

An intervention to reduce sexual violence on a university campus in Ghana: Beta testing of *Relationship Tidbits* at the University of Cape Coast

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Study Team

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Background

- Sexual assault is a significant challenge for universities worldwide, affecting the health and academic success of students
- Sexual violence prevention programs are common at universities in the United States
- These programs are non-existent in Ghana

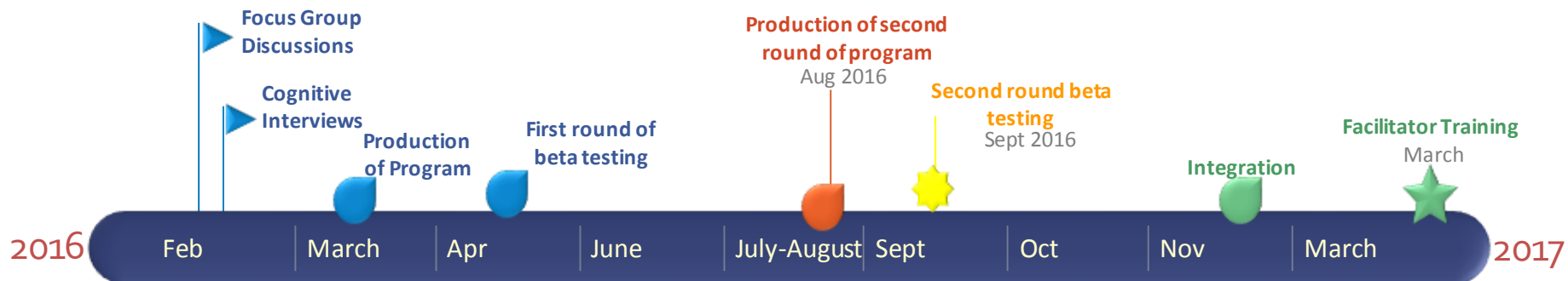
Sexual Coercion Among Students at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana

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- Sample: 556 males, 480 females
- Significantly more females than males said they were, “not at all willing” the first time they had sex (41.9% vs. 14.5%).
- Significantly more females than males had ever been forced into having sex (21% vs. 9.9%).
- 126 (26.3%) females and 91 (16.5%) males have had sex either because they were forced or coerced, or when they were “very unwilling”.

Institutional support for sexual violence response & prevention

- In 2013 the UCC established the *Center for Gender Research, Advocacy, and Documentation* (CEGRAD).
- CEGRAD began with two faculty focused on:
 - Reducing victim blaming among healthcare providers
 - Helping survivors access services
- There was a recognized need for primary prevention but the infrastructure at UCC did not exist.
- After discussions between UM and UCC faculty, the decision was made to adapt *Relationship Remix* using a systematic process to make it culturally & contextually applicable.
 - ADAPT-ITT framework (Wingwood & DiClemente, 2008)



Production March-April 2015

Topical Expert Review May-July 2016

Decisions 2 August 2016

Second round Topical Expert October 2016

Integration Nov 2016

Measures - SRPS

- Sexual Relationship Power Scale (SRPS; Pulerwitz et al., 2000)
 - 23 items measure power within sexual relationships
 - 4-point Likert Scale from (1) strongly agree – (4) strongly disagree
 - Higher scores represent higher relationship power
 - 2 sub-scales:
 - Relationship Control; example, “My partner tells me who I can spend time with”
 - Decision-Making; example, “My partner always wants to know where I am”

