

Social Action Report #1
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Global: Sexual Violence Research Initiative

Write a paragraph of the mission of the organization. What are the organization's goals? What are their values? What do they do? (5 points) (Make sure you indicate which agency it is and which resource/webinar you reviewed/watched/listened to and please provide a URL)

The [Sexual Violence Research Initiative](#) (SVRI) is a global organization with a mission in researching active solutions for ending gender-based violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC). Their four main goals are to build evidence for blatant acts of discrimination against women and children (especially in particularly low-income communities); strengthen capacity for better protection and research policies; promote partnerships to spread awareness of VAW and VAC, and lastly, to influence change through education and dedication towards proper, quality research. At the heart of their research and advocacy, the SVRI is committed towards finding diverse, ethical, innovative, and collaborative leaders that are dedicated towards promoting women's and children's rights, under a feminist and woman-centered philosophy. Their research and education process also is funded/promoted by their numerous collaborations, to which include, but are not limited to: the Equality Insights Lab, the Equality Institute, the USAID, the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit Glasgow, the MRC/UVRI Uganda Research Unit in AIDS, etc.

Pick a 1) review an archived webinar, 2) a live virtual event, 3) listen to a podcast episode (if they have one) or 4) read a resource document or report (any type of written document regarding the organization's research/advocacy, etc) and write 2 or three sentences about what it was about (5 points)

The webinar I watched was called "[Learning together - A guide for feminist practice in VAWG research collaborations.](#)" SVRI'S feminist-based research collaborations are done to "generate learning, build credibility, prompt action, and maximize impact of programs and policies." The researchers in the video have noticed that there typically tends to be a few challenges in traditional research, which involve an environment that promotes a "one size-fits all solutions" approach and challenges with visibility and context within local communities. SVRI's goal is to steer away from traditional methods and offer solutions to being a good collaborative partner. Some of their solutions were having the technical experience needed for research; having similar values align between the collaborating organizations; upholding strong reputations/relationships in order to successfully collaborate and achieve their goals; and access to funding to make research possible.

Relate what you learned from the webinar, event, podcast, or resource document or report from #2 back to course material. Make 3 separate connections. (1 paragraph) (5 points)

On the surface, the webinar reminded me of scientific perspectives and paradigm shifts. As stated in the video, the SVRI's goal for research and collaborating is to enable partners to challenge and subvert traditional knowledge hierarchies (mainstream perspectives), and employ marginal perspectives that directly relate to paradigm shifts because they offer new perspectives based on new, but abundant sets of diverse data. Considering the SVRI is a global organization, it is important to understand contexts and how VAW and VAC differ from culture to culture.

Under the surface, the SVRI and the webinar reminds me of what I learned about "Ideology" from the "Four I's of Oppression;" ideologies are the heart of oppressive behavior as they are deeply held beliefs that propose a superior and inferior group, in this case, the women and children are considered lesser due to societal sexism, which allows abuse to occur.

Lastly, VAW and VAC relate to the iceberg metaphor because they can be their own iceberg considering violence against these groups is not just overt such as physical violence but violence can also be covert such as not allowing women to choose who they date.

Indicate what you thought about the webinar/podcast/resource document. Please tell me what you liked, what you think could be improved, and provide some suggestions on how they could have improved it. Your suggestions could be based on the content itself, delivery or presentation. (1 paragraph) (5 points)

I found the webinar's importance on research to be interesting, but rather redundant. The hosts kept emphasizing that they wanted to move away from traditional research and embrace diverse, feminist perspectives, but failed to provide the case studies they mentioned they would (which sounds like a time issue). Being provided actual examples of the work they have done, and how their approach results better from traditional ones, would have strengthened their argument for better collaboration practices. Ultimately, I did find the webinar informative, but I felt as though they kept repeating their goals, but in different ways. I think this webinar would have benefitted from being broken into a series so it would be more concise and not feel as though it were "dragging".