What Helps And Hinders Youth Practitioners To Combat Gender Violence With And Amongst Young People In The UK?

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Gender violence against and amongst young people is an issue that has received much attention in the UK recently. Davis (2012) notes that one in three girls have experienced unwanted sexual touching at school; whilst 13-17 year olds in intimate relationships experienced some form of sexual violence from a partner (Davis 2012). Additionally, 13-14 year olds less likely to recognise non-consensual sex than older age groups (Coy et al 2013). Sexual exploitation of boys/young men is also often overlooked and invisible in policy and practice discourses (McNaughton Nicholls et al 2014). The Saville and Rotherham cases highlight the failings of professionals to prevent large scale sexual exploitation (Jay 2014). Therefore, gaining and understanding of what can be done to support youth practitioners to combat this issue has become increasingly vital. The findings of the GAP Work Project highlighted that more research needs to be done with youth practitioners in order to identify the support they need to take effective action to deal with this issue within their practice.

This paper will report on the results of in-depth interviews undertaken with youth practitioners in London and Warwickshire exploring the factors that enable or hinder youth practitioners to establish, embed and sustain a critical-feminist praxis that tackles gender violence in their work setting.

References:


