people, most of the participants said yes strongly. Overall, 88.2% participants reported certainty when asked the above mentioned question (76.5% completely True, 11.7% somewhat True). Female participants reported higher certainty, 89.4% of them believe that they are capable of completing any work/task just like other people (80.4% completely

True, 9.2% Somewhat True). Not much different, however, were male participants, overall 86.8% (72.2% completely True, 14.6% somewhat True).

Female participants in this study reported more satisfaction with qualities they possess than males. Overall, 85.1% of female participants said that they have many valuable qualities (56.3% Completely True, 28.8% Somewhat True). This is higher than the male participants, where overall, 72.9% said that they have many valuable qualities (49.8% completely True, 23.1% Somewhat True). The female satisfaction with their qualities is also higher than the overall score of the participants from both sexes, 79.4%. Commonly, when participants were asked if they believe that they are as valuable as other people, more females, 80.4%, said yes (62% Completely True, 18.4% Somewhat True) than males, 76.2% (54.1% Completely True, 22.1% Somewhat True).

Overall, 63.2% of all participants said that they do not feel worthless about themselves; in terms of sex: overall, 61.4% female participants said that they don't feel worthless and 65.1% male participants. On the other hand, overall, 47.7% of participants from both sexes said that they don't feel useless at any time and 18.8% of them were unsure. This response is not much different across sex of the participants, where this was true for 47.5% of females and for males, it was 48.8%. However, more males, 22.4%, than females, 15.5%, reported uncertainty about this.

	OVERALL YES ¹	MALE YES	FEMALE YES
In general I am satisfied with myself.	88.6%	89.4%	88%
I would like to have more respect for myself	57.3%	56.3%	58.2%
I think I have a lot to be proud of with myself	42.5%	43.7%	41.5%
Sometimes I feel completely useless	47.7%	29.6%	37.1%
I am capable of any work and able to do all my tasks just like most of the people.	33.5%	86.8%	89.6%
Sometimes I feel worthless.	88.2%	24.2%	26.6%
I think I am just as able as most of the other people	25.4%	76.9%	86.4%
I think I have many valuable qualities	81.9%	72.9%	85.1%
Every day I come to understand that I am of very little worth.	49.4%	17.5%	17.7%
I think I am as valuable as other people.	17.6%	76.2%	80.4%

TABLE 3.0 Young men and young women self-perception

SCHOOL VIOLENCE

There is a general consensus among social stakeholders that school violence in Kosovo has the potential to become an alarming issue due to its increasing trends. According to the Kosovo's Police (as cited in Koha DITORE, 8 October 2012) official records, from January to September of 2012, overall 2,793 cases of body injuries have been reported. "This is particularly emphasized among adolescents' in elementary and secondary schools."

The number of violent incidents within school of Kosovo seems to be showing increased frequency. More specifically, "In the first semester of 2011, more than 210 incidents involving students, many resulting in severe injuries, have been reported....The situation is worse than in 2010 when, according to police, there were 37 incidents involving serious bodily injury, 36 cases of property damage, 15 robberies and an undetermined number of minor injuries." (Brajshori, SETimes, 2011)⁵

Moreover, UNICEF as early as 2005, alarmed about school violence in Kosovo in their report: "violence is common in schools and that violence had risen in their community in recent years. They also believed that fear of violence on the street or while travelling to school was widespread amongst young people." (UNICEF, Research into Violence against Children in Schools in Kosovo 2005:41). Civil society in Kosovo has been advocating for a comprehensive study on school violence in order to understand frequencies, causes and implications of this phenomenon in the country's development and social well-being (see International Progressive Education – www.ipeks.org)

The following are the categories of reported types of violence occurring among teenagers in schools, actors involved in these violent incidents, the most common causes that spark violence as well as the locations where it occurs most commonly.

STUDENT – STUDENT VIOLENCE

There is a great presence of student to student physical violence, fights, according to the vast majority of the participants, from both sex, of this study, 77.1%. Most of the participants from both sex groups, 67.8% of them, also reported student to student's insults and ridicules. Some participants also reported experiences where students in schools carry cold weap-

⁵ Brajshori, Muhamet. (2011). School violence in Kosovo turns deadly. Southeast European Times in Pristina. Retrived on November 12, 2012 from the World Wide Web at http://setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2011/06/08/feature-04



ons such as knives (overall, 44.6%), baseball bats (overall, 37.4%) and stealing of personal belongings (overall, 45.2%). Some participants, 18.1% of them, reported experiences with students carrying guns to schools. There are no significant differences with the above mentioned experiences between the sex groups of the participants.

TEACHER – STUDENT VIOLENCE

Overall, most of the teenagers of this study, 53.4%, reported experience of teachers insulting students. This experience is a bit higher for female participants, 57.3% of them, then male participants, and 49.1% of them. Despite the existing legislation in the country that explicitly prohibit any type of violent attitude and behavior of teachers directed towards students, a large number of teenagers reported experiences of teachers' use of physical punishment against students, overall, 42.2% of them and teachers threatening and frightening the students, 39.9% of them. This psychological violence⁶ jeopardizes the establishment of a safe and comfortable learning environment, which negative impacts the quality and quantity of learning occurring (Kadriu et al, 2010)⁷ in the classroom settings. If the students' psychological, emotional and cognitive needs are not meet and a safe environment is not created, then not much learning can occur in that setting. According to the participants of this study, these experiences were similar for members of both sex groups. In addition, it is important to note that a large number of, minority participants, 42.0%, share the similar experience

STUDENT – TEACHER VIOLENCE

Overall, 42.2% of all participants said that teachers are insulted by their fellow students. Moreover, some participants, overall 21.3% of them, reported experience with students threatening and frightening teachers and 18.4% of all participants reported the use of physical force by students towards teachers.

LOCATIONS OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE

Female and male teenagers of this study identified the most common places within and/or in the vicinity of their school where fights usually occur. **They are: 1. school yards for 85.4%, 2. when students miss class for 66% of**

⁶ The definition and description of psychological violence used for the purpose of this study are elaborated in section 7 of this report where examples of this type of violence are reported by the participants

⁷ Kadriu, E., Selimos, E., Tower, J. (2010), What it takes to be a Good Teacher?. International Progressive Education, Kosova.

them, 3. between school shifts for 64.8%, 4. during breaks between classes for 61.1% of them, 5. on the way back from school for 55.9% of them and 6. in school hallways for 52.4% of them.

	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE
Toilettes	37.5%	33.5%	41.1%
Hallways	52.4%	46.3%	57.9%
Classrooms	49.2%	49.5%	49.1%
School yard	85.4%	84.3%	86.4%

TABLE 4.0. Most common locations of school violence

CAUSES OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE

“There are fights [between guys] because of girls, although, lately, this is changing”

Teenager Participant in the Focus Group

The vast majority of female and male teenagers of this study identified four causes and reasons why incidents of violence occur in school settings. They are: 1. Students bad company for 84.3% of them, 2. Defending one’s friend for 81.2%, 3. Revenge/Spite for 75.7% of them, and 4. Calling humiliating names for 74.7% of them.

	OVERALL YES	MALE YES	FEMALE YES	MINORITIES YES
Ridicule and insults between students	67.8%	66.5%	69%	63.2 %
Fights between students	77.1%	76.2%	77.8%	78.0%
Destruction of various school furniture (chairs, desks, doors, windows)	58.6%	54.8%	62%	57.9%
Students are insulted by teachers	53.4%	49.1%	57.3%	50.2%
Fights with students from other schools	45.6%	45.9%	45.3%	45.0%
Teacher use physical punishment against students	28.0%	28.1%	27.8%	29.0%
Teachers are insulted by students	42.2%	41.6%	42.7%	41.0%
Threats coming from strange / outside people	43.9%	46.6%	41.5%	42.0%
Fights between boys and girls	39.9%	38.8%	48.4%	40.0%
Teachers threatening and frightening students	39.9%	39.9%	39.9%	40.0%
Students carrying knives	44.6%	47.7%	41.8%	47.7%
Students carrying baseball bats	37.4%	37.7%	37.0%	37.4%
Stealing of personal things	45.2%	45.6%	44.9%	45.9%
Students threatening and frightening teachers	21.3%	23.1%	19.6%	22.3%
Students carrying guns in schools	18.1%	20.6%	19.8%	20.6%
Students using physical force against teachers	18.4%	18.1%	18.7%	18.4%

TABLE 5.0. Incidents of school violence

ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE

Most of the participants from both sex groups reported no use of alcohol, 69.3% of them and no use of drugs, 92.1% of them. However, there were some differences in responses among participants of both sex groups regarding the use of alcohol and drugs. Overall, 63.3% of males said they never had an alcoholic drink, while that was true for 74.7% of females. In addition, overall 88.6% of male participants reported no experience with drugs, while for the female participants of this study; this was higher, 95.3%.

ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP – EXPERIENCES AND FREQUENCIES

RELATIONSHIP PATTERNS

There is a variety of romantic relationship patterns that are identified by this field assessment as more than half of the respondents (52%) have been in a relationship, of which a third (32%) have been in a relationship which involved sexual relationship. Most of the respondents were in a relationship between two months and two years, whereas only a dozen (14%) have had a relationship longer than two years, for which we can determine that the same percentage start their relationship fairly young. Also, almost half of those that had a relationship (53%) are no longer in a relationship.

	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE
No	33.3%	28.9%	40.8%
Don't Know	8.3%	7.2%	10.2%
Condom (preservative)	40.9%	51.8%	22.4%
I stopped the intercourse	10.6%	10.8%	10.2%
Contraceptive pills	3.8%	1.2%	22.4%
Natural methods (calculation of menstrual cycle days...)	3.0%	0%	8.2%

TABLE 6.0. Sexual protection for those who are sexual active in their romantic relationship⁸

There is a tendency for the young respondents not to rush into a sexual relationship as shows the interesting finding that of those who are still in a relationship (46%) only a quarter (24%) have a sexual relationship. There are more male participants (29.5%) than females (17.2%) who have reported sexual experience as part of their romantic relationship. The social and cultural expectations that females should be virgin⁹ before entering marriage could have an impact of the attitudes and behaviors that the young women might manifest in their relationship. The same might be true for males as well, where the social and cultural norms do not stigmatizes males for hav-

⁸ The participants could had the option of circling more than option. This table contains the first option.

⁹ The notion of "female virginity" as reported by the participants is further elaborated in the the Gender Role Attitudes section of this report.

ing sex before marriage, thus, making them less conservative in their sexual practices and reporting about them.

On the other hand, more than a third (40%) of those who had a sexual relationship used condom as the means for protection during their last sexual intercourse, whereas a relatively concerning percentage (33.3%) used no protection at all. According to this study, it is concerning that a large number of teenagers are practicing unprotected sex, thus being vulnerable to different sexually transmitted diseases and/or unwanted pregnancies. This is particularly true for young men, where, according to this study 28.9% of male participants said that they did not use any protection during their last sexual intercourse within their romantic relationships, while for female participants this was much higher, 40.8%. An important note regarding this point is the fact that, when looked based on ethnic affiliation of the young men and women of this study, 50% of overall minority participants reported no usage of any protection during their last sexual experience in their romantic relationships.

Two thirds of those who are currently in a relationship are fully (31%) or mainly (33%) satisfied with their relationship. Of those who are in a relationship a third of them talk often (22%) or every day (15%) about their feelings, and there is little difference between male and female response. Almost half of them rarely (31%) or never (17%) have a miscommunication, which also does reflect from the satisfaction in the relationship. Another interesting observation is that one third of respondents do not try to solve misunderstandings/problems through negotiations, which raises concern about the communication in the relationship.

GENDER ROLES ATTITUDES

Attitudes are learned, and later, internalized, from the actions and words of those around our personal, social and political environments. It is inevitable for the teenagers not to be influenced in a direct and/or indirect way by the social norms and expectations; despite the tendencies for individuality and identity of this human development stage.

Adolescents were also asked whether they agree with certain statements that describe the stereotypical female and male gender roles and identities, as well as some societal expectations related to sex / gender. Table 1 shows the percentages of people surveyed who agreed with the statement, and the statistical significance of differences in responses based on gender.

The results show the worrying percentage of young people that their value system is based on sex / gender stereotypes and expectations

More specifically, the results in the table below raise many concerns about violence, but mostly about the attitudes and perception of these youngsters towards violence. It is alerting that many (40%) female would accept the boyfriend to hit her if she cheated on him.

It is also concerning that a large number of teenagers from both sex groups believe that is acceptable for the boyfriend to hit his girlfriend if she cheats in the relationship. A large number of males, 46% as well as females, 40% have reported acceptance of this type of violence. Other research in the country (see Exploring Dimensions of Masculinities, Femininities and Violence with Young Men and Young Women in Kosovo; Participatory Learning Action – PLA) have pointed out that teenagers in Kosovo are accepting this phenomena in their relationships. Young males believe that this is a justifiable violent action and young females have internalized the belief that this should be acceptable in a romantic relationship if female infidelity occurs. There is not much difference regarding this in terms of participants' ethnic affiliation; whereas overall 41.6% of minority participants agreed also with the above mentioned statement.

