

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

FACTS AND MYTHS

Workshop data collectors research on masculinity
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What is defined as violence?



The **intentional** use of physical force or **power, threatened or actual**, against oneself, another person or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal development or deprivation

(WHO 1996)

What is gender-based violence?

Any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship

- Physical acts: slapping, hitting, kicking, beating
- Psychological abuse: intimidation, calling names, humiliation
- Sexual: forced intercourse and sexual coercion
- Controlling behaviours: isolating, monitoring, restricting access to info and assistance
- Economical abuse: exploitation with use of power, with holding income, etc

Facts multi country study WHO



- Physical and sexual abuse against women is strikingly common
- Violence inflicted by male intimate partner
- **More than 50% of women older than 15 years**
Bangladesh, Ethiopia province, Peru, Samoa, and the United Republic of Tanzania

key facts



- Violence against women is a major public health problem and a violation of human rights.
- Lack of access to education and opportunity, and low social status in communities are linked to violence against women.
- Violence by an intimate partner is one of the most common forms of violence against women.
- A wide range of physical, mental, sexual and reproductive, and maternal health problems can result from violence against women.
- Many women do not seek help or report violence when it occurs.

Myths about violence against women

myths

- ❑ VAW only in poor families
- ❑ Women provoke the violence at home
- ❑ Nobody will ever love you, better stay with your husband

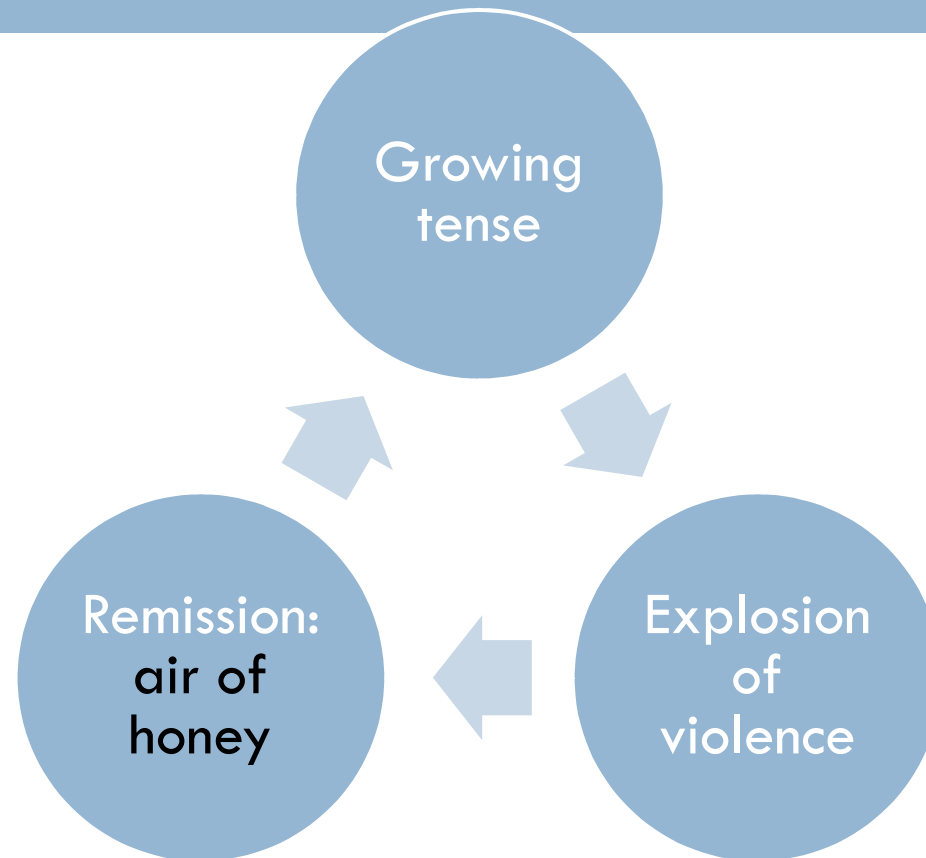
- ❑ Private problem
- ❑ The husband owns your body
- ❑ Beating is loving

reality

- ❑ In all social classes
- ❑ Cycles of violence, religion and cultural beliefs, fears for rejection of family make women stay and endure the violence

