

# **Rethinking Masculinity: Educating Young Men to Reduce the Demand Side of Trafficking**

**Presented by: JEAN ENRIQUEZ**  
Deputy Executive Director

**Coalition Against Trafficking in  
Women – Asia Pacific (CATW-AP)**

## Goal of the Project

**To change the sexual attitudes and practices of young men who purchase or are potential buyers of women in prostitution, through popular education.**

## Specific Objectives

- To critique gender roles and facilitate self-reflection on the male construction of sexuality as it relates to the male demand for prostitution, that promotes trafficking
- To deepen young men's understanding of the harm of trafficking and prostitution to the women, to themselves and to society
- To provide young men with a critical understanding of violence against women, particularly prostitution, towards a change of attitude and treatment to women.

# Main Strategy: Education of Young Men



# Phase I: Focused Group Discussions

- 4 Schools
- 2 Communities
- Transport union



- What do you think men get out of prostitution?
  - Sexual satisfaction – “*pangtanggap ng init ng katawan*” (to let go of body heat)
  - More excitement, something new
  - Satisfaction of the male sex drive
  - Satisfaction of curiosity
  - Hassle-free sex because it’s just a transaction
  - Less complication, commitment, expenses than with a girlfriend
  - Psychological satisfaction
  - “*pampalipas oras*” (to while away time)
  - To prove their masculinity - “*tunay na lalaki*” (concept of “real men”)

## FGD Results

- **What might make a man/boy engage in prostitution sex for the first time?**
  - Peer group camaraderie or pressure
  - Older male relatives treating him to prostitution establishments to “initiate”
  - Pornographic pictures seen in tabloids and magazines
  - Money: “If you have money you have access to almost everything especially women”

## FGD Results

- **How might prostitution sex be different from sex with a girlfriend or wife?**
  - The customer can demand anything since he is paying
  - More exciting because she is a new girl- variety
  - No relationship so no hassle
  - Nice sex with girlfriend vs. “abnormal” sex with prostitute (who like it, vs. girlfriends who may object to certain practices)
  - Sex with a girlfriend is done with love. Sex with prostitute is not that pleasurable because she’s just doing it in exchange for the money.
  - “I respect my girlfriend but I don’t respect the prostitute”
  - *sex for pleasure lang ang prostitute*

## FGD Results

- **How do you think a man might feel after having prostitution sex?**
  - **Bad feelings after prostitution sex (want to kick the girl or to quickly get away) vs. nice feeling after sex with girlfriend**
  - **Raised self-esteem (ego)**
  - **Want to do it again**
  - **Nervous (about consequences)**
  - **“ Whenever I see a pretty prostitute I feel angry because they should have gone to Japan and married a Japanese”**
  - **Regrets waste of money that could have gone to family needs**

## FGD Results

- What are some of the comments men might make, expressions they might use in telling their male friends about a prostitution experience?
  - “I had a different girl every night!”
  - In general, bragging about themselves
  - Sexually describing the girls
  - Obscene and disrespectful remarks about the girls and the experience

# FGD Results

- **How do you think women or girls in prostitution feel when they are having sex with a customer?**
  - **Numb**
  - **Drunk or drugged because they don't like what they're doing**
  - **Dirty, because they're paid**
  - **There's a feeling of distress because they don't want what they are doing**
  - **It's their work, the women should not feel that they are being abused**
  - **Guilty**
  - **Hopeless**
  - **Loss of self-esteem and self respect**
  - **"They also like what they are doing because if it is against their will, then what is she doing there?"**

- **What would hold a man back from buying prostitution sex?**
  - **Close the bars and jail the managers and owners**
  - **Penalize the customers**
  - **Education for men**
  - **Educate everybody (boys and girls)**
  - **Fear of STDs and AIDS**
  - **“If I don’t have money”**
  - **Pity to the woman**
  - **Good socialization in the homes**

## FGD Results

**Prostitution is about the construction of male and female sexuality. It is about men gaining directly from or using the women. In instances where there is a third party, represented by the business of it, the third party gains monetarily from the power inequality.**

# Phase II: Young Men's Camp

2 Batches for  
Southern  
Northern

CAMP 2  
LUZON

CAMP 1  
LUZON

(May 11-13, 2004)  
, 2004)

1 youth camp in  
Visayas region

CAMP 3  
VISAYAS REGION

CAMP 4  
MINDANAO

1 youth camp in  
Mindanao



# Profile of the participants

- 16-20 years old
- From schools and communities
- Leaders



# Production of Teaching Materials

Module

Flipcharts

- Gender  
Sensitivity

- System of  
Prostitution

## **ANO ANG PROSTITUSYON?**

Ito ay ang mga akto, transaksyon o plano ng paggamit sa isang tao, madalas ay babae o bata, para sa sekswal na pagsasamantala para sa pagkakamit ng tubo, sekswal na gratipikasyon at iba pang ganansya.

