

LINEA WORKSHOP

Research on Social Norms and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Rio de Janeiro, 16th of September 2017.

Introduction

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Research design - Part I

Consecutive exploratory design in **3 favelas in the city of Rio de Janeiro:**

Phase 1: QUALITATIVE PART

- Indepth interviews (N 30)
- Focus groups (N 10)

Phase 2: QUANTITATIVE PART

- Elaboration of Scale (SEN)
- Structured Questionnaire Application

Research Design - Qualitative Phase

- Conducted between June and September 2017
- 10 focus groups
- 30 individual interviews
- Comunidades: Maré (North Zone), Rocinha (South Zone) and Cidade de Deus (West Zone)

Research design

Phase 1: Qualitative phase

- Indepth interviews (N 30)

Age groups

Age group 1) 15-17 (3 Men/3 Women)

Age group 2) 18-24 (3 Men/3 Women)

Age group 3) 25- 34 (3 Men/3 Women)

Age group 4) 35-44 (3 Men/3 Women)

Age group 5) 45-65 (3 Men/3 Women)

Research Design - Qualitative Phase

Focus Groups (N 10)

10 groups of up to 12 people and of at least 8 people

Age groups

Age group 1) 15-17 (1 group of men /1 group of women)

Age group 2) 18-24 (1 group of men /1 group of women)

Age group 3) 25- 34 (1 group of men /1 group of women)

Age group 4) 35-44 (1 group of men /1 group of women)

Age group 5) 45-65 (1 group of men /1 group of women)

Hypothesis

The hypothesis of the present research is that social norms associated with structural inequalities have contributed decisively to the perpetration of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

Theoretical Perspective - Part I

What are we calling Social Norms?

A norm is a social construction. It exists as a collectively shared belief about what others do (what is typical) and what is expected of what others do within the group (which is appropriate). Social norms are generally maintained by social approval and / or disapproval.

Theoretical Perspective - Part II

Important: We do not rule out the influence of structural factors such as class, race, geographical location, but we understand that it is necessary to understand how norms mediate, shape and reinforce behaviours and opinions that protect or increase the vulnerability of children and adolescents.

Social norms act by mediating structural processes and macrosocial processes.

General questions that will guide the research

1. Which norms - in particular which gender norms enforce and justify / promote SECA?
2. Which norms exist in the three favelas that protect children and adolescents from SECA?
3. More broadly, what are the patterns of SECA in relation to gender, social exclusion, power dynamics, race and other characteristics in the three favelas? For example, who does it? Where? How?

Map of Rio and the 3 sites



Instruments

QUALITATIVE PART

- Focus group script
 - + Free and informed consent form

- Indepth interview script
 - + Free and informed consent form

Script: Marcelo in his 40s and Monique in her teens

Preliminary findings: Motivations of adult men

1. Status via affirmation of virility, “a stallion because he gets with *novinhas*”

“[...] I think its really because of status, to say, ah I got with a young girl and that” (Young man, resident from Maré, 17 years).

“They feel more powerful, [they say] ah I get several” (Young women, resident from Maré, 22 years).

“[...] everyone tries it on, let`s say that everyone tries it on, but I don`t try it on, they will say that this guy is a faggot, man, this guy likes guys, hey guys, if he goes to take a piss, don`t go to the bathroom with him, he`s a faggot, he doesn`t like women” (Adult male, resident of Cidade de Deus, 32 years old)

Preliminary findings: Motivations of adult men - continued

2. Control

“I think that he wants to take advantage because when she is younger, like, she doesn’t have so much maturity, he is twenty years old and she is sixteen, what he has already seen, she is still yet to see...”
(man, 17 years old, Maré)

3. Sex

“speaking in a frank way, I believe that as the girl is younger, they imagine like, I don’t like to say this...but they go out [with them] for something sexual” (woman, 17 years old, Maré)

4. Loneliness

“...a man on his own, you know? There are many, many, many old men like this...let’s say he lost, or doesn’t have a woman, that his children abandoned him, things like this, lives alone at home...”

