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Baseline survey with Masseur Boys in Mumbai

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Baseline survey with Masseur Boys in Mumbai

By Jasmir Thakur, Sambhavana Society and Glenn Miles, PhD. Love146
Purpose

• The purpose of this research is to determine risk factors of boys who have been sexually exploited in the masseur trade in Mumbai.

• In addition a follow up survey will be conducted after a year to see if any behaviors have changed based on available soft skill and vocational training.

• In addition it is hoped that this research will inspire and encourage the NGO and research to take this issue seriously.
Population

- Masseur boys (euphemism for sex workers, who are street based sex workers*)
- Often brought to Mumbai by older boys from the same district/village
- Fifty two boys of different ages were invited to be involved in the program
Methodology

- Interview by woman counsellor – half day interviews
- Careful ethical consideration – f/u if boys expressed concerns about things raised.
- Boys invited to participate but had option not to answer anything they did not want to answer.
- Information kept confidential and identifying information removed in reporting.
Age Group?

- 14yrs - 15yrs = 5.8%
- 16yrs - 17yrs = 15.7%
- 18yrs - 19yrs = 34.9%
- 20yrs - 21yrs = 42.6%
- Refuse to Respond = 1.0%
Each colour represents a different village
- Note that 63.5% from one village – implications for Prevention efforts
Educational Level?

- No Schooling = 1.90%
- Up to 4\textsuperscript{th} Standard = 17.32%
- 5\textsuperscript{th} to 7\textsuperscript{th} Standard = 26.92%
- 7\textsuperscript{th} to 10\textsuperscript{th} Standard = 50%
- 11\textsuperscript{th} Standard & Above = 3.86%
Time in Mumbai?

- 36.92%: 1 to 4 months
- 34.66%: 5 to 11 months
- 7.69%: 1 to 2 years
- 5.47%: 3 to 4 years
- 24.99%: 5 to 10 years
Reasons migrate to city?

Reasons migrate to city

- Work/Earn money: 83%
- Fun/Sex: 13.20%
- Visit relatives: 3.80%
Age started working as masseur?

Age started working as masseur

- 12 to 14 yrs: 15.30%
- 15 to 18 yrs: 25.10%
- 19 to 23 yrs: 59.60%
In Mumbai Live with...?

- Family (immediate) = 7.69%
- Friends – work with = 19.23%
- Relative (Distant) = 48.07%
- Peers = 21.15%
- Other (Specify) = 3.86%

Others are someone they know from the village.
Income in the last week?

Income in the last week

- No income: 5.54%
- $4 to $10: 11.55%
- $10 to $21: 11.55%
- $21 to $42: 25.40%
- $42 to $80: 46.50%
Debt?

- Yes = 71.16%
- No = 28.84%
Debt amount to be repaid?

- 32.44%: $210 to $630
- 24.32%: $630 to $1050
- 21.62%: $1050 to $1894
- 18.92%: $1894 to $4208
- 2.70%: Don't know
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>32.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>67.30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If people in your village are not aware of you being masseur, can you tell us the reason?

- My family will lose respect & get a bad name & get ostracised (13)
- I will lose my respect/society will reject me/make fun of me/humiliate me (14)
- My family and friends will get angry & hate me (9)
- My family will hate me/throw me out (9)
- If the parents come to know of this they will call me back (7)
- My parents will feel hurt/die of humiliation (4)
- My sister will not be able to get married (3)
- They will not allow me to go to a neighbors house (2)
- It does not give me any credit & will feel insulted (1)
- I will not get married (1)
Did you ever have to pretend that you were not a masseur?

- Yes = 26.9%
- No = 73.1%
Does being a masseur affect your personal relationships?

- None = 6.7%
- Little = 6.7%
- Very much = 86.7%

86.7% of the respondents felt that they being masseurs affect their personal relationship very much,
6.7% of them felt that it affects a little bit.
6.7% of them felt being masseur does not affect their personal relationship at all.
Does being a masseur affects your intimate personal relationships?
If yes, then please explain in detail why?

