LIFE CYCLE OF BOYS & MEN IN GENDER EQUALITY

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LIFE CYCLE OF BOYS & MEN IN GENDER EQUALITY

See: Boys for Change by Ravi Karkara
### Where Is the Focus on Working with Boys in Gender Equality?

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A Life cycle approach to working with boys and men on gender equality - a reminder that we need to work with boys on gender equality and inclusion from the very onset on their lives - Early Years.

We need to progressively work with boys in all stages of their development as they reach adulthood and join other men to become partners in gender equality.

It is important to redefine the hegemony of masculinities to become GENDER JUST and INCLUSIVE.
REFLECTIONS ON PARTICIPATION OF BOYS IN GENDER EQUALITY.....

Boys as Partners in Gender Equality in HOMES

“It is difficult to speak about these things at home. My sisters make fun of me when I say I will help in the kitchen. Even my mother laughs at me.”- A 10 year old boy in a school in Gorakhpur

- Inform, empower and built capacity of boys on gender equality and inclusion starting early years throughout their development continuum using participatory techniques. Educate them on nurturing and caring as key values of boyhood.

- Integrate gender equality in parenting education for both mothers and fathers. Fatherhood education must continue throughout the child development starting in early years.
Boys as Partners in Gender Equality in SCHOOLS

“I know we are doing a wonderful job. We have become so popular in the community due to what we do but we need to do more.” - 17 year-old boy from one of the boys for gender equality groups in Addis Ababa.

- Educate boys on gender equality and social inclusion e.g. integrating stories of boys and men action in support of gender equality in the curriculum

- Encourage boys to speak out and take action against gender based violence in schools in their student councils. Join hands with girls in creating an inclusive learning environment.
Boys as Partners in Gender Equality in COMMUNITIES

“Because we are boys we are expected to protect our family honour. This involves us in fighting. But we don’t like it.” - Iqbal, 8 year-old boy, Pakistan

- Start with mobilising and inspiring your sons and young boys that you meet at a regular basis to take actions against gender discrimination. At the same time we ourselves need to revise our own attitudes, beliefs and practices relating to gender,

- Reaffirm men/boys that already behave the way in which we want more men/boys to behave, and engage them in support to programmes addressing violence and promotion of gender equality. These men/boys can also become good role models for other men and boys. This includes working with community, religious and corporate leaders in gender equality.
Reflections on Participation of Boys in Gender Equality....

Boys as Partners in Gender Equality in MEDIA

- Encourage boy’s media groups to promote media campaign by boys on gender equality in society e.g. short films on boy’s action to promote gender justice, street theatre by boys on girl’s education, animation films on boys’ action to end gender based violence, etc.

- Promote caring and nurturing a key masculine trait in family, school and community settings through effective use of media in films, advertisement, animation, web-campaigns, drama and soap-operas. Enable boys to recognise nurturing and caring a fundamental part of masculine behaviour that promotes gender equality.
REFLECTIONS ON PARTICIPATION OF BOYS IN GENDER EQUALITY....

Boys Partners in Gender Equality using PROGRESSIVE TECHNOLOGY

- Encourage social networking amongst boys to create campaign including use of SMS urging boys to act and participate in gender equality

- Encourage boys and youth to use twitter and blogs to generate awareness on what boys and men can do to promote gender equality and inclusion