 Promundo
(young woman, 17 years old, Maré)

Preliminary findings: Motivations of young women and girls

1. Financial Stability / problems at home / lack of opportunity

“...she might need a sanitary pad, creme, maybe a shampoo or conditioner [...] She needs more things than a man [...] she`ll join the things she needs with other things she wants” (Young man, resident from Cidade de Deus, 19 years).

“...not a single girl from here would do this for pleasure, for sure they would have some difficulty...a lack of opportunity...” (Young woman, 17 years old, resident in Maré)

Preliminary findings: Motivations of young women and girls - continued

2. Drug traffickers and Status

[Interviewer: I`d like to know a little more about these men who are interested in these girls, who are these guys who are normally interested in these girls?]

“The *bandido*, do you want that I repeat that? [...] They themselves have a preference for these guys, they want to show that they got with the best guy” (Woman, 53 years, resident from Maré)

Preliminary findings: Motivations of young women - continued

3. Self-affirmation (they provoke men by using certain clothing)

“The majority think that ah I`m powerful, but it`is not to create a problem, but it`s like this [...] even if the guy is there in the wrong way, he`s trying it on, but he calls her beautiful, pretty, it`s a compliment right?” (young man, resident from Cidade de Deus, 19 years).

“Because 16, 17 is still young, but ther are some who *dá cantadas*, and the girls accept, its normal, it is community, there is not a way to say no, because some say no, but others accept, it`s normal, really normal, it`s like this [...] she`ll go walking in short shorts showing her bum or showing something else, she is wanting to call attention [...] She calls attention because if she didn`t wear these clothes that call attention, noone would hit on her” (adult man, resident from Cidade de Deus, 32 years).

Preliminary Findings: Motivations of young women

4. They prefer older men for their maturity and financial stability

“I think that, because of the type, like, older, worker, has a car, this kind of thing, makes the younger girls more interested aswell [...] it draws a lot of attention, motorbike, and a motorbike here in the community, even more” (young man, resident from Cidade de Deus, 19 years).

“if she says that the guy says that he will give her all today, today you will have everything, she goes, because she has never had this, never had that, a person goes, they go because they know that the guy will spend on her, you get it? There will be someone else to spend on her, they will spend money” (adult man, resident from Cidade de Deus, 32 years)

Preliminary findings: Risks

For men:

1. Being exploited by girls

“[...] he is going to lose his money, he`s going to be stupid and will spend all his money, she will leave with all his money, it`s always like that” (Adult man, resident from Cidade de Deus, 32 years)

Preliminary findings: Risks

For the girls:

1. GBV

“if he was a normal guy, he will keep on at her, but won’t do anything...but if he is involved [in drug trafficking], it is more complicated...it could end in a tragedy...” (Young woman, 17 years old, Maré).

1. STIs/STDs

2. Pregnancy

3. Social stigma and social judgement

“whore, [that’s what] they always call this kind of thing...they always speak about the woman who does something, she doesn’t even need to do anything, she does’nt need to have sex in exchange for something, but if the girl is using her body in a way she wants, they will call her a whore anyway” (Young woman, 17 years old, Maré).

Other key points:

- Role of drug trafficking
- Men in their twenties rather than men significantly older
- Respondents didn't agree that it was okay, but said that it was common
- Not socially “accepted” but it is normalised

Some questions for further exploration:

- Differences between favelas (presence of organised civil society as an important variable)
- Controversies between practice and discourse about acceptance of transactional sex

“It`s not normal. But we think it is normal for an older man to be with a younger girl” (Woman, resident from Maré, 35-44 years)

“But, who will take sides? They will watch, they will criticise others, they will say its her life, her choice, others will criticise, but what can they do if they have a mother or father? So it becomes like this, kind of normalized” (Woman, resident from Maré, 53 years)

“Yeah, it ended up becoming common, I do not think it`s common, but it ended up becoming common” (Man, resident from Maré, 17

Some questions

- Responsibility of the girls (a question of agency); “she is too young to have sex, but she knows what she is doing, she is already naughty”:

“Let`s suppose, if she liked, liked it and wanted to stay with the guy, that it was already something for her [...] something hers, because each one of us know our choices” (Young man, resident from Cidade de Deus, 18 years).

- Different perceptions between young people and adults and between men and women