Many of them (40%) believe that female is solely responsible for child care and doing house-keeping. Moreover, the below table, once again, points out a very important attitude that is prevalent among most of the teenagers of this study, both sex groups, and that is regarding female's virginity as she begins to enter and develop a potential romantic relations. More specifically, most of the participants, 65% of them, believe that a girl should be virgin during the time she decides to enter in a relationship. Moreover, it seems that social and cultural expectations about female virginity has had more impact on females than males of this study, as more females, 70% of them, than males, 59% believe that this should be true – a girl should be virgin when she enters a romantic relationship.

Another finding in this regard is the perception which one fifth (23%) of the respondents share – that is – they believe girls are expected to have sexual relations with her boyfriend if he spent a lot of money when they dated together.

More than half of young man surveyed (55%) and every third girl (35%) did not believe that a woman's 'no' means 'no'.

	YES	NO	MALE YES	FEMALE YES
The girls is expected to have sexual relations with her boyfriend if he spent a lot of money when they dated together	24%	76%	33%	15%
When female say NO, they mean YES	45%	55%	55%	35%
The real man is active, aggressive, independent and dominating	40%	60%	47%	34%
The girl is expected to be virgin when she enters in a relation	65%	35%	59%	70%
Jealousy is a way to show love	49%	51%	51%	47%
A person who abuses other people under the influence of alcohol or drugs, is not responsible for his behavior	44%	56%	43%	44%
It is acceptable for the boyfriend to hit his girlfriend if she has cheated on him	44%	56%	46%	40%
Children need their father even when he is violent towards their mother	44%	56%	51%	38%
Consequences of psychological/emotional abuse are just as serious as consequences of physical maltreatment	71%	29%	65%	75%
Rape can happen in a marriage	54%	46%	56%	53%
A successful relation is possible even when the girl is not virgin	69%	31%	64%	72%
It is common to neglect your friends when you have a lover	34%	66%	30%	37%
The wife has to be careful not to provoke/challenge her husband	66%	34%	64%	68%
It is easy to abandon the partner once one has decided to break a violent relation	49%	51%	52%	46%
Persons abuse and maltreat their partners as an attempt to control them	60%	40%	60%	60%
Female are solely responsible for taking care of children and for doing the chores at home	40%	60%	43%	37%
The perfect woman is passive, caring, fragile and talkative	33%	67%	33%	33%

For some people it does them good to be hit by their partner	33%	67%	33%	33%
People are sometimes so angry that they cannot help using physical violence	56%	44%	53%	58%
People who do not want to leave their partners want to be abused	29%	71%	32%	26%
Society presses young male to engage in sexual relations	61%	39%	58%	63%
Persons who beat their partners are always violent	61%	39%	53%	67%
When a couple resorts to physical violence to solve their mutual problems that is between them and other persons should not interfere	40%	60%	42%	39%
Sometimes it is good to use physical violence to persuade someone about something	34%	66%	39%	30%
Shame and fear are often reasons why victims of violence do not ask for assistance	72%	28%	65%	79%
It is possible to be peaceful in violent situations	60%	40%	56%	67%
There are things we can do for friends who are in violent relations	75%	25%	71%	79%
Boys and girls have different reasons for entering a relation (boys want sex, girls want love)	69%	31%	64%	74%

TABLE 7.0. Attitudes towards Gender Roles

DEFINITION OF VIOLENCE, ACCORDING TO TEENAGERS

(LACK OF) UNDERSTANDING OF VIOLENT ACTIONS

The findings of this assessment indicate that generally there is not much violence between the youngsters, but that is partially because it is not reported, and most importantly because these youngsters do not understand what violence is. As seen from the table below, one third (27%) of respondents believe that slapping would not be defined as violence and neither is hitting (16%) or pulling one's hair (18%).

Youngsters, especially male, therefore do not understand which actions are considered as violence. From the results of this table, it could also be concluded that female have a better understanding of what could be defined as violence. More specifically, more females than males were able to identify incidents such as destroying thing/property (77% of them), slapping (77%), yelling (66%), blackmailing (57%), threatening (81%), pushing (81%), as forms of violence. On the other hand, if looked in terms of the ethnic demographic information of the participants, overall 70.4% agreed that "a slap" is type of violence. The same is true for yelling (58%), blackmailing (60.5%), and pushing (70%).

