



#EngagingMenAndBoys

Men won't sit back and be silent in the movement to end gender violence and domestic violence. Men and Boys are raising awareness and working for prevention, and Bhavesh Koppala is one of them. Here is a message from Bhavesh:

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I think the first step that men can take in changing a culture that supports gender-based violence is simple yet effective - becoming more informed and educated. South Asian culture promotes traditionally rooted values/ideas such as collectivism which then leads to perpetuation of power dynamics and patriarchal structures. Collectivism is heavily emphasized in South Asian culture and it essentially prioritizes the family and community over the self. It has its benefits and drawbacks; however, one glaring drawback is that in marriage, traditionally, women tend to sacrifice more such as their career aspirations for the sake of the marriage and family. Meanwhile, the men are expected to provide more and do more for the marriage/family which creates a marital power imbalance. Thus, going back to my main point of becoming more informed/educated, learning about traditional South Asian values such as collectivism is essential to breaking outdated norms and pushing for new values/progressive norms that help women acquire more power and independence. Education can come from reading, podcasts, and even watching movies like Thappad.

About the participant: Bhavesh is a senior undergraduate student at the University of Pittsburgh, studying Neuroscience and French. He is the Finance Director of Taaza, he manages Taaza's finances and organize fundraisers for the organization. He is a supporter of Maitri.