Fear of loosing the respect earned by my family for generations (3)

• If my family get to know they may feel cheated. So I avoid meeting anybody from my village. So it strains my relationship when I tell them lies or try to avoid them (3)

• It affects my family & relatives respect. It affects their value in the society (2)

• I myself feel very low about my job. How can I reveal it? If I reveal I will loose my relationship (2)

• The fear of news spreading to my village (2)

• Once my brother came to Bombay and asked me to show my office. He started doubting me. We had a fight & our relationship got strained (1)

• Family will loose respect their credibility & respect which will affect my relationship (1)

• The fear of news of me working like this spreading in the village & in my family & fear of me thrown out of the family (1)

• I had to say too many lies about my job , when my uncle insisted in knowing about it on his many visits (1)
Would you ever recommend a family member to do this job?

- 1.9% said Yes
- 98.1% said No

98.1% said No, one from their families should come to this job. 1.9% of them said Yes
Would you ever recommend a person you know to do this job?

- Yes = 1.9%
- No = 88.7%
- May be = 9.4%

88.7% of the respondent felt that no known person like friends, 9.4% of them felt that may happen. 1.9% of them said that, they should come into this job.
Why did you become a masseur?

- To earn money (21)
- As I did not get any other job (16)
- I needed money to support my family (10)
- He promised me getting another job. But my friend could not help me in getting a job so ended up doing what he is doing (5)
- Relatives are in this job. So I am also in this job (4)
- I never wanted to do this job. But when I saw my friends earning well I decided to join. But it was a shock when I got in to see also (3)
- In the pretext of getting me a job in a hotel my friend forced me into this job (3)
- My friend from the village is in this trade (2)
- convinced my parents to send me with one of our relative who said that he earns a lot in hotel job. But ended up doing this by believing him (2)
- My father was in this trade. He is old & not able to earn much. So I am in this trade. (1)
- Easy money (1)
- I From a hotel job I was chucked out. I had get into this through my friend (1)
- I never could do anything I wanted in village. Seeing my friends money I thought I would earn like him. But sad I got into sex work also (1)
- I failed in school. I met a old friend who went to Bombay some years back who is sending loads of money home. So with his help I got into this job. (1)
- I am lost. I do not know why & how I got in this (1)
Sexual Preference?

- 95.40% Women
- 2.30% Men
- 2.30% Men & women
What was your age of your first sexual encounter?

- Between 10-14 yrs = 46%
- Between 15-17 yrs = 38%
- Between 18-19 yrs = 16%

46% of the respondents had their first sexual experience between the age of 10 – 14 yrs, 38% of them had their first sexual experience between the age of 15 – 17 yrs, 16% of them fall under the age group of 18 -19 yrs.
Have you ever been forced into sex against your wishes?

- Always = 19.2%
- Sometimes = 13.5%
- Never = 67.3%

7.3% of them have never had been forced into sex against their wishes, 19.2% of them have always had been forced in to sex against their wishes. 13.5% of them said that they were forced against their wishes sometimes.
57.7% of the respondents said that they have always been the victim of police. 38.5% of them had face violence sometimes, 3.8% of them faced violence by police very often.
Have you ever faced violence from goons/bullies?

- Sometimes = 19.2%
- Occasionally = 9.6%
- Very often = 1.9%
- Never = 69.2%

69.2% of the respondents have never faced violence from goons, 1.9% of them have always faced violence. While 19.2% of them faced violence from goons, 9.6% of them faced occasionally.
Have you faced violence by community members?

- Sometimes = 68%
- Occasionally = 20%
- Always = 4%
- Very often = 8%

68% of the respondents have faced violence by the community members, 4% of them faced it always. 20% of them faced it occasionally, 8% of them faced very often.
How often have you had sex with more than one client at the same time in past 3 months?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>51.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some times</td>
<td>28.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Often</td>
<td>19.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once in 3 month</td>
<td>0.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

51.61% of them have always had sex with more than one client at a time, 28.60% of them had this experience sometimes. 19.30% of them said they have very often had this experience. 0.49% of them have had this experience once in 3 month.
How often have you had sex with another boy with one client?

- Always = 10.80%
- Some times = 28.60%
- Very often = 60.60%

10.80% of the respondents have had sex along with another boy with one client, 28.60% of them have had this experience sometimes, and 60.60% have had this experience very often.
Have you ever done substance abuse?

