



## FACT SHEET

### Summary of findings

There has been little work done on masculinities, both as a field of inquiry and site of advocacy, in Sri Lanka. To address the gap in evidence-based studies of masculinities, CARE Sri Lanka undertook a study on men's knowledge, practices and attitudes toward gender and gender-based violence (GBV) in Colombo, Hambantota, Nuwara Eliya and Batticaloa districts. The study is part of the UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence, coordinated by Partners for Prevention, a UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women and UNV regional joint programme for gender-based violence prevention in Asia and the Pacific, which explores gender-based violence and masculinities to inform evidence-based violence prevention interventions.

### Why masculinities?

Many common gender attitudes in Sri Lanka reinforce dominant ideas of masculinity and femininity

- ❖ More than half of all male and female respondents agreed that 'A woman's most important role is to take care of her home and cook for her family.'
- ❖ Thirty-two percent of men and 54% of women believed that 'It's a women's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant.'
- ❖ More than two thirds of men and women agreed that 'To be a man means providing for your family.'
- ❖ Fifty-eight percent of men believe that 'It is manly to defend the honour of your family even by violent means.'
- ❖ Most (57%) men and women agreed that 'To be a man, you need to be tough.'
- ❖ Eighty-six percent of males stated that household leadership should be decided on income generation.

Women in Sri Lanka also hold gender inequitable attitudes – often more inequitable than men's

- ❖ More than two thirds of the female sample, as opposed to 55% of men, affirmed that 'in any rape case, one would have to question whether the victim is promiscuous or has a bad reputation.'
- ❖ Over two thirds of women believed that a woman cannot refuse to have sex with her husband.



### Men in Sri Lanka subscribe to gender equity in certain areas

- ❖ Overall, two thirds of the male sample disagreed or strongly disagreed with gender inequitable statements on gender roles in society and relations between men and women.
- ❖ A majority 74% of men did not agree that ‘There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten.’
- ❖ Three-quarters of men disagreed that ‘women should accept teasing of a sexual nature because it is harmless.’
- ❖ Men whose fathers shared, or sometimes engaged in, household duties did more housework themselves.

## Producing force: Male violence against women and men

### Intimate partner violence

- ❖ One in three ever-partnered men reported that they had committed physical and/or sexual violence against an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- ❖ One in five ever-partnered men reported committing sexual violence against their intimate partner in their lifetime.
- ❖ Forty-one percent of men reported having emotionally abused their partner and 18% reported perpetrating economic abuse.
- ❖ Men who had experienced childhood physical, sexual or emotional abuse are 1.7 to 2 times more likely to perpetrate violence against their partners than men who did not experience abuse.

### Sexual violence, including rape

- ❖ While sexual violence most commonly occurred within intimate partner relationships, 6% of male respondents reported having used sexual violence, including rape, against a non-partner woman.
- ❖ Two percent of men reported perpetrating sexual violence including gang rape.
- ❖ Perpetration of physical partner violence, engaging in transactional sex or sex with a sex worker, experiencing childhood emotional or sexual abuse, and having multiple sexual partners were all associated with men’s perpetration of sexual violence against a non-partner.
- ❖ Most men admitting perpetration of sexual violence, including rape, stated their first perpetration of the act was when they were 20-29 years of age. Twenty-eight percent were between 15 and 19 years of age the first time they did this.
- ❖ Most men who reported perpetration of sexual violence said that they were motivated by sexual entitlement, while alcohol was the least reported motivation.
- ❖ A quarter of men who perpetrated sexual violence, including rape, against women said they experienced no consequences after perpetration.



# BROADENING GENDER: WHY MASCULINITIES MATTER – Attitudes, practices and gender based violence in four districts in Sri Lanka

## Men's experiences of violence

- ❖ Twenty-eight percent of male respondents reported experiencing sexual abuse during childhood.
- ❖ Four percent of men reported experiencing homophobic violence and 4% had ever been sexually assaulted by a man.

## Masculinity, well-being and family health

### Men's health

- ❖ Six percent of men were found to have high depressive symptoms and 7% had ever had suicidal thoughts.
- ❖ More than half of all men reported work-related stress.
- ❖ Thirty-eight percent of men experienced physical abuse in childhood while 44% were emotionally abused.
- ❖ While three quarters of men accompanied their wives to pre-natal clinics, fathers were often absent from providing childcare.
- ❖ Only 4% of the men and women had ever been tested for HIV.

### Impact of violence on women's well-being

- ❖ Approximately half of all women who experienced physical IPV were injured by their husbands or male partners, with 9% being injured more than five times.
- ❖ Over a quarter of these women had to stay in bed, 16% had to take days off work and 32% had to seek medical attention, because of injuries relating to the physical violence.
- ❖ Seven percent of women who had been physically or sexually abused by their male intimate partner had ever had an abortion, in comparison to 0.7% of women who never experienced IPV.
- ❖ Among women who experienced IPV, 25% ever had suicidal thoughts, compared with only 7% of women who never experienced IPV.
- ❖ Only 13% of women who experienced IPV and 8% of women who experienced non-partner sexual violence reported this violence to the police.