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

- 36.92% of respondents have been in Mumbai for 3 to 4 years.
- 34.66% have been there for 1 to 2 years.
- 24.99% have been there for 5 to 11 months.
- 7.69% have been there for 1 to 4 months.
- 5.47% have been there for 5 to 10 years.
Reasons migrate to city?

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

**Pie Chart:**

- **12 to 14 yrs:** 25.10%
- **15 to 18 yrs:** 59.60%
- **19 to 23 yrs:** 15.30%
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 some one they know from the village
Income in the last week?

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

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

Debt amount to be repaid

- 32.44%
- 24.32%
- 18.92%
- 21.62%
- 2.70%

Categories:
- $210 to $630
- $630 to $1050
- $1050 to $1894
- $1894 to $4208
- Don't know
Any Savings?

- Yes = 32.70%
- No = 67.30%
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fear of loosing the respect earned by my family for generations (3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 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)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• It affects my family &amp; relatives respect. It affects their value in the society (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• I myself feel very low about my job. How can I reveal it? If I reveal I will loose my relationship (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The fear of news spreading to my village (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Once my brother came to Bombay and asked me to show my office. He started doubting me. We had a fight &amp; our relationship got strained (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Family will loose respect their credibility &amp; respect which will affect my relationship (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The fear of news of me working like this spreading in the village &amp; in my family &amp; fear of me thrown out of the family (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• I had to say too many lies about my job, when my uncle insisted in knowing about it on his many visits (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 into sex 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 relatives 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 got into this through my friend (1)
- I never could do anything I wanted in village. Seeing my friends money I thought I could 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?

Sexual Preference

2.30%  2.30%

95.40%

- Men
- Women
- 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.
Have you ever faced violence by police?

- Always = 57.7%
- Sometimes = 38.5%
- Very often = 3.8%

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 faced 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?

- Always = 51.61%
- Some times = 28.60%
- Very Often = 19.30%
- Once in 3 month = 0.49%
- Never = 0.00%

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, 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 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 losing him as he used to give me good food (1)

• When I was working as a conductor the driver forced me to into 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 losing 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 without 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 clients. 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 clients 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)
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, and 28.8% of them go once a week.
How do you feel after you have prayed or visited the temple/ mosque/church?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feeling</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relaxed</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfied</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feels Good</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t feel anything</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feels relieved</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peaceful</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makes me feel more faithful</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel very confident after I pray</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is the meaning of word “Respect” for you?

- Respect is everything (10)
- Money is respect (10)
- Respect is something given & taken (8)
- Respect means self respect (5)
- Credibility is respect (8)
- 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%
What can you do to increase that respect?

- Have to get into some better job which will pay well. (26)
- Be Back with my family (11)
- Want to set up a beauty parlor (4)
- To do a respectful job which the society says that it is respectful (2)
- I don’t have to earn it as I believe I get respect but I can get more respect (2)
- To set up a ready made shop I have to save lot of money either through this job or by looking for another respectable job (2)
- Doing some thing different than this job (2)
- For that I have to work hard. I am aware of that. (1)
- By studying (1)
- By working in an office atmosphere (1)
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 can't 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 caretaker 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 father's 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 (1)
• I have to go in the ladder slowly but steadily. I will have to seek help of people like you. (1)

• I have to earn a lot more to set up a salon for which I have to have more clients (1)
• I want to become a mechanic. I have to work hard to understand the job. (1)
• have to earn in a different way. For that I have to identify my talents & find a suitable job accordingly (1)
• I will do ah money to go back to anything and earn enough to go back to village (1)
• 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 (1)
• I have to learn to say no to temptation to get quick money through this dirty job(1)
• I have to mentally prepare myself (1)

I have to learn dancing & open a dance school (1)
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.