



Status of Women
Canada

Condition féminine
Canada

WORKING TOGETHER

An initiative to engage communities in order to end violence against women & girls in the name of 'honour'.

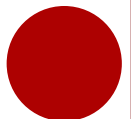
OUTLINE

- Community outreach for the project
- Feedback from the community
- Barriers identified by service providers
- Recommendations
- Project progress



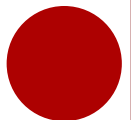
WHAT IS THE PROJECT ABOUT?

- Funded by Status of Women Canada and administered by the Indo Canadian Women's Association
- The project targeted women and girls from different cultural communities living in Edmonton
- Aimed to build partnerships between community agencies and women and girls who may be affected by honour based violence (HBV)
- Developed strategies to address honour based violence
- Addressed barriers and gaps that limit the work of community agencies working on HBV
- A multi agency strategy was developed and implemented



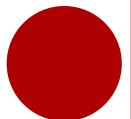
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Perspectives of women and girls from South Asian, Middle Eastern, African, Chinese and Latin American communities
- Asked:
 - What behaviours stigmatize men & women in your communities?
 - What happens to men & women if they partake in these behaviours?
 - If someone you know, or if you were in this situation where would they go for help?
 - What do women and girls who face HBV need?
 - How can we as a community, prevent violence against women in the name of 'honour'?

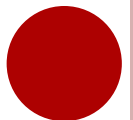


ACTIVITIES

5 Focus groups to 4 different ethno cultural communities	Over 25 women and girls reached
Direct Interviews with Chinese survivors of domestic abuse	4 women reached
Online survey to service providers via survey monkey (online)	Over 25 service providers reached
Focus group with Chinese service providers	4 service providers reached
Focus group with staff from Millwoods Welcome Centre for Immigrants	3 service providers reached
Direct interviews with service providers	5 service providers reached
Direct interview with community leaders	3 community leaders reached



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



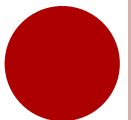
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- Pakistani Focus Group
- Participants between the ages of 16-26
 - Barriers
 - Will not seek help
 - Lack of knowledge of resources and services
 - Lack of trust toward service providers
 - Experiences from their home country
 - Needs
 - Confidentiality
 - Training
 - Education
 - Awareness raising



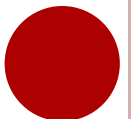
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- What behaviours stigmatize women?
 - Dating
 - What is honour?
 - Different meaning for men and women
 - Women's honour is attached to maintaining a demure innocence by not being overtly sexual in any way.
 - With men, honour is connected to their job, spirituality and status in society.



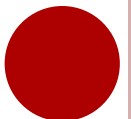
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- Punjabi Focus Group
- Participants between the ages of 32-72
 - Barriers
 - Tradition
 - Shame
 - Fear
 - Lack of awareness
 - Needs
 - Training
 - Education
 - Awareness raising



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- What behaviours stigmatize women?
 - Smoking, drinking, premarital sex, premarital pregnancy and dressing “provocatively”
 - What is honour?
 - The women indicated no difference between honour for men and women.



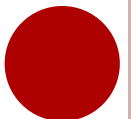
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- Latin American Focus Group
 - Barriers
 - Shame
 - Fear and lack of trust of service providers
 - Lack of awareness
 - Men
 - Needs
 - Education
 - Training
 - Community engagement



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- What is honour?
 - Participants said that violence against women in their communities was rooted in power not honour
 - They attributed violence to the notion of machismo present in Latin American culture



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

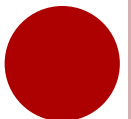
○ Chinese Community Interviews

- Barriers

- Shame
- Experiences from source country
- Financial
- Language

- Needs

- Education
- Training
- Language
- Awareness Raising



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- What is honour?
 - Culture may still be patriarchal in some families
 - Obeying the husband and being a “good wife”
 - Saving face- want to keep the reputation and respect of the family in tact
 - Modern, urban China women are more equal



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- Middle Eastern Focus Group
- Participants ages ranged from 24-26
 - Barriers
 - Honour-based vs. discipline
 - Reluctance to seek help from outside cultural group
 - Lack of awareness of honour-based violence
 - Needs
 - Education and awareness raising for new immigrants
 - Establishing a support system
 - Financial independence
 - Education and training for service providers



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

○ What is honour?

- Dating, premarital sex, the use of alcohol and drugs and wearing revealing clothing were all mentioned as behaviours that would stigmatize women and girls in the community.
- The consequences of engaging in this behaviour would usually result in being disowned from the family, or being disciplined by the father or brother in the family.
- The conduct of a woman in the community is described as important because the reputation of a girl or woman should be that of a pure woman, who would be deemed a suitable wife.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

○ East African Focus Group

- Barriers
 - Language barriers
 - Fear of police and the justice system
 - Feeling outside of Canadian society
 - Will not seek help at all or solely from cultural group
 - Dependence on husband or male family member
- Needs
 - Awareness and Education
 - Trust building
 - Culturally relevant and accessible services



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

○ What is honour?

- If women or girls engage in premarital sex, dating, going to parties or interracial marriages/dating, this would cause dishonour to a family
- Consequences for engaging in these behaviours would result in:
 - The girl or woman being shunned from the community and the family being fodder for gossip
 - Immediate marriage to a partner decided upon by the parents, or discipline in the form of violence from a male family member i.e. brother.
 - In extreme situations a girl may be sent back to their country of origin to live or to get married.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- Lack of knowledge of resources & services
- Lack of trust towards service providers
- Confidentiality has to be respected to the utmost degree
- Reluctance due to traditions/shame/fear
- Bad experience from source/home country: fear of police & justice system
- Financial dependence
- Need to raise awareness on this issue
- Reluctance to seek help from outside groups
- Require culturally relevant and accessible services



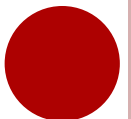
SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Asked Service Providers their views on HBV
 - What are the gaps and barriers to help people who have experienced, or are at risk of honour based violence?
 - What tools and training do they need?
 - What does a community based approach look like?
 - What agencies are currently working on this issue?
 - What mechanisms exist that help prevent/reduce cases of HBV?



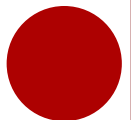
BARRIERS FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Language barriers
- Assistance outside the scope of work
- Lack of Awareness: Educate the community and service providers
- Lack of training: Cultural Safety and Sensitivity training needed
- Secure shelters for victims
- Intervention & Rehabilitation
- Understanding the terminology-Honour based violence differing opinions and definitions
- Collaborative initiatives: A list of all the organizations that deal with HBV
- Understanding of who to refer to



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ASSESSMENT

- A service delivery framework: Improve access to supports, develop protocols, ensure no duplication, maximize resources, standard of practice, assessment tool.
- Cultural sensitivity training for service providers and counsellors
- Capacity building of knowledge for service providers
- Education and Awareness
- Engaging men and boys



PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT

- Training of service providers provided by the Barbara Schlifer Clinic and the South Asian Clinic of Ontario
- Established a high risk team in Edmonton
- Piloted an education component to boys and girls through the YWCA Edmonton and John Humphrey Peace and Human Rights.

