## Engaging Men & Boys



## Vinodh is a software engineer. He loves eating different kinds of food, exploring things and adventures!

"Domestic violence is definitely a human rights issue- it globally affects people regardless of age or gender, however it is more prevalent with women and we should take a solid concerted effort to mitigate domestic violence and abuse. I think men that are brought up with a very orthodox outlook end up taking out their frustrations on their spouses more often than not, and force them to succumb to their shows of power.

There are several cultural influences that shape the ideas and thoughts of people. Growing up in India, we are taught that boys and girls should not interact, there are separate corridors and hallways for gender segregation, in school and college buses, boys

and girls sit on different sides- all this perpetuates the stereotype that men and women are different. This negativity makes men think that women are to be treated differently. In movies, which are a big deal in India, the heroes glorify stalking - they show the heroine to be disinterested in the hero, only to fall for him after he dramatically saves her life and a few song sequences- this leads boys to think that stalking the girl they like is also going to get them somewhere. It seems to portray that eve-teasing is normal and healthy-these normalize the ideas that bring about gender bias and sexism.

As human beings and as men, specifically, we can try and end the bias in the treatment of genders by speaking up against casual sexism. We can ensure a safe work environment without any stigma or stereotype associated with women in the workplace by speaking up when we see something wrong that fits in with the general culture of sexism and inequality."