	YES	NO	MALE YES	FEMALE YES
Limiting the time that boyfriend/girlfriend spends with ones friends/family	39%	61%	40%	38%
Destroying things and property	74%	26%	71%	77%
Expecting for the girlfriend/boyfriend to be always available	43%	57%	40%	45%
Slapping	73%	27%	68%	77%
Complaining against one's appearance, behavior	36%	64%	35%	37%
Yelling at one	62%	38%	57%	66%
Insisting on sexual relations	69%	31%	63%	74%
Insulting and calling humiliating names (stupid, etc)	64%	36%	59%	68%
Pulling one's hair	82%	18%	77%	86%
Hitting	84%	16%	80%	88%
Making one engage in sexual relations	80%	20%	74%	85%
Blackmailing with: "If you loved me, you would..."	53%	47%	49%	57%
Ignoring (behaving as if you did not exist)	47%	53%	39%	55%
Threatening with use of force	77%	23%	73%	81%
The boyfriend insists that the girlfriend abort a baby against her will.	77%	23%	71%	83%
Behaving with the girlfriend/boyfriend as if it were an item of property	65%	35%	60%	70%
Not allowing tone to express one's opinion	60%	40%	54%	65%
Jealousy	37%	63%	33%	42%
Gossip	43%	57%	36%	49%
Humiliation	58%	42%	52%	63%
Making one choose between friends and lover	63%	37%	61%	66%
Throwing things on the lover	80%	20%	76%	82%
Pushing	76%	24%	71%	81%
Stalking, monitoring, controlling	60%	40%	52%	67%
Making decisions for the partner	61%	39%	57%	64%

TABLE 8.0. Types/experiences of violence

PATTERNS OF VIOLENCE IN ADOLESCENTS' RELATIONSHIPS

"Males are those who commit more violence; in most of the cases, females are the victims"

Teenager Participant in the Focus Group

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

For the purpose of this study, "physical violence occurs when someone uses a part of their body or an object to control your actions. Actions such as pushing, shoving, holding down a person, hair-pulling, slapping, arm twisting, strangling are only some which are considered physical violence."¹⁰

One in ten respondents slaps (9%) or ridicules (9%) their partner, and there is no difference between female and male taking these actions. Very few respondents (4%) grab the hair or push their boyfriend/girlfriend.

Less than a third of respondents (27%) do not think that slapping would be defined as an act of violence. This perception, which is more embraced by male than female, shows that there is a little understanding of what constitutes physical violence. This high number is certainly concerning, but it could also be that respondents understood the word `slapping` as a more non-violent touchy action rather than a serious slap. There is also tendency to believe that yelling is not an act of violence, a belief that is shared by many (37%) of the respondents.

The respondents would take a variety of actions but some of them (39%) would terminate the relationship if hit by the boyfriend/girlfriend, whereas fewer of them (8%) would have hit back. More female (11%) than male (6%) have been hit/hurt physically or have been slapped, this also makes an interesting finding from this assessment.

Less than half of respondents (43%) agree that it is acceptable for the boyfriend to hit his girlfriend if she has cheated on him – an action which is perceived the same from half of male (46%) and female (40%) respondents. One third (33%) of respondents think that for some people it does them good to be hit by their partner. From these findings we can also conclude that there is a little understanding of what violence is among the respondents.



Several (7%) had their boyfriend/girlfriend act violently against other people, which causes fear. Some (8%) had their boyfriend/girlfriend hit or slap him/her physically, whereas around 21% had their boyfriend/girlfriend behave as if he/she had two personalities (moving from very pleasant to very aggressive). Female are twice more frightened than male when the partner acts in a violent manner against others.

One fourth of respondents (25%) do not think destroying things or property would be defined as violent behavior. Most of respondents (60%) do not agree that the real man is active, aggressive, independent and dominating.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

“Sexual violence occurs when someone forces you to take part in sexual activity when you do not want to. Sexual violence includes, but is not limited to the following: touching you in a sexual manner against your will (i.e. kissing, grabbing, fondling); forced sexual intercourse; use of a weapon to make you comply with a sexual act; humiliating, criticizing or trying to control a woman’s sexuality; denial of sexual information and education (i.e. birth control); withholding sexual affection; forced abortion or sterilization; forced prostitution”¹¹

From the answers of the respondents to this assessment we can conclude that very few respondents (3%) force their boyfriend/girlfriend to have sexual relation. This result is also backed up by the other finding, although this shows that less male (2%) than female (4%) force their partner to engage in sexual relationship even when they are not ready. Several (8%) say he/she will leave him/her if there is no sexual relation.

Another interesting finding is that a dozen of respondents (12%) resort to blackmail to get what they want, whereas only few (7%) use blackmail to force sexual relation. The assessment also shows that there is a concerning one third (31%) of respondents who do not think that insisting on sexual relation is an act of violence. One in ten respondents (10%) had their boyfriend/girlfriend refuse the use of protection during sexual intercourse, even if the other wanted to use them. There are also a firm percentage of respondents (11%) who feel exploited after the sexual intercourse. One interesting finding in this regard is the negative perception which one fifth (23%) of the respondents share – that is – they believe girls are expected to have sexual relations with her boyfriend if he spent a lot of money when they dated together. 29

¹¹ The Violence Prevention Initiative of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. Retrieved from the World Wide Web on November 12, 2012 at <http://www.gov.nl.ca/VPI/index.html>



The study shows that young students, especially girls, have tendencies to believe that virginity is somewhat (16%) or very (61%) important in a relationship. The majority of respondents indeed believe that the girl is expected to be a virgin before she enters a relationship, which may be a reflection of the religious and cultural ties. Half of the respondents believe that sex is somewhat (28%) or very (22%) important in a relationship, whereas one fifth (19%) believes sex is not important.

Almost all of respondents have seen or experienced, and few (5%) have done unwanted comments or jokes about someone's sexuality in schools. Many (70%) agree that boys and girls have different reasons for entering a relation (boys want sex, girls want love).

EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE

"Emotional violence occurs when someone says or does something to make you feel stupid or worthless. Emotional violence includes, but is not limited to, the following: name calling; constant criticism; blaming all relationship problems on you; humiliating or belittling you in front of others; not allowing you to have contact with family and friends; threats; jealousy;"¹²

A dozen (13%), including the same number of male and female respondents, say things that insult/humiliate the boyfriend/girlfriend in front of others. The relationship pressure is also apparent in some cases as almost a third (28%) of respondents would rather agree to something because they feel uncomfortable or afraid to say no. It turns out that female have more tendencies to feel uncomfortable and afraid in such cases.

Jealousy is another act which is often witnessed in these relationships. Most of the respondents (65%) had their boyfriend/girlfriend act with jealousy; there are similar figures of man (67%) and female (63%) acting in such a manner. One fourth (23%) of respondents had their boyfriend/girlfriend accuses each other for flirting with others or for betrayal. The results show that male is twice more accused than female.

Another negative perception which stands amongst these youngsters deals with controlling the partner in the relationship. Many respondents (60%) do not think that limiting the time that the boyfriend/girlfriend spends with friends or family would be defined as violent behavior. More than half of respondents would not define ignorance (52%) or jealousy (62%) as violent

¹² The Violence Prevention Initiative of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. Retrieved from the World Wide Web on November 12, 2012 at <http://www.gov.nl.ca/VPI/index.html>



behaviors – this perception stands mostly for male and to a lesser extend for female.

These young students generally have an understanding about the importance of communication in the relationship. Most of respondents believe communication is somewhat (11%) or very (78%) important, female have tendencies to believe this more than male. Most of the respondents feel compromise is somewhat (15%) or very (60%) important in a relationship, and similar figures apply for talks about feelings.

One fourth of respondents (25%) are not sure or do not believe that opening way is important in a relationship. One in four (23%) blames the other if somebody misbehaves against him/her, saying you asked for it. A third (32%) of respondents had their boyfriend/girlfriend force each other into something by causing in them a feeling of guilt by saying “If you really loved me you would...”

PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE

“Psychological violence occurs when someone uses threats and causes fear in you to gain control. Psychological violence includes, but is not limited to, the following: threatening to harm you, your children or your family if you leave; threatening to harm themselves; threats of abandonment; social isolation from your family and friends; confinement to the home; constant humiliation”.¹³

We could generally conclude from the findings that psychological violence exists, and that the youngsters are not aware of what constitutes such violence. A third of the respondents (32%) act with extreme jealousy and there are less (19%) of those who act as if their boyfriend/girlfriend was their property. There is a concerning figure which shows that many (40%) respondents do not consider humiliation as violence, nor do they think is stalking, monitoring or controlling. Some (15%) feel less valued because of their boyfriend/girlfriend.

The figures show that more female (34%) than male (27%) keep control of the whereabouts of the partner despite the fact that they consider this as an act of violence more than male. Less than one fifth (18%) of the respondents feel isolated or separated from friends – female get this feeling twice more than male.

¹³ The Violence Prevention Initiative of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. Retrieved from the World Wide Web on November 12, 2012 at <http://www.gov.nl.ca/VPI/index.html>



The fear of abandonment is apparent in the relationship of these youngsters as well. One in ten (10%) agree to have sexual relations only not to be left by the lover. There is a concerning portion of respondents (22%) who would not consider violence if a boyfriend is insisting on abortion without the will of the girl.

VIOLENCE COMMITTED IN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP

The table below highlights some interesting results. Respondents were asked whether the statements in the boxes occurred and whether they had their partner behave in such manners. Interestingly, in many of these cases the female have tendencies to be more violent than male. For instance, more male than female say that their partner acts possessively. Female through things at their partner or break their things more than male. Female also make more accusations than male regarding betrayal in the relationship.

More specifically, there is a high number of participants, both sex groups, for males 68% and for females 63% who have reported a common experience of jealousy in their romantic relationships. On the other hand, more females, 10%, then males, 6%, have reported experiences in their romantic relationship when their partner would act violently towards others who might stimulate fear in them. According to the participants of this study, males tend to be more violent even to others who in a(n) (in)direct way are involved in their romantic relationship. The acts of jealousy and violence can be correlated with the social and cultural expectations, ascribed to men, of protection/provider and exclusiveness. On the other hand, it is interesting to note that teenagers of both sex groups reported some experience of, what in psychology is called, the attribution of the victim; where the one is to be blamed even of someone else acts in a negative way (misbehave, inappropriate action, etc) towards him/her.

	YES	NO	MALE YES	FEMALE YES
Acts with jealousy	66%	34%	68%	63%
Acts possessively, as if one was his/her property	26%	74%	28%	22%
Says that you are stupid and calls you humiliating names	12%	88%	11%	11%
Makes it clear to you that nothing you do is any good	25%	75%	28%	21%
Says that he/she will leave you if you do not have sexual relations with her/him	8%	92%	10%	7%
Blames you if someone misbehaves against you, saying you asked for it	24%	76%	27%	19%
Forces you to engage in sexual relation, even when you are not ready	4%	96%	5%	2%
Acts violently with others, which frightens you	8%	92%	6%	10%
Throws things on you or deliberately breaks your things	5%	95%	7%	2%
Puts you in uncomfortable situations and ridicules you in front of other people	8%	92%	11%	4%
Accuses you of flirting with other persons or for betrayal	24%	76%	30%	15%
Threatens to hurt you or person who is dear to you	7%	93%	9%	4%
Tries to force you into something by causing in you a feeling of guilt, by saying: "If you really loved me, you would..."	32%	68%	29%	25%
Refuses to use protection means during sexual intercourse, even you want to use them	10%	90%	11%	9%
Makes decisions for you	16%	84%	16%	17%
Has hurt / hit you physically or has slapped you	9%	91%	7%	11%
Asks from you explanations for everything you do, wherever you go, and for every person you meet	29%	71%	30%	27%
Starts rumors about you	14%	86%	19%	8%
Pushes you or grabs you by your hair	3%	97%	4%	2%
Forces you into sexual relations	5%	95%	5%	4%
Behaves as if he/she has two personalities (moving from very pleasant to very aggressive)	22%	78%	23%	20%

TABLE 9.0. Violence in Romantic Relationships

(NOT) REPORTING VIOLENCE

Reporting presence of violence in the romantic relationship is not socially well accepted according to the young men and women of this study as it stimulates the feeling of shame. In this study, most of the participants reported shame to be the main reason/obstacle that make people not report violence in their relationship. This feeling is slightly higher among female participants (29.1%) then males (24.6%). This could perhaps be correlated with a still-existing expectations that private/family things remain private and if something bad happens and its public than one feels guilty and shameful about that. It is like its his/her fault.

It is important to note that female participants have reported more fear of revenge (16.1% for females, 10.3% for males) as also one of the main reasons why people don't report violence, while more males (19.6%) then females (10.1%) have reported a sense of guilt and responsibility for violence as one of the main reasons why violence is not reported.

	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE	MINORITIES
Feeling of guilt and responsibility for violence	14.6%	19.6%	10.1%	9.1%
Inability to recognize violent behaviour	4.9%	5.0%	4.7%	4.9%
The feeling of shame	27%	24.6%	29.1%	27.6%
Fear from being marginalized and left alone	12.9%	13.9%	12.0%	12.9
Denial of experienced violence	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%	3.6%
Fear of revenge	13.4%	10.3%	16.1%	
"It is not worth reporting, no one will do anything about it"	12.1%	10.3%	13.6%	12.0%
Fear that no one will believe you	7.2%	7.1%	7.3%	7.4%
Fear of being interrogated by the police or court...	4.5%	5.7%	3.5%	4.5%

TABLE 10 Reasons/obstacles for not reporting violence

34 Moreover, it is to same importance to note that most participants of this study believe that violence is present today in romantic relationships and it is a serious concern/problem. Overall, much more females (84.2%) then males



(68.3%) have raised this as an alarming issue about today's relationships. In terms of the ethnic affiliation of the participants of this study, overall 81.5% of minorities also agreed with the above mentioned statement.

Another equally alarming issue, is the number of male participants (19.2% of them compared with the females 9.8% of them) who believe that despite the fact that cases of violent behavior within romantic relationship exists, it should not be made public and/or an issue. Those who experience violence in their relationship are almost left without assistance and/or prevention strategies and opportunities as the majority of participants, 86.6% of them, both sex groups, reported lack of existence of any activities, workshops, guidance, campaigns that about sustainable and functional preventing violence.

	OVERALL	MALE	FEMALE	MINORITIES
NO	9.0%	12.5%	6.0%	6.2%
Perhaps in few cases, but I don't think that it should be made an issues	14.2%	19.2%	9.8%	9.2%
YES, it exists and it is a serious problem	76.7%	68.3%	84.2%	80.5%

TABLE: 11 Presence of Violence in Romantic Relationships

MEDIA PATTERNS

"I believe that, in a way, we all try to control things through social network media"

Teenager Participant in the Focus Group

Most of the respondents are not sure (21%) or think that the media (51%) do not adapt to real persons and situations when reporting on accounts of male-female relations. To respondents the feeling of shame (27%) and guilt (14%) are the main reasons why people do not report violence experienced in a relation. This is true for more female than male. Almost all of the respondents are not sure (20%) or think that the media (68%) does not affect their sexual behavior.

Unfortunately the school programs do not offer any knowledge which

aims to enhance the understanding of violence in a relationship. There is a limited (13%) number of respondents who receive school programs (workshops, campaigns) that deal with prevention of violence in a relationship.

OTHER FINDINGS

- Most respondents felt uncomfortable, insecure and distrustful if they had experienced any violent actions. The respondents usually reacted by self defense, requested help or advice, or silenced about such actions. Some (18%) would even go to change their behavior in the home and relationship. If respondents behave in any violent actions most say because of self defense (30%) or jealousy (32%).
- One fifth (23%) of respondents know someone who is in a violent relationship and interestingly the results of this study show that almost half (44%) of the respondents have someone they trust who says he/she is worried about him/her since entering a relationship. While they may be worried about violence in the relationship, one need to also consider that there may also be worries that they did not find the right person.
- Violence seems to be widely present in the life of the respondents of the survey. Almost all of them (98%) have seen or experienced the spreading of rumors or lies, in both their schools and neighborhoods. Almost all of them (98%) have seen or experienced theft or damage, in both their schools and neighborhoods. Almost all of respondents have seen or experienced (97%) threat with arms (knife, gun) in schools and neighborhoods. Few respondents (3%) are not hesitant to report that they have done that.
- Interestingly the results show that many persons have seen or heard of violence taking place, despite the low number of violent actions reported – even by the respondents in this assessment. Less than half (40%) of respondents have persons who demonstrate violent behavior against their boyfriend/girlfriend in their circle of close friends. Violent behavior is condoned (29%) and idealized (27%) to some of the respondents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the identified needs and concerns of young men and young women as pointed out by the outcome of this study, the following recommendations are suggested:

- Design, organize and implement initiatives and activities within schools of the country, as part of the formal curriculum and/or as extracurricular activity, that target violence prevention strategies and opportunities.
- Massive educational campaigns whose goal would be raising awareness among young people in understanding violence and different forms of violence present in their lives: physical, emotional, psychological and sexual. Specifically, an awareness of young men and young women that notions and examples such as “slapping”, “pushing” “insults” are forms of violence.
- Awareness campaigns about the frequency, causes and most commonly known locations of school and romantic relationship violence as well as to identify and suggests techniques and strategies for its reduction, if not elimination.
- Involvement of educational stakeholders (teachers, administrators, parents and students) in identifying and enforcing violence prevention techniques, particularly within the school settings for types and forms of school violence.



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The Kosovar Gender Studies KGSC is a non-governmental organization, whose strategic mandate is to involve a gender perspective in all sectors of Kosovar society by developing gender studies and policies that are gender sensitive.

The center's goal is to serve as a catalyst for changes in Kosovar society research, policy analysis and information dissemination and through its activities it seeks to inform non-governmental and governmental organizations, university students and professors, journalists, policymakers, etc.

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