

FORMATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF A SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION INTERVENTION FOR SOUTH AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Implementing organisations

South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)

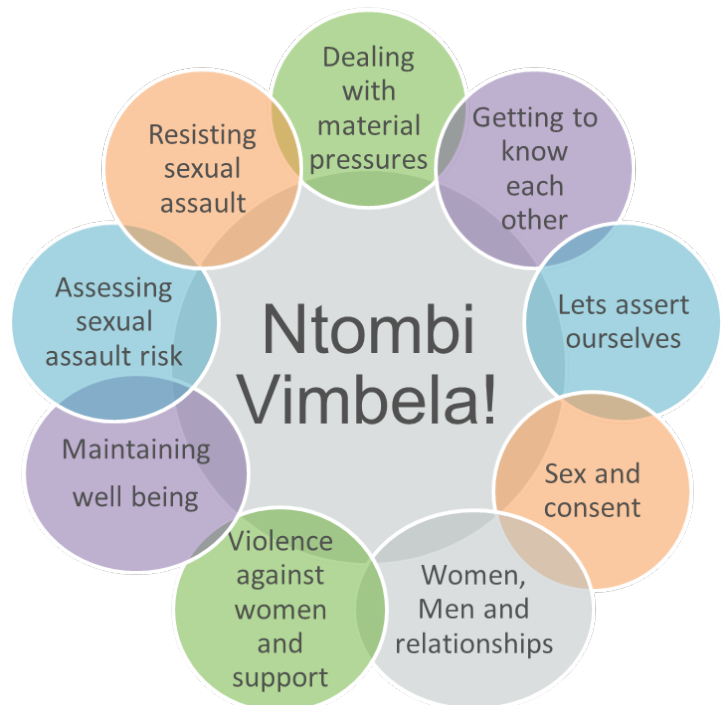
Geographical Location

Six Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) colleges and two universities spread across five of nine provinces of South Africa.

Summary of research

Comprehensive literature reviews conducted to inform the development of the South African national policy framework to prevent and respond to sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) in the higher education sector found that there is a lack of rigorously tested and evaluated campus-based interventions in the country. Rigorously tested evidence-informed, campus-based interventions that combine sexuality, gender transformation and self-defense components currently do not exist in South Africa. Therefore, research was needed to understand the prevalence and context in which SGBV occurs on South African Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and to inform the development of primary prevention interventions which address its underlying drivers among young women.

To fill this critical gap in knowledge and practice, the SAMRC Gender and Health Unit conducted formative research, developed and piloted Ntombi Vimbela intervention in selected campuses. Ntombi Vimbela is a sexual violence risk reduction and resistance manualized intervention for young women ages 18-30 in institutions of higher learning. Ntombi Vimbela intervention was developed informed by the formative research and through adaptation of effective evidence-based interventions including Steppingstones, SASA! and EAAA. Ntombi Vimbela! is a 35-hour intervention which aims to build young women's confidence, awareness and resilience to reduce sexual assault risk through a series of 10 sessions. Process evaluation of the piloting phase indicates promise. Rigorous scientific evaluation will be conducted in the future to assess its effectiveness.



Dissemination activities

Preliminary findings from the formative research phase were presented at the SVRI 2019 forum. Project facilitators also demonstrated self defence tactics at a well-attended lunchtime side event.

Timeframes

Research, intervention development and pilot was conducted from 2018 to 2019. In 2020, project activities include writing up outputs from the different phases of the project and finalising the manual.



Funders

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