

Using Freire to Develop Social Justice Centered Prevention Efforts

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AGENDA

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Primary Prevention
- ▶ Freire's Theory of Freeing
- ▶ Examples
- ▶ Benefits
- ▶ Conclusions

Primary Prevention

- ▶ There's nothing we can do to stop the horror.
- ▶ There's nothing we can do to stop the horror but we can help victims.
- ▶ There's nothing we can do to stop the horror but we can punish those who commit the crime.
- ▶ We can address those who are at risk to commit the crime and teach them new actions.



Primary Prevention Focus on Before the Crime

BEFORE THE CRIMES

Teach boys to be good men

Send healthy media messages and curricula

Model healthy relationships

Policies to promote healthy relationships

CRIMES

Rape

Sexual Assault

Forced Fondling

Stalking

Dating Violence

Domestic Violence

AFTER THE CRIMES

Advertise the Hotline

Teach self-defense

Teach "How to help a Friend" Workshops

Teach first responder workshops

A NOTE on why this is so hard:

- ▶ Many (most) of us work in a direct service agency—a shelter or first response agency.
- ▶ Many (most) of us work in an agency focused primarily on DV not Sexual Assault.
- ▶ Many (most) of us work with female victims who have been severely harmed by a male perpetrator.



Behavior Change Theories

Most behavior change theories depict a subject–action–consequence structure

Paulo Freire and His Work

Pedagogy of the Oppressed



Freire's Steps

1. Learn about our audience.
2. Learn what they already know.
3. Analyze themes to find out "where they are."
4. Figure out how to meet them there.
5. Allow education to motivate audience to action.

1. Learn about Our Audience

- ▶ Who are they?
- ▶ What do we already know about sexual assault?
- ▶ Who influences them?
- ▶ What do they read and watch?
- ▶ What do they think when they hear a rape talk is coming to their class?



2. Learn what They Already Know

- ▶ Statistics?
 - Probably not
- ▶ Local program information?
 - maybe
- ▶ Media messages?
 - Rape is a bunch of BULL! It doesn't happen—girls just use it to get guys in trouble
 - Men are always falsely accused
 - Men are raped but you never want to talk about that!

3. Analyze Themes to Find out “Where They Are.”

- ▶ Kobe Bryant got screwed!
- ▶ Girls “cry rape” just to get guys in trouble!
- ▶ How come you never talk about men getting raped?
- ▶ Why do girls say “Yes” all along and then at the last minute say, “No?” That’s NOT FAIR!

3. Cont. Analyze Themes to Find out Where They Are:

- ▶ Don’t girls know that blue balls can kill you?
- ▶ If they are both drunk, how come he gets in trouble?
- ▶ Why do some girls think we are all rapists?
- ▶ Why don’t you tell girls that there is a point when I guy just can’t stop?

So . . . Where are they?

- ▶ Often, men see themselves as the victims when it comes to rape prevention education!
- ▶ This is **CONTRARY** to what we know about sexual assault.
- ▶ Young men see the whole rape prevention thing backward!
- ▶ So what do we do?



4. Figure out How to Meet Them Where They Are

- ▶ How do we react when we feel victimized and not heard?
 - We shut down
 - We lash out
- ▶ How do we help victims who come into our offices?
 - We listen to them and hear their pain (even if the reality is different than their perceptions).
 - We understand their frustrations.

Practice “Meeting Them Where They Are”



**How come
you never talk
about men getting
raped?**



**Kobe Bryant
got screwed by a
bitch who just
wanted his money!**



5. Action

- ▶ For Freire, we can't just have Education
- ▶ We must have transformation
- ▶ Motive change in action, not just change in knowledge

Why do girls say
“yes” all along and
then at the last
minute they say,
“NO!” That’s not fair!



Why don't you tell
girls
that there is a point
at which
a guy just
CAN'T stop!



Other Examples?

Benefits of this Strategy

- ▶ It is disarming and removes prejudices
- ▶ It allows for venting
- ▶ It dismantles fears
- ▶ It allows for real education and changed behaviors



Questions?

Comments?