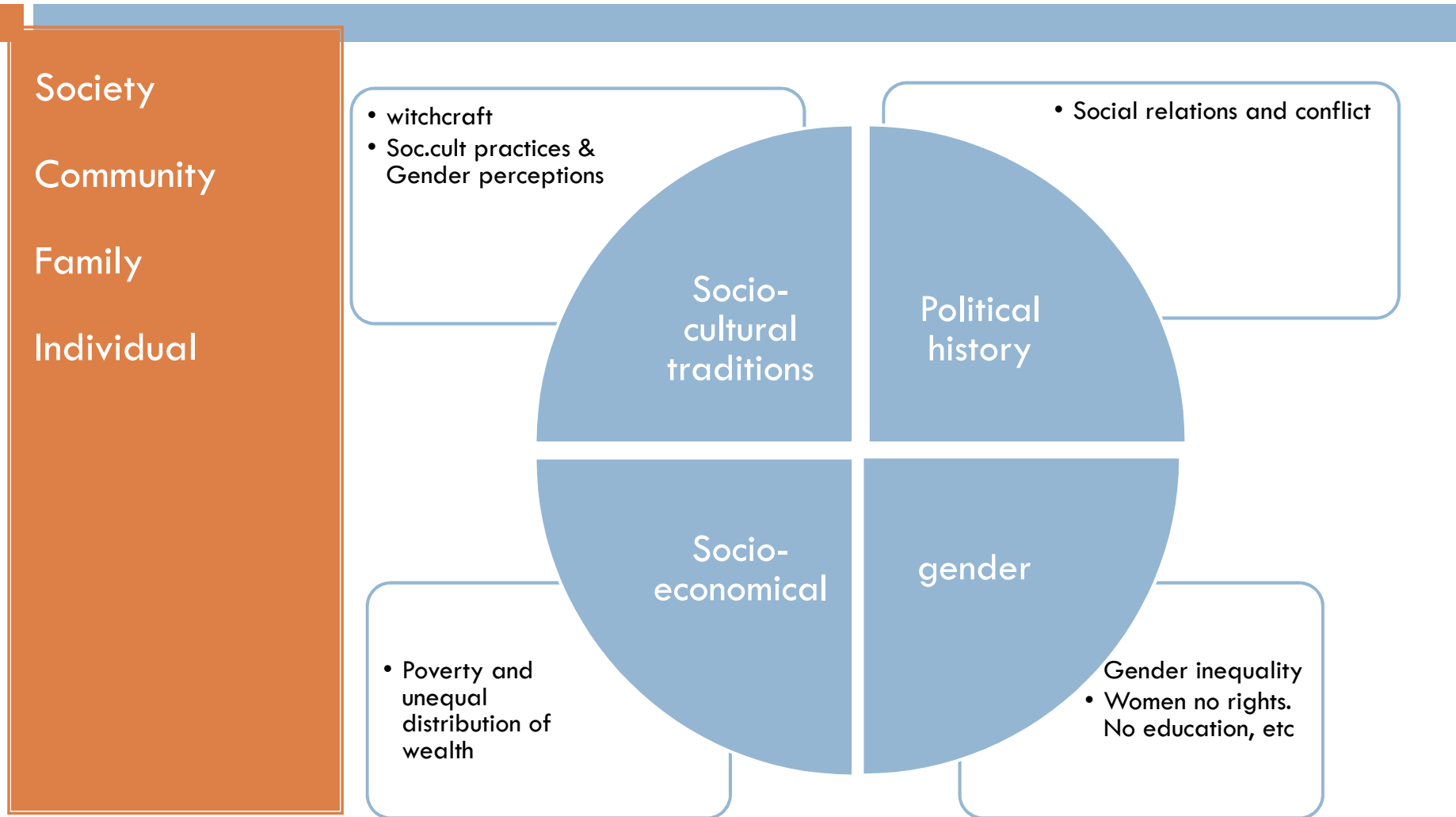
- ❑ VAW is public matter
- ❑ Violence is a way of dominating and control

Dynamics: Cycles of partner violence:



Repetition of cycles: intensifies the violence

Ecology of violence (against women)



Case 1: HIV/Aids and rejection





gender relations



- Sex differences: biological
- Genders: perceptions: masculinity/femininity

Rethinking prevailing perceptions:

- Masculinity perceptions: what is a real man and how does he behave and why?
- Female perceptions: How does a real/good woman behave and why?
- What is role of power between genders and why?