- Yes = 72%
- No = 28%

28% of the respondents do not have the habit of using any form of substance. 72% of them have the habit of using one or the other of substance like alcohol, ganja, gutkha or cigarettes.
Have you used alcohol, poppers or ganja during the sexual act?

- Some times = 34.2%
- Occasionally = 13.2%
- Always = 5.3%
- Never = 47.4%

47.4% of the respondents never use any form of substance during sexual act, 5.3% of them always used substance. 34.2% of them use sometimes, 13.2% use very occasionally.
Would you mind sharing about these experiences even though it may be painful? Can you please tell us what happened?

- One asked me to strip & dance forced me to have sex with a woman in front of him. I was taken to a client in the pretext of massage & then was forced to have sex. (3)
- Once when I had high temperature also I was forced to have sex with one of my client. It was the fear of loosing him as he used to give me good food. (1)
- When I was working as a conductor the driver forced me to in to this. But I ran away. (1)
- Once when I had high temperature also I was forced to have sex with one of my client. It was the fear of loosing him as he used to give me good food. (1)
- I had to go my friends client as he was not well. But the client wanted me to do sex with him with out condom and that too with 2 more of his friends. I was in Bombay on a visit. My cousin asked me to come with him to see one of his client. I was asked to massage but suddenly he misbehaved & eventually raped me. But he gave me 1000 Rs. After 15 days of not getting a job I landed up in this mess. (1)
- I was forced by one of my client to have sex with 3 of his friends who were rough with me. Physically I was hurt. (1)
- I was forced to have sex with 2 men at a time. I was too scared. (1)
- I had lost my close relative & had to go to village & in no mood to have sex. But this client insisted & to not to loose him I had to go. (1)
- I was sometimes forced to have sex without condoms. (1)
- I was forced by a client to have unprotected sex. But I screamed a lot & he left me. (1)
- One client forced me to have sex without condom & threatened me to put me in jail. (1)
Given a chance would you take up a new job?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibly</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not interested</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

40.4% of the respondents would definitely take the new job if given a chance, 9.6% of them said that they are not interested. 25% of them responded that they may take the opportunity 25% of them said that they may possibly take the opportunity.
Do you pray daily?

- Yes = 65.4%
- No = 34.6%

65.4% of the respondents pray daily, 34.6% of them do not pray daily.
How often do you visit the temple /mosque/church?

- Once a week = 28.8%
- Once a month = 7.7%
- Occasionally = 63.5%

63.5% of the respondents visit the temple occasionally, 7.7% of them visit once a month. 28.8% of them go once a week.
How do you feel after you have prayed or visited the temple/ mosque/church?

- Relaxed (17)
- Satisfied (7)
- Feels Good (6)
- Don’t feel anything (6)
- Feels relieved (6)
- Peaceful (5)
- Makes me feel more faithful (3)
- Happy (3)
- Feel very confident after I pray (2)
What is the meaning of word “Respect” for you?

- Respect is everything (16)
- Money is respect (10)
- Respect is something given & taken (8)
- Respect means self respect (5)
- Credibility is respect (5)
- Respect is something given to parents (5)
- If you are good at what you do gives you respect (4)
- If I get respect from anybody I feel very happy (3)
- I feel like a complete man (2)
- If I get respect anybody feel very proud (1)
- Makes me feel happy to think of this word, so it must be the best feeling (1)
- It is close to my heart (1)
- One should feel good about oneself (1)
- It is subjective. According to me it depends on the work you do (1)
- Behavior towards other person will earn respect to me (2)
- If I get a chance to meet great people that is when I would think that I am a respectful person (1)
- More than anything in the world (1)
- Love is respect (1)
- Good nature, virtue, job gets respect (1)
- It is more than myself (1)
How much respect do you have as a masseur on the scale of 1 to 10?

