

**August 4, 2010**

**Research in Progress: A Process of Discovery**

On August 4, 2010, the Centre for the Prevention and Reduction of Violence sponsored an afternoon seminar focusing on “Research in Progress: A Process of Discovery.” Dr. Bethan Lloyd presented the theoretical and methodological framework for the applied research project that focuses on developing more effective prevention and intervention strategies for male perpetrators of intimate partner violence in South Asian communities.

The two-hour presentation and discussion focused on the development of community-based research from the initial idea through the development of theoretical and methodological frameworks, goals, objectives, methods, implementation and analysis. Bethan demonstrated how the development of an interview guide and analysis of interview data for this project emerges organically from the theoretical framework (critical race theory, critical multiculturalism, intersectionality) and methodological framework (transformational paradigm, action research and critical ethnography).

The “how-to” session – moving from practice into theory into practice into theory – focused on the foundation for work that took place in the summer of 2009 when the Centre for the Prevention and Reduction of Violence (CPRV) began interviews with 17 members of South Asian communities in Surrey, Abbotsford, Vancouver, Burnaby and Delta. Gary Thandi, the research sessional responsible for the recruitment and implementation of these interviews, also had experience with both the workers and the perpetrators as a probation officer, social worker, and program manager. As a South Asian man, he also lived, everyday, in the communities being explored.

He recruited counselors, probation officers, police officers and elders who had, among them, a combined experience of over 200 years working with South Asian male perpetrators of intimate partner violence. They had worked directly with thousands of men and many of them had also worked with women and children from the same families.

During the 1.5 – 20 hour interviews, Gary and the participants talked about their experiences with the assaultive men, their families and communities. They talked about their work over the years, including what they had learned about the influences of immigration experiences, family structure, community expectations, and alcohol. They talked about situations of violence and how these situations unfold, what the assaultive men said they wanted to happen once the police were called, they went through the legal system and participated in mandated programs. They talked about how, as frontline practitioners and community members, they envisioned more effective prevention and intervention strategies.

The interview guide for these sessions had been developed based on background interviews with key South Asian frontline practitioners, some of whom were later interviewed. These practitioners were approached because a member of the Core Reference Group for the Centre

for the Prevention and Reduction of Violence (CPRV) had suggested the research based on his discussions with a counselor from the South Asian community. Following the background interviews, the exploratory research – A Process of Discovery – was designed and undertaken within the framework of the CPRV mission statement and mandate and focusing on the experiences of frontline practitioners (<http://www.jibc.ca/appliedResearch/cprv/mandate.htm>). A Reference Group for the research project itself first met in the fall of 2009 and has been active since then in the development of the project and analysis of the data (<http://www.jibc.ca/appliedResearch/cprv/projects.htm>)

The research design, interview guide and subsequent thematic analysis were also based on an extensive and ongoing literature search of materials relevant to the research goal:

To determine and develop strategies for implementing more effective prevention and intervention strategies for male perpetrators of intimate partner violence in South Asian communities in the lower mainland of Vancouver and in Abbotsford.

A publication is currently being developed based on this literature including (1) a review of the literature organized around a narrative of a composite South Asian family experiencing intimate partner violence; (2) a categorized reference list of the literature; and (3) an alphabetized compilation of the references with abstracts. For copyright reasons, the references with abstracts are available to the public only at the JIBC library. The first two sections will also be available on-line.