



#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 Sohith Movva is one of them.

Sohith Movva is a 13-year-old from California going into 8th grade.

Generally, at my age, not a lot of boys give much value to maintaining healthy relationships and often misinterpret manhood. Many men try to show dominance and strength because of their gender, whether this means acting inappropriately or acting tough. We don't want to be seen as weak or incapable especially in front of our female counterparts. We also don't want to be seen genuinely caring for a subject that isn't manly, for example doing household chores. It seems that in most immigrant families, the women and men in the family have different roles and it often stays that way for years. Mothers are supposed to cook and men are supposed to go out and earn for the family.

Today, in this generation, we see these stereotypes changing and more women work and earn equally for the family, like my own mother. My parents have always taught me to keep hands off of women and to treat them with respect. I was often even told to protect my sister even though she is older than me. It's true that being a man in the family may come with a different set of responsibilities than woman. Though this does not mean that women should be objectified or abused as men try to fight for dominance in an environment where people should co-exist with ease.

I think that men and boys should respect women the same way they would respect their parents. Healthy manhood, in my opinion, is simply just playing your role as a member of this community and helping those around you succeed rather than dragging people down with you. Manhood is being a good person and standing up for those who can't, working hard and smart, and treating everyone with care. Likewise, in order to maintain healthy relationships, both parties must trust one another and be especially present when times get tough.

All together I say that being a man doesn't give you certain perks. I think everyone should equally try to be the best version of themselves and not treat someone different based on race, gender, or appearance. Just play your role in building community and if you can be better than what's expected of you, go for it!