- Between 1 & 3 = 78.4%
- Between 4 & 5 = 15.7%
- Between 6 & 10 = 5.9%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have to get into some better job which will pay well.</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be Back with my family</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Want to set up a beauty parlor</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To do a respectful job which the society says that it is respectful</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t have to earn it as I believe I get respect but I can get more respect</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To set up a ready made shop I have to save lot of money either through this job or by looking for another respectful job</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doing some thing different than this job</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For that I have to work hard. I am aware of that.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By studying</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By working in an office atmosphere</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Looking for a better job will improve my self respect which allow me to think of a new job (1)

• Social service. I know I cant do monetarily but physically I can do a lot which will give lot of respect (1)

• By doing well in my work of beautician (1)

• Have to earn a lot of money to get respect (1)

• Leave this job. Want to become a care taker for which I have to get trained (1)

• Though I feel I am good person my job makes me feel depressed. So to improve self respect I have to get a different job (1)

• What can I do? Why don’t you guide me? Give me some lessons (4)

• Sick of doing only massage (1)

• Improve my self respect (1)
Where do you see yourself in two years time?

- In a good respectable job in Mumbai (6)
- See myself in my village with a family of my own. (4)
- I would like to own a massage clinic (3)
- Want to become a driver (3)
- Earn lot of money (2)
- Not having any idea. I have to think (2)
- I was below the ground level. Now I am at least earning & in the ground level. But I want to go to the sky level in future (1)
- Finishing my school at least in the elementary level (1)
- To do an office peon job at least (1)
• Get married & have children (1)

• I want my father to retire & take the family responsibility (1)

• I have to improve my self respect which will allow me to plan properly for my better future (1)

• 1st plan of action is to leave Bombay. Want to set up a career of dancer (1)

• I want to save money & show my father which I am not able to (1)

• Repay the family loan (1)

• Want to set up a mobile shop in my village (1)

• Want to spend time with my sisters & brother (1)

• Want to be in the village with my mother whom I adore. I want to make her happy & proud (1)

• To set up a business of my own (1)
...and how do you plan to reach that point?

- I have to get a better job. For that I have to learn a new skill. (5)

- I want to set up my own massage clinic. For that I have to learn the art. I have to work with somebody to understand the work better (4)

- I have to study at least from an open university though I have to forego my sleep (3)

- Want to become a driver. I have to learn driving. That will be my plan of action (3)

- I have learnt all the skills to open a beauty saloon. I can earn some more intricacies of the job (2)

- Have to earn in a different way. Earn a lot to set up a shop. (2)

- Want to join my fathers farming (2)

- May be I should undergo training in some job which will interest me for which I have to know what are the interests I have (2)
• I am trying to earn to buy 2 more machines to join my father.

• I have to go in the ladder slowly but steadily. I will have to seek help of people like you.

• I have to earn a lot more to set up a salon for which I have to have more clients.

• I want to become a mechanic. I have to work hard to understand the job.

• I have to earn in a different way. For that I have to identify my talents & find a suitable job accordingly.

• I will do ah money to go back to anything and earn enough to go back to village.

• Would like to go to Delhi & work in a factory so that I can be in touch with my parents. Have to work for it.

• I have to learn to say no to temptation to get quick money through this dirty job.

• I have to mentally prepare myself.

• I have to learn dancing & open a dance school.
Conclusions

- Acknowledgement of this communities existence!
- Boys are in hazardous and consistently violent situation.
- Boys are earner for family but cannot discuss sex & sexuality, so double stigma.
- Boys are exposed to multiple partners increasing risk of HIV and trauma
Conclusions (cont.)

- Legal situation is ambiguous

- More and more younger boys are being brought into prostitution due to higher earning potential and little understanding the ramifications of prostitution on psycho-social and sexual health

- Religion may play a significant part in building up self esteem and psycho-social healing
Recommendations

• More funding needed to develop a model program at source and destination based on ‘health care’, poverty alleviation, savings and income generation.

• NGO communities who primarily work with girls need educating about the specific needs of boys and myths surrounding abuse and prostitution of boys – cultural understandings in itself needs researching.
Recommendations (cont.)

• Research needed on demand and supply of boys – who are clients and how do they access boys?

• Government and NGOs need to recognize the existence of such a population and developing programs at source and destination for income generation so as to reduce migration

• Connect this population (which has so far been neglected) to an HIV program primarily for MSM community.