Young Men’s Masculine Learning in Rural Kitui, Kenya: A Qualitative Study of Catholic Influences

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Presenter Disclosure
Alexaner Plum
1.) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

Background
• 4th largest HIV epidemic —1.1 million orphans
• Nyumbani Village —1,000 children +100 seniors
—PEPFAR, Catholic FBO
Research Question

- What are the late adolescence health challenges facing young men in Nyumbani Village vis-à-vis masculine learning and Catholic teaching?

Methods

- Young men n=29 (ages 16-20)
  - NV residents 4+ years
- In-depth, face-to-face interviews
  - Informed consent
  - Snowball sampling
- Modified grounded theory

Findings

- Catholic Church teaches boys masculine traits in line with Christian principles e.g. Loving, Caring, Disciplined
- Shift: Boys -> Church, e.g. Abstemious
- Shift: Men -> Church, e.g. Educated
- Model masculine traits about achieving goals e.g. Achieves life goals
  - e.g. Career success
  - e.g. Shrewd employee
  - e.g. Married
  - e.g. Practices sex
  - e.g. Career success
Findings

**Elder Boys**
Teach boys traits related to sexual relationships and earning money:
- Marital
- Practically
- Shrewd employee

Findings

**Model masc. traits**
- Modeling traits about achieving goals
  - Achieves life goals

Findings

**Catholic Church**
Teach boys masculine traits in line with Christian principles:
- Loving
- Caring
- Disciplined
Findings

Catholic Church
- teaches boys masculine traits in line with Christian principles
  - e.g. Loving
  - Caring
  - Disciplined

- model masculine traits about achieving goals
  - e.g. Achieves life goals

- teach boys traits related to sexual relationships and earning money
  - e.g. Married
  - Practices sex
  - Shrewd employee
  - e.g. Career success

Shift: Boys -> Church, e.g. Abstemious
Shift: Men -> Church, e.g. Educated

Discussion
- Role of education
  - "Makes the man"
  - Deterrent vs stressor
- Shame of sexuality
- Role of Catholic Church

Limitations
- Cultural competence
- English language
- Taboo
  - Contraception
  - SGM identity
  - HIV status
Future Directions

- NV Leavers’ Health
- Catholic Church Leadership
  - Youth-led education
  - National, regional conferences

Citations

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