Feminist Research on VAW in Humanitarian and Development Settings: A Snapshot of Best Practices and Challenges

SVRI - SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESEARCH INITIATIVE  JUL 19, 2023 09:15AM UTC

What is the single biggest challenge in conducting feminist research in humanitarian and development settings?

Translating advocacy/research findings into tangible solutions/resources and improved livelihoods for survivors.

Doing research in a way that does not replicate colonial systems of extraction -- these are anti-feminist but such common practice in the sector

Lack of trained researchers and culturally sensitive approaches

practical feasibility of exposing the existence of violence in these set ups. I think safety and security of all involved, are big threats to the feasibility of conducting research.

Analysis of data collected in how we can ensure that the results are as reliable as possible

Ensuring that consent to participation is truly free and informed and ensuring that participants understand what will and will not come as a result of their engagement.

For me, the biggest challenge is cultural, religious perception still persistant in traditional communities. Therefore, getting survivors to feel safe enough to share experiences

avoiding practitioner/researcher vicarious trauma and burn-out

Data security; encryption of the data collected and minimizing the number of people accessing those data is Utterly important to ensure the safety of those women.

Ensuring the comfort and safety of women while building trust

One of the main challenges is to establish trust between the research team/ data collection team and the participants which will affect the response rates

power and control
One significant challenge in conducting feminist research in humanitarian and development settings is navigating power dynamics and ensuring the inclusion of marginalized voices, as these contexts often involve complex social, cultural, and political factors that can impact the research process and outcomes.

What are the key advocacy issues in improving how we do feminist research on VAWG in development and humanitarian settings?

Question for Titilope, but how do you bring men and boys usefully and actively in these conversations?

Practical research that bridges the gap between research (academia) and implementation. Greater translation of research findings to inform feminist considerations in development/humanitarian interventions.

Engaging the community in an equitable space to communicate and advocate and promote proactive attitudes

If we are going to feminist research on VAW in humanitarian situation should be need to sensitive on it. Communication skill most important. The person will not retrumatize from the interviewer.

I'm not sure if this was already discussed but I'd love to hear about feminist research methodologies that are used to collect and interpret data on SGBV

Funding opportunity and long-term funding commitment for conducting qualitative research on VAW, especially when looking at socio-cultural norms.

Battling dominant theories that may not be looking at VAWG from a truly feminist or intersectional viewpoint

navigating all those competing interests e.g. political cultural and social

In improving feminist research on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in development and humanitarian settings, key advocacy issues include ensuring intersectional perspectives, addressing power dynamics, promoting survivor-centered approaches, engaging local communities, and advocating for ethical and responsible research practices.