Ang nakikinabang dito ay ang bugaw, may-ari na bahay-aliwan, kustomer at ang sindikato.



# Production of Teaching Materials

## Infomercial: "First Time"



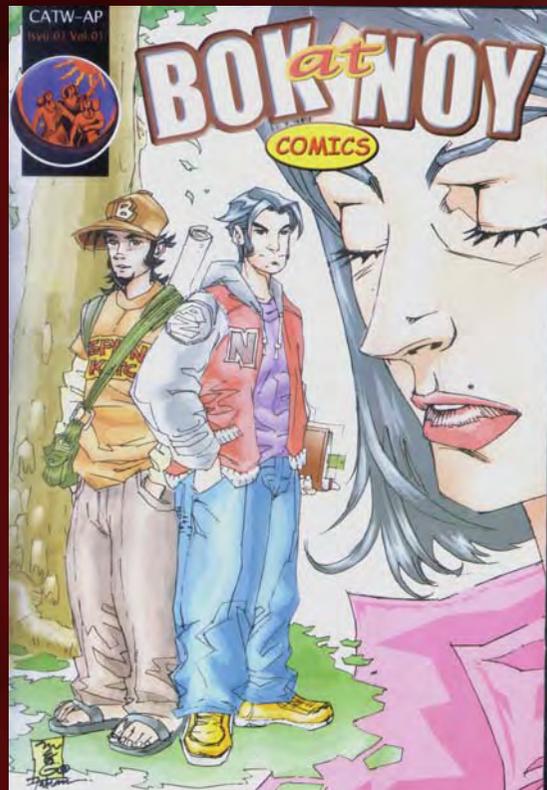
Who among these boys is proud  
to have become a man last night?  
CATW-AP

**"FIRST TIME"**

a digital TV public service announcement

# Production of Teaching Materials

- Flyers on Prostitution
- Comic books (Bok at Noy)



## PROSTITUSYON... ANO NGA BA ITO?

Ang **Prostitusyon** ay mga akto o sistema ng paggamit sa tao, madalas ay mga kababaihan at kabataan, sa sekswal na pagsasamantala para sa pagkamit ng tubo, o ano mang ganansya.



*Pero hindi ibig sabihin na ang prostitusyon ay tungkol lamang sa mga babae o ibinebenta, dapat nating tandaan na may iba pang aktor kapag pinagusapan ang prostitusyon.*



# Young Men's Camp

- The camp is divided into 4 groups, given the name of Filipino heroes – Rizal, Diego, Jacinto and Benigno – in search of male role models
- There are three components in each workshop
  - A gender-sensitive approach
  - Female co-facilitators
  - Student facilitators



# Module/Camp Design

*"Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember.*

*Involve me, and I'll understand"*

*-Native American Saying*

- The module is designed to be more affective to encourage honest reflection of the issues on a personal level, and to provide a safe space for self-expression.



# Module/Camp Design

*"Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember.  
Involve me, and I'll understand"*

*-Native American Saying*

- **Structured learning exercises are used. Role playing, visual arts, games and activities, from which in-depth discussion of issues take off.**



# Day 1: Introduction to Gender Issues



# Day 2: Violence Against Women and Male Sexuality



# Day 3: Discussion on Prostitution and Reconstructing Masculinity



# After the 3-day-camp



# From the Young Men

- I painted a set of footprints; one is mine the other is for the women because I will join them in their struggle...
- During the ritual, I felt how important the women are in society. And hope that the government will listen to their grievances...
- We have to actualize what we learned in ourselves , to be models to others.
- These new ideas opened the closed minds of men. I will share these with others...
- If the buyer is removed from the equation, there will be no more prostitution.
- Guess what? My peers and I had a drinking session the other night. When they wanted to get a girl, I discouraged them. Instead, as we went on till dawn and had nothing to do, I invited them to go jogging.

# The Young Men after the Camp

- 8 young men have guested in CATW's radio program
- The young men keep an egroup and discusses pornography, prostitution & other women's issues
- Forums were conducted in schools and communities where the young men came from
  - 1 Polytechnic University of the Philippines (300 pax)
  - 2 City College of Manila (60 pax in each forum)
  - 1 Batangas State University (150 pax)
  - 1 University of the Philippines – Baguio (50 pax)
  - 1 Community in Valenzuela (20 pax)

## Young men after the camp

- 4 young men who came from the first camp acted as student facilitators during the second camp
- 4 students of young men's camp took up prostitution and trafficking as their topic in their school thesis
- 2 young men were speakers in the celebration of the International Day of No Prostitution
- One created a documentary film on prostitution
- 3 wrote articles and stories about the camp and about women's issues

**Thank You** 😊

*Coalition Against Trafficking in Women -  
Asia Pacific*