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Toxic Masculinity: from Homophobic Violence to Queer Masculinities

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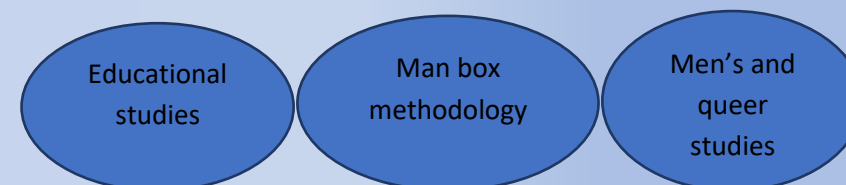
Introduction

In the last years, we have noticed a remarkable increase and spread of the homophobic violence, especially concerning the intra-masculine violence during the adolescence.

The authors of this phenomenon are male adolescents who act wildly to build up their status of masculinity (R. W. Connell, 1996; C. Rinaldi, 2018; G. Burgio, 2012; M. Kehler, 200; S. Olivieri, 2013).

The current research in the field of the critical studies on masculinities affirms that the problem is in the process of negotiation of toxic masculinity (T. Kruijpers, 2005). The latter is more and more a model socially accepted and based on the adoption of stereotyped gender scripts, demanding the repression of the emotional dimension in favour of violent attitudes towards other subjects (women and other not conventional gender subjects) and sometimes towards themselves (depression, high-risk behaviour, suicide) to keep and benefit from privileges of a material and symbolic patriarchal dividend (V. Fidolini, 2019).

Theoretical framework



- Man box: symbolic representation of social stereotypes on men and boys (strength, courage, not emotion, violence) (P. Kivel, 1992).
- Man box methodology: gender sensitive methodology that includes the critical studies on masculinities, queer and educational studies from a transformative dimension of the subjects.

Placement of the researcher

- Gender methodology and the element of closeness between the researcher and the analysed object.
- Gender dynamics between the researcher (male) and the subjects of the research (male) and the deconstruction in the field of the paradigm of masculinity (B. Pease, B. Pini, 2012).

Tools

Focus group (three circle times composed of five male adolescent) and at each meeting:

- Graphic representation of the “man box” by the guys.
- Discussion on three dimensions that cause the stereotypes about the masculinity (parents, peer-group, media).
- Discussion on the idea of masculinity and the intolerance towards gay or not conventional gender guys of the same age, starting from the representation of the “male box”.

Aims

- To focus on “what does it mean to be a man?”
- To deconstruct toxic masculinity.
- To face with the homophobic violence.
- To analyse the queer dimension of gender identity, beyond the binarism of masculinity/femininity.

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