

Remembering Our Roots, Questioning Our Path

Shamita Das Dasgupta
Manavi & Praxis International
Diane Docis
Praxis International

Objectives of the Discussion

- Understand what is trauma informed framework – source of trauma informed intervention (TII) & trauma informed care (TIC)
 - What are the objectives of TII?
 - What gaps is TII fulfilling?
 - What is TII replacing
- Understand & clarify what is traditional framework of movement based (peer to peer) advocacy
 - What are the objectives of advocacy
 - What are its key practices of advocacy
- Compare & contrast TII & movement based advocacy

Defining Trauma & TII

- “Trauma is an emotional response to a terrible event like an accident, rape or natural disaster” – (APA, 2015)
 - Terrorizing
 - Perceived as life threatening
 - Out of common range of everyday experiences
- Trauma is a neuro-behavioral syndrome – grouped as PTSD
- Deep betrayal of trust heightens the experience of trauma
- TII recommends that research findings on trauma be included in organizational policies, procedures, & practices.

Implication of Trauma Research in Practice

- Recognizes impact of multiple terrorizing experiences; e.g., typical in DV & SA experiences
- Discrimination, abuse, & violence play important part in experience of trauma; e.g., typical in community trauma
- Age & trauma are negatively correlated; e.g., implication on childhood abuse & negative experiences
- Recommendation: All individuals in service settings be considered victims of trauma & treated accordingly
 - Loosening of restrictive shelter & organizational rules
 - Higher tolerance of self harming & addictive behaviors
 - Caution against over-diagnosis of schizophrenia & bipolar disorders

Revisiting Anti-VAW Advocacy or Gendered Oppression Informed (GOI) Approach

- VAW is a social problem, not an individual one
 - It is a product of patriarchy, misogyny, & gendered discrimination
- Oppression of female & the feminine is essential to uphold the system of patriarchy
- The keystone of GOI is to dismantle patriarchy & end VAW
- The key practices of anti-VAW advocacy are:
 - Recognition of women's human rights
 - Peer to peer advocacy & counseling
 - Nonjudgmental intervention
 - Speaking out
 - Secondary focus on "curing" mental illness

Framework: TII - Trauma Informed Intervention

Q. What has happened to you?

- Let's talk more. Let me refer you to a wonderful therapist who can help you with your feelings.
- She would help you increase your overall well being.



Framework: GOI or Anti-VAW Advocacy

- You are not alone. There are many women whose experiences are similar.
- Let's work together to raise awareness, instill institutional sanctions, & change society to end VAW.



Differences: TII & GOI Approaches

Trauma Informed Intervention

- Behavior in focus
 - Violence
- Problem
 - Psychopathology
- Source of problem
 - Trauma
- Goal
 - Healing mental health
- Objective
 - Individualized intervention

Gendered Oppression Informed

- Behavior in focus
 - Violence
- Problem
 - Social Problem
- Source of problem
 - Patriarchy & gendered oppression
- Goal
 - Ending violence against women
- Objective
 - Collective movement

Differences: TII & GOI Approaches - 2

Trauma Informed Intervention

- Agenda
 - Individual wellbeing
- Method
 - Treatment of the affected
- Medium of resolution
 - Therapy; Pharmaceutical medication
- Temporality
 - Current
- Language usage
 - Treatment

Gendered Oppression Informed

- Agenda
 - Social Change
- Method
 - Empowerment of the oppressed
- Medium of resolution
 - Consciousness raising; Engagement in social change
- Temporality
 - Historical & current
- Language usage
 - Liberation

Differences: TII & GOI Approaches - 3

Trauma Informed Intervention

- Unintended consequences
 - Labeling; Stereotyping; Loss of custody; Community shame; Loss of other social & legal rights due to 'diagnosis;' Mitigating responsibility of perpetrators for abuse
- Gap
 - No acknowledgement of diversity of trauma symptoms; No acknowledgement of victim resilience; No acknowledgement of unintended consequences

Gendered Oppression Informed

- Unintended consequences
 - Community stereotyping as 'feminist;' Institutional backlash
- Gap
 - Slow inclusion of diversity in the mainstream of response; Not effective politicization of victims

A Few Questions for Discussion

- Why is TII gaining grounds at this historical moment?
- Given the goals of TII & GOI, could these approaches be reconciled & merged?
- What is TII promoting that GOI does not?
 - How significant is this difference?
- What are some of the political implications of TII & GOI?
- What role do negative experiences of a community (historical & community trauma) play in TII & GOI approaches?
- What should our organization's position be in relation to TII?

Contact Information

Diane Docis

Shamita Das Dasgupta

Praxis International, MN

Manavi

diane@praxisinternational.org

manavi@manavi.org