

Case-Based Lessons on Violence Against Women and Girls

Instructor's Note

2017

Overview

These three short cases illustrate the critical role for leadership through an examination of how factors within a society influence women's health, in particular gender-based violence, at both the societal and individual levels. Learners may analyze the situations described by considering the circumstances that placed each protagonist in vulnerable positions; examining the commonalities and differences of these situations in an effort to understand the circumstances that affect women's well-being; and exploring the connections between collective outrage, reactive action, and leadership. These three cases were initially written for and presented during a session on the nature of violence against women at Leadership for Women's Health: A Workshop in 2013. Each case may also be used independently.

A Note to the Teacher

The materials in this teaching pack and case study address difficult topics (e.g., depictions of violence or abuse, sexual assault, eating-disordered behavior, hate speech, or discriminatory attitudes) that may be potentially triggering to your students. For suggestions on how to effectively teach sensitive topics in the classroom, access the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning's "[Equitable & Inclusive Teaching](#)" resources, as well as the University of Michigan Center for Research on Learning and Teaching's "[Guidelines for Discussing Difficult or High-Stakes Topics](#)."

The teaching pack is composed of this Instructor's Note and the following companion materials:

Teaching Materials

- Case Study 1: "[India's Daughter: The Rape that Galvanized a Nation](#)"
- Case Study 2: "[Malala Yousafzai: A Young Female Activist](#)"
- Case Study 3: "[Steubenville, Ohio: A Community's Reckoning of Responsibility](#)"
- Discussion Guide 1: "India's Daughter: The Rape that Galvanized a Nation"
- Discussion Guide 2: "Malala Yousafzai: A Young Female Activist"
- Discussion Guide 3: "Steubenville, Ohio: A Community's Reckoning of Responsibility"

Additional Resources

- Annotated Bibliography: Gender, Conflict, and Education
- Glossary: Violence Against Women and Girls

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Learner Level

- High School, College, Graduate/Professional

Pedagogical Approach: Case Study Method

A case offers an informational narrative describing a real-life situation, with the goal of stimulating classroom discussion. This creates an active learning opportunity, where students can apply critical thinking skills and share professional experience to analyze complex, interdisciplinary scenarios. For students to maximize their learning from the case, they must immerse themselves in a case prior to class, craft their own opinion about the material, and participate actively in class discussion. During the class discussion, the instructor plays the role of the moderator, facilitating the conversation so that it illuminates different aspects of the problem described. Alternatively, instructors might divide the class into small groups, with each group discussing among themselves the questions included in each discussion guide. Each group might then represent their group's perspective in a class-wide discussion of the whole.

Learning Objectives

This lesson will enable students to:

1. Describe how sexual violence is a public health issue.
2. Understand the circumstances that affect women's well-being, by examining complex commonalities and differences that characterize or contribute to gender-based violence across cultures.
3. Analyze the social, political, and cultural contexts that affect women's health and well-being.