



FOCUS ON RESEARCH

Global Early Adolescent Study (GEAS) Phase 1

Researchers

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Aim

The aim of the Global Early Adolescent Study (GEAS) Phase 1 was to develop a new questionnaire for 10-14 year olds to be used in Phase 2. Specifically Phase 1 has developed appropriate questions to measure the gender norms of adolescents world-wide and to assess sex role biases and beliefs. These questions were then tested and piloted in preparation for Phase 2.

Project Outline/Methodology

The same research activities took place in all 15 countries world-wide.

1. Qualitative interviews were held with adolescents and their parent/carer from poor urban areas to document experiences of adolescence. These interviews were transcribed and coded, and codes pertinent to gender norms from all 15 countries were used to develop an adolescent gender norm scale for the final questionnaire. The interviews also enabled researchers to compile a list of situations common to adolescents worldwide.

2. Focus group vignette workshop. Vignettes are a scenario based research method where respondents are asked what an individual would do in a certain situation. For example, Fred likes Lily, how does he feel? What does he do? Etc Each vignette was role played by young people with both a male and female protagonist. The result is a set of questions for a number of different scenarios each with both a male and female protagonist.

3. The new questions were then tested and piloted in each country.

Key Results/ What does this study add to the field?

GEAS phase 1 has developed a questionnaire for adolescents that can be used anywhere in the world

Implications for Practice or Policy

Adolescence is a critical period of development and yet little understood. It is during this time that young people are expected to adopt socially defined gender roles which will influence their personal relations and sexual health in the future.

Where to next?

Funding for GEAS Phase 2 is now being sought around the world.

Further details from:

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