

Introduction - statistics

- Salutations
- 80 percent of murders include firearms
- 1998-2002 (Lemard & Hemenway) – 89% of homicide victims were male and 85% were between the ages of 15-44.
- Homicide rate amongst men is 121 per 100,000 versus 12 per 100,000 for females

Introduction

- United Nations considers any homicide rate of 10 per 100,000 citizens or above to be an “epidemic”. Highest homicide rate in the region with 49 per 100,000 in 2021 (Statista, 2022) Five times the Dominican Republic
- Each day we turn on the news, read the paper, we see the horrors of violent crimes in our society, largely carried out by our men, and we rightly view these men as predators. Today I want to look at the formation of your youth that has influenced their violence.

The boy child – first to be deprived

An idea so ingrained...that, the Multi-indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2005:

- boys are half as likely to be breastfed than girls in Jamaica.
- parents are less likely to seek healthcare for boys and
- when they do, they choose cheaper medical facilities than for girls.

Boys- not a developmental priority

- Scarce resources - the boy child sacrificed for the girl's educational development.
- Girls are favored when deciding who goes to school.
- Boys contribute to earnings and help provide for the girls' development, all whilst neglecting their own.
- Their hardship as a means of molding them into hardened men. (Barry Chevannes, 1999)

Consequences of Violent Punishment

- Harsher and more physical punishments for boys(Crawford-Brown, 1999).
- A strong correlation between physical punishment and external behavioral problems (Crawford-Brown, 1999; Smith et al., 2011), McLoyd, Hill and Dodge (2005).
- Corporal punishment has a wide range of negative outcomes
 - suicide ideation, depression, anxiety,
 - higher use of alcohol and illegal drugs, impulsivity,
 - Conduct disorder, aggression, use of violence (Crawford-Brown, 1999; Smith et al., 2011).

Molded in Violence

- Boys neglected Emotionally and Physically (Chevannes, 2001)
- In violent communities, children are raised to survive violence.
- Learn violence through observation, imitation, coercion, persuasion, reward, punishment, instruction
- Children adopt violence in order to survive.

Socialization

practice emotional resilience “toughness”,
expectations of being a “gyalis”,
violence to protect his domain and/or personhood.
Becoming a man is the mastery of these qualities
the failure or rejection of this results in ostracism.
neglects other pillars of masculinity such as loyalty,
honesty, respect, education and responsibility

Conclusion – Radical Resocialization

- We need to acknowledge from our historical, political and social reality and how it has formed our idea of what maketh a man
- We need to create positive roles and expectation for our men in this ever-shifting world.
- Expecting more positive things such as respect, responsibility, competence, protection and education
- Radical Re socialization of our society in what we expect of men

Spoken of men and boys - part of a family and society

Re-socialization - who we are as a people, important values and principles

Start : all of society

African Proverb

- “The abandoned child will burn down his own village for the warmth they were once denied”.

THANK YOU

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