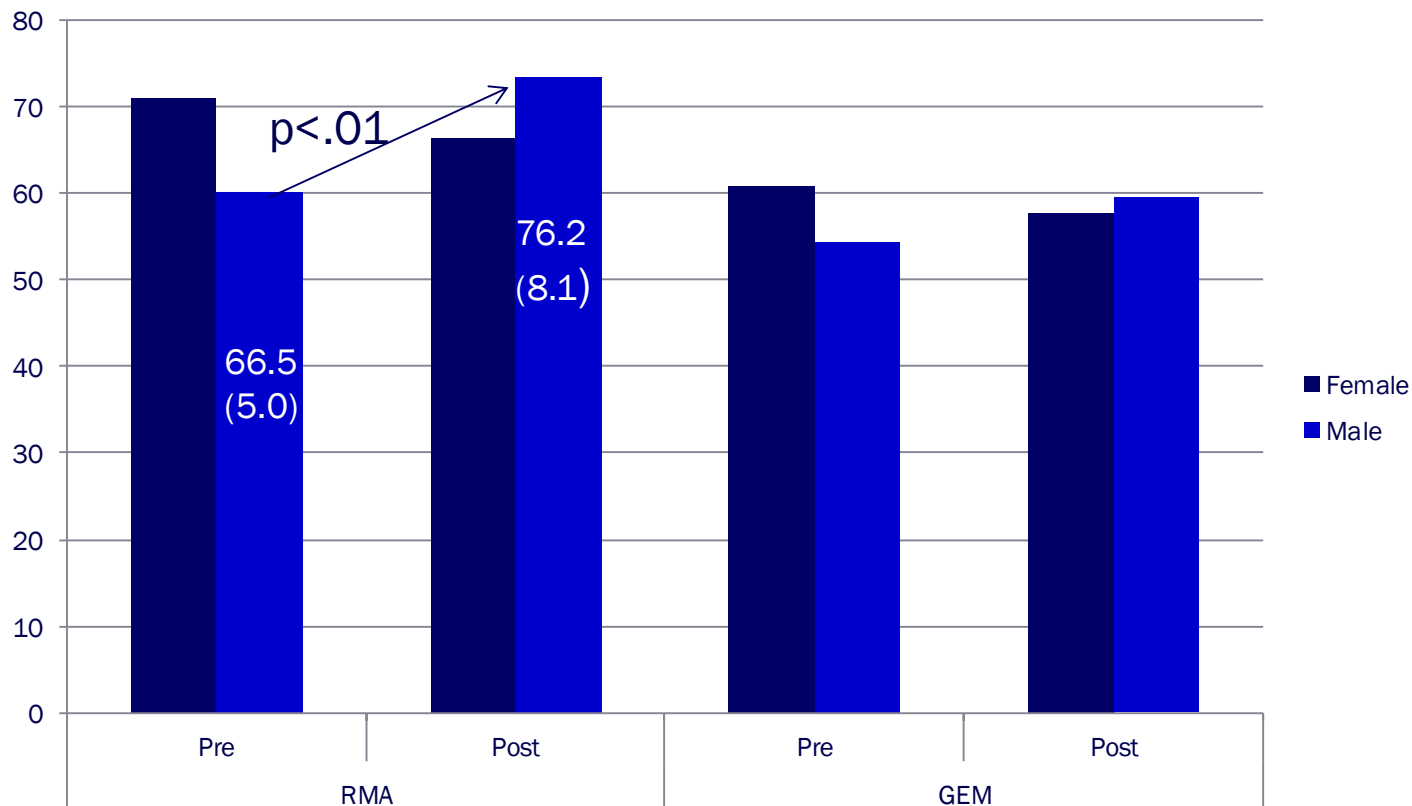
Measures - IRMA

- Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (IRMA; Payne et al., 1999)
 - 21 statements evaluate rape myths
 - 5-point Likert Scale, (1) strongly disagree – (5) strongly agree
 - *Higher score represents a higher rejection of rape myths*
 - 4 subscales:
 1. *She asked for it*; “If a girl goes alone to a room with a guy at a party, it is her own fault if she is raped”
 2. *He didn’t mean to*; “rape happens when a guy’s sex drive goes out of control.”
 3. *It wasn’t really rape*; “if a girl doesn’t physically fight back, you can’t really say it was rape”
 4. *She lied*; “a lot of times, girls who say they were raped often led the guy on and then regretted it”

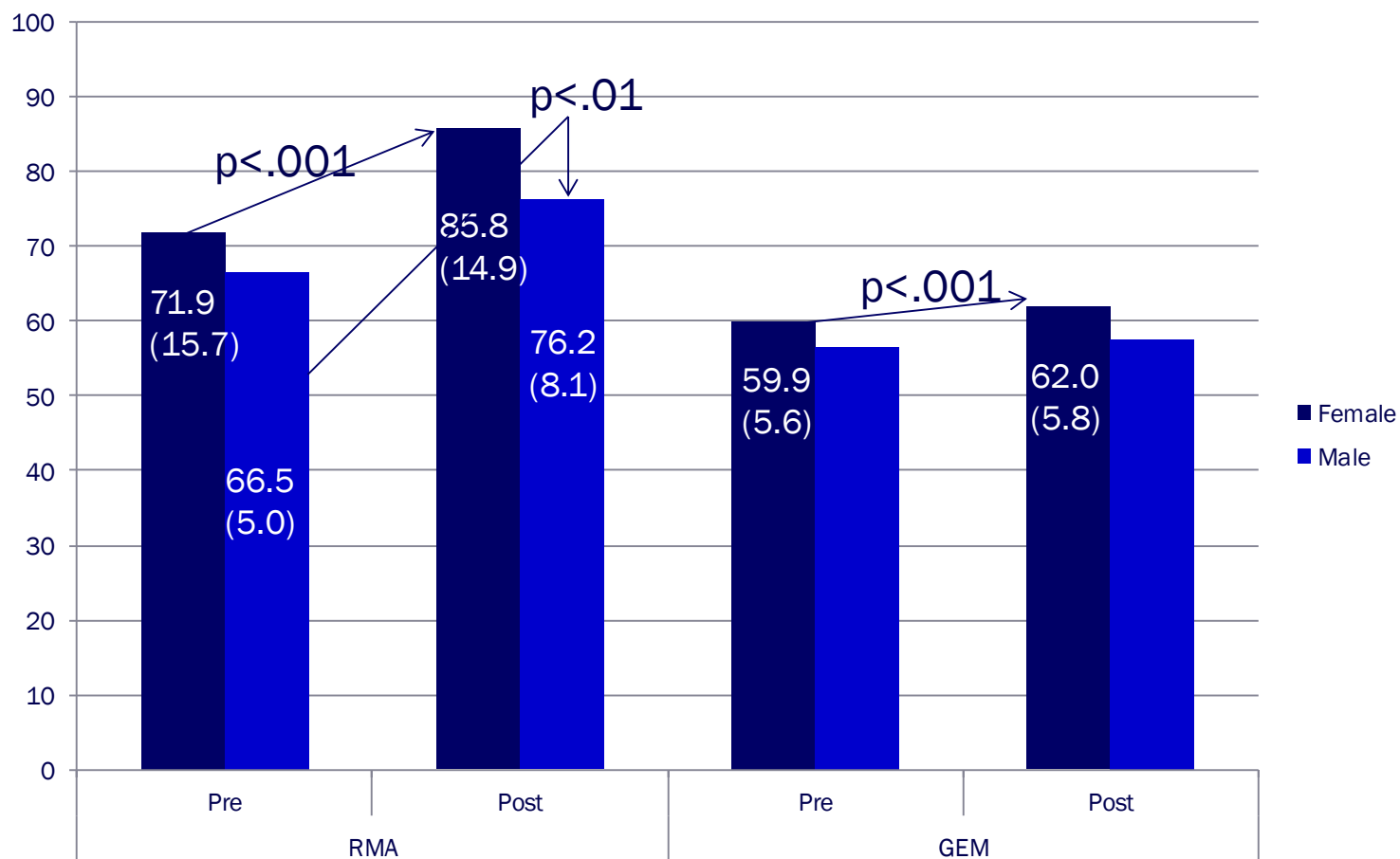
Measures – GEM

- Gender Equitable Men Scale (GEM; Pulerwitz & Barker, 2008)
 - 24 Statements measure gender equitable views
 - 3-point Likert Scale, from (1) agree – (3) do not agree
 - 4 subscales
 1. *Violence Domain*; “there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten”
 2. *Sexual Relationship Domain*; “A woman who has sex before marriage does not deserve respect”
 3. *Reproductive Health and Disease Prevention Domain*; “It is a woman’s responsibility to avoid getting pregnant”
 4. *Domestic Chores Domain*; “A man should have the final word about decisions in his home”

Results from first round of testing



Results from Second round of testing



Second round: Survivors of Sexual Violence

- 56% (14/25) of females reported being the victim of at least one form of sexual assault
- Those who are survivors of sexual assault have greater changes in all scales



Results from Beta testing

- Significant improvement in overall GEM (and two subscales) and IRMA (all subscales)
- Significant differences in IRMA between genders (males have higher levels of RMA than females, as in other locations)
- Significantly different levels of change between genders (females had a bigger change in the GEM and RMA)

Limitations

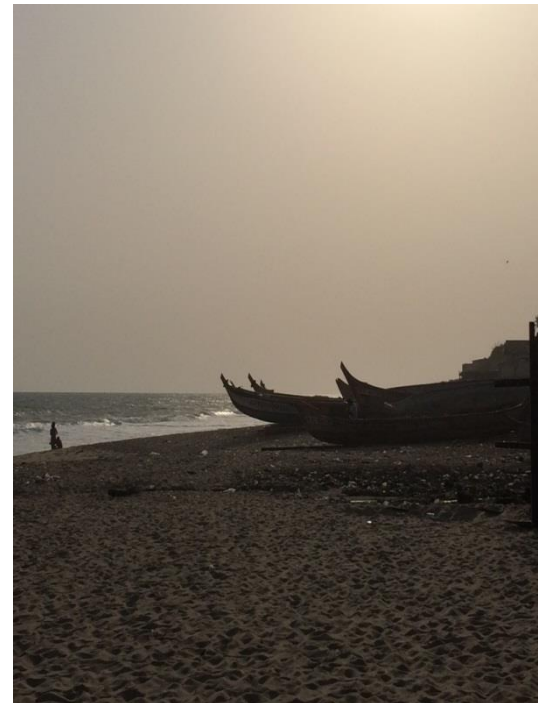
- Small n
 - Artifact of ADAPT-ITT process
- Measures of attitudes are not measures of behaviors
 - Are an important starting point for changing behaviors
- Measuring immediately post-test may not capture real changes
 - Artifact of ADAPT-ITT process
 - Additional post-test (6 & 12 months) will be added to future pilot tests

Next Steps

- Feasibility pilot test to:
 - Compare single vs. multi dose
 - Evaluate feasibility, acceptability, safety, retention, and attrition
 - Preliminary evaluation of outcomes related to gender equality, rape myth acceptance, relationship power, victimization and perpetration
- Campus climate survey to:
 - Assess levels of sexual assault on campus
 - Determine student awareness and use of resources

Long term goal

*Decrease sexual violence
perpetration at UCC and enable
all students to engage in
healthy, satisfying relationships
based on their values*



Thank you

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