Gender Transformative Approaches in P2Y – A One Pager

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful practices (HPs), such as; FGM/C, child, early and forced child marriage (CEFM) and teenage pregnancy all have in common that they are rooted in harmful gender and sexual norms. These norms and human rights violations in turn are almost always underpinned by unequal (patriarchal) power relations.

Within Power to Youth (P2Y) Gender Transformative Approaches therefore aim to address these root causes by striving to critically examine, question, and change rigid gender norms and imbalances of power at all levels of society (i.e. within all the four pathways of the P2Y theory of change). As such Gender Transformative Approaches in P2Y can take different forms and can vary from training youth advocates on gender and power, facilitating community dialogues/campaigns, work commercial and local media to strengthening CSOs and advocating for gender transformative policies. These approaches have in common that they;

- Encourage critical awareness and challenging the harmful gender roles and norms (also our own).
- Question the costs of harmful, inequitable gender norms in relation to SGBV and harmful practices - by making explicit the advantages of positive human rights-based norms (where possible through evidence).
- Analyse and address the unequal power relations that underpin harmful norms and practices
- Facilitate the empowerment of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and young people with diverse gender and/or sexual identities/orientations
- Critically engage boys and men to become allies in SRHR and gender equality
- Hold duty bearers to account and capacitate rights holders to claim their rights
- Influence policy change for gender transformation

Human Rights Based Approach and the Socio-Ecological Model

Gender transformative approaches are based on the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) and assume that young people's rights require gender equality and vice versa. Furthermore evidence by WHO shows that for gender transformative interventions to be effective, we need focus not only on norm change at the individual, cultural and interpersonal level, but also in a young person's environment (e.g. school, workplace, family, health centre, community, media, government, etc.). In this way – this so called socio-ecological model - considers the structural environment that can constrain or enable the agency of men and women to make positive change (Dworkin et. al. 2015).

Intersectionality

Gender Transformative Approaches also use an intersectional lens. Intersectionality asserts that target groups, such as AGYW, are often disadvantaged by multiple sources of oppression, for example; their age, race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, economic status and other 'identities'. Intersectionality recognizes that such identity markers (e.g. "girl" and "poor", or "non-educated") do not exist independently of each other, and that each affects the others, often worsening harmful practices and rights violations.

Practically for the four pathways of change within P2Y GTA could be used to, for example:

- Facilitate a value clarification , critical reflection and accountability with all partners at all levels of the coalition on rights, gender, norms and power – so that we aim to practice what we preach

- Capacitate youth advocates on how to use a GTA lens in their advocacy efforts and the accountability cycle
- Institutionalize a critical GTA lens within (our own) institutions at all levels
- Critically engage intermediaries and duty bearers on their gender and sexual norms, as well input in local policies as